Dear Members:

I'm watching a pair of American Robins in my side yard working constantly to feed their newly hatched brood, thinking: "That is their full time job." No time to mutter about wanting to do something else. They are busy. They know what to do and they do it. Their purpose is pure. They have a family to feed and protect and that is what they do. Period. No discussion. No complaining about having to take out the fecal sacs. No saying; "Let's just order in bugs for dinner tonight."

Is a bird ever unemployed? They seem to have something to do all day. At the very least they are watching out for prey or maybe keeping an eye out for a good sack of tent caterpillars. While we are driving to the grocery store or the daycare, they are searching for a good swarm of gnats or are stashing the kid in a tree and saying. "Keep quiet and out of trouble and I'll bring you something nice and juicy when I come back."

Think about purpose. A bird's purpose is so essentially simple. Simple joys are always out there and IOSers belong to a group of people who are aware of one of the pure, simple things life offers us: Watching birds. We can look out the window, walk down the street, or ride a bike and find the most amazing birding encounter at the most surprising time. That bird just enriched your life just by being a bird! He's never going to be unemployed.

A bird's existence though, seems to depend on man's action or inaction. IOS provides several means to help birds in the state of Illinois. This year, in fact, IOS has administered funding for nine grants supporting birds or bird-related projects in Illinois. With your annual membership renewal, please consider donating to IOS at a higher level. These include Contributing: $50–$99; Supporting: $100–$499; Sponsor: $500–$1,999, and Patron: $2,000+. Since we are a volunteer organization, your donation goes directly to the bottom line to support IOS's mission of science, education, and birding.

In each issue of Meadowlark we have published a list of members who have contributed at a higher level. To keep the published list of generous members accurate, we will now publish it annually. I want to thank all the patrons, sponsors, supporters, and contributors who so kindly contribute more to IOS.

Best regards and good birding,
Letter from the Editor

Jenny Vogt's president's message about the employment of birds got me to thinking about employment vs. volunteerism. We work because we love it, or we need to make money to feed the family, we need health insurance, we need something to do, and so many other reasons.

But why do we volunteer?

As I write, I interview volunteers who served in various capacities, and always ask to name their main reason for volunteering. The answer surprised me. Of course, they want to help others. But an equally important reason is to experience camaraderie. I heard it over and over again. And I think the reason I continue to edit *Meadowlark* and come to the board meetings, and come to our spring weekends, is because I love and want to help birds, but also because of the camaraderie.

IOS volunteers have a special spirit, a special desire to help birds, help people learn to bird – and even more importantly, help buoy one another up to be the best we can be, to support one another in times of trouble and pain and to congratulate one another in times of joy and excitement.

There have been so many times in these past 19 years that I've been involved with IOS that something tragic has happened to me or someone else – divorce, death in a family, illness in a family, lost jobs, you name it. And it always seems that the volunteers are there to hold your hand, offer you a word of compassion, do one little thing that really makes a difference.

If you are missing that in your life and you love birds, consider volunteering for IOS. Get to know the fine board members, photographers, writers, membership chairs, envelope stuffers, artists, newsletter writer and designers, spring weekend greeters, field trip leaders, web designers, web masters, all the folks who help make IOS what it is.

Because, it's true what you've heard: When you volunteer, you get back so much more than you give.

Thank you, wonderful volunteers, for not only doing so much for IOS, but also for helping me be a better person just for knowing and working with you.

Sheryl DeVore
Birdnotes from a bygone era

By Steven D. Bailey

This article begins a regular series of contributions making historic comparisons between Illinois birds and birding in earlier days with contemporary bird status and knowledge. A great deal of similar fascinating and important knowledge can be gleaned from the writings of such past, preeminent Illinois ornithologists like Robert Ridgway, Margaret Morse Nice, and Frank Bellrose and lesser-known biologists like C.T. Black, H.K. Coale, and B.T. Gault, as well as today's birders and ornithologists.

Those interested in learning more, should consult the literature cited section at the end of these articles. This section can be a treasure-trove of even more interesting bird information to be found.

Birds and birding at “Beach”

“Beach” is a favorite birding area of mine in extreme northeastern Illinois just south of the Wisconsin state line, composed today mainly of Illinois Beach State Park, but extending south to the northern edges of the town of Waukegan and north to Winthrop Harbor and the Wisconsin state line. Much of it also just happens to be a state nature preserve and National Natural Landmark and one of the richest and biologically most diverse areas in the state (McFall and Karnes 1995). For a good history and description of the area see Ross (1963) and Greenberg (2002). Much of the following historic bird information comes from two articles published in the ornithological journal, The Auk, by John Farrell Ferry (1907), a bird collector for Chicago’s Field Museum, and by Colin Campbell Sanborn (1922a), an early collector for The Field Museum and later the Museum’s Curator of Mammals.

Many of the writings involving the locations of the birds are simply stated as being at “Beach.” In Sanborn (1922a), Beach was said to lie “forty miles north of Chicago” and stretch “seven miles due north of Waukegan, a growing manufacturing town. It averages about one mile wide in width, with Lake Michigan on one side, and a high bluff, which is characteristic of the region north of Chicago, on the other. Along the lake stretch low sand ridges, and west of these is a large swamp, the open water

“Once about seventy-five birds lit on the frozen surface of Dead River, making a picture I shall long remem ber, but it was for only a minute as the last ones had hardly alighted when the first were up and away.”

— Colin Campbell Sanborn (1922a), a zoologist with The Field Museum in Chicago, describing his 1919 experience of watching possibly Illinois’ most memorable Bohemian Waxwing irruption into the state at “Beach,” much of which is now known as Illinois Beach State Park.

The photo above was taken 25 August 1925 by T.H. Prison and A.S. Beardsley shows the Dead River (formerly known as the Blind River) looking northeast toward Lake Michigan from the high-quality dune and swale areas at Illinois Beach State Park.

Photo courtesy of the Illinois Natural History Survey archives.
of which is locally known as Dead Lake. This swamp drains into Lake Michigan through Dead River on the north and Little Dead River, which has now been dredged out to form a large harbor (Waukegan Harbor), on the south.”

Keep in mind that some of Illinois' earliest historic accounts of birds to be found within the state begin with Robert Kennicott's (1854) "Catalogue of animals observed in Cook County," although E.W. Nelson was also active at least as early as the late 1840s. Per Ferry (1907), “between the years 1853 and 1873 it (the Beach area) was thoroughly explored by Robert Kennicott, E.W. Nelson, and F.T. Jencks, as well as by resident ornithologists, and it has furnished many an interesting bird note for northern Illinois.”

Here it is interesting to note Ferry's (1907) perspective concerning the nature of this area, and modifications made to it, which have a distinct effect on some of the more uncommon to rare species often seen in this area yearly yet today.

Ferry describes the popular sentiment of the area at the time, although luckily a large percentage was saved as present-day Illinois Beach State Park: Beach "remains today essentially in its primitive condition. The cause is obvious; the land is practically worthless save for one purpose, that of manufacturing sites. In all probability many years will elapse before the thriving industries of Waukegan... will occupy the whole region."

Ferry goes on to give a brief history of the "experiment" which was initiated at Beach by a local family of nurserymen, the Douglases, who were also active birders! (The "profits" of their labor are still occasionally being reapèd by today's birding community.)

“The propagation of many varieties of forest trees was carried on by some local nurserymen on such an extensive scale and in so intelligent a manner that it created a wide interest generally and among those who had the problem to solve of beautifying or reclaiming from practical worthlessness large areas of barren, sandy, or otherwise sterile regions.” So much for Ferry’s aesthetic appreciation for what many today feel is the beauty of Illinois Beach State Park.

The Douglas nurserymen

The nurserymen to which Ferry referred were Robert J. Douglas and his sons, including Charles W. Douglas, John Douglas, and Thomas H. Douglas, who was a bird collecting companion of E.W. Nelson. Ferry wrote that the sons of the proprietor of the R. Douglas Sons Nursery of Waukegan, then young men, were all active ornithologists. Coale (1912) mentions Thomas, Charles, and John made a "special study of our birds, in the 70s [1870s]" and also mentions that the Douglases kept their own bird collection.

Robert J. Douglas was a pioneer nurseryman, moving from his native England to Waukegan in 1844. His nursery was the first attempt ever to raise conifers commercially (Bailey 1915). He was a United States authority on conifers and became known as the "apostle of tree-planting in the west" (Bailey 1915). Following in his father’s footsteps, Thomas was also nationally known, and the Douglas pine (Pseudotsuga menziesii, also commonly called Douglas fir) bears his name.
In 1873, the Douglas family bought more than 600 acres (of what is now part of the south end of Illinois Beach State Park) and planted more than 200,000 trees in the next 15 years or so. Many spruce, fir, and pine trees as well as a variety of deciduous trees were planted with the surplus of each year’s nursery supply. “The result today...are two long tracts of sturdy Scotch pine (Pinus sylvestris), with an occasional European larch (Larix decidua), or white pine (Pinus strobus),” wrote Ferry (1907). Although a few Scotch pines are still present today, the pines that attract many of the more interesting and rare bird species like Red-breasted Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis), both crossbills, and a variety of pine-loving vagrants (see list at right), are the large Austrian pine (Pinus nigra) trees (also planted by the Douglas family) that are found growing atop the sand ridges south of the Dead River. These were the trees often utilized by Illinois’ first recorded Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Picoides borealis) seen in November 1906 (Ferry 1907) as well.

Ferry (1907) gives many interesting anecdotes about the diverse variety of rare finches which visited the Beach area. He mentions a pair of Pine Grosbeak (Pinicola enucleator) encountered in the Beach pines, and of the White-winged Crossbills that arrived, “being fond of juniper berries” and of Robert Douglas seeing them feeding on wild, sunflower seeds, presumably in the dunes prairies at Beach. So many White-winged Crossbills later descended on the Douglas Nursery seedling conifers the following spring, “in such numbers that they were systematically shot.” All of the above species were noted just during the fall and early winter of 1906, mainly among the dense pines at Beach. (Although much of Ferry’s article concerns the area in and around Beach in northeastern Lake County, his article also involves birds noted as far south as Jackson Park in Chicago, Cook County.)

A Black-backed Woodpecker (Picoides arcticus) was collected at Beach on 7 October 1920 (Sanborn 1922a), and another 15 individuals of this species were noted by a number of observers in the Chicago area that fall and winter (Eifrig 1921, Bohlen 1989). One interesting observation, apparently at Beach, involved a half-eaten White-winged Crossbill found impaled on a dead pine branch, apparently by a Northern Shrike (Ferry 1907).
Charles Douglas saw an “innumense” flock of Bohemian Waxwings feeding on juniper berries in the Beach area on 15 March 1876, after the winter of 1875-76 when they were particularly numerous (Nelson 1876). Sanborn (1922a) relates an exceptionally large movement of Bohemian Waxwings that he and noted ornithologist Herbert L. Stoddard witnessed on 30 November 1919, with birds migrating down the Lake Michigan shoreline at Beach and near the Dead River. Flocks of 50-100 birds passed steadily every five or ten minutes between 6:30 a.m. and noon. Sanborn (1922a) said that he and Stoddard estimated about 1,500 birds passed that day, “during which time flocks of fifty to one hundred passed steadily every five or ten minutes...A flock stopped now and then to feed but for the most part the birds were migrating, following the edge of the lake, for none were seen more than a quarter of a mile from the beach.”

The author and other birders witnessed a very similar occurrence of migrating White-winged Crossbills during November and early December of 2008 at the nearby Lyons Woods Forest Preserve, although the total number of birds seen on one day was likely smaller than the total number of Bohemian Waxwings Sanborn and Stoddard saw. Both Red and White-winged Crossbill flocks were also seen in the pines south of the Dead River by others during approximately the same time-period, mostly in flight heading south.

Sanborn (1922a) mentioned sighting and collecting several specimens from large flocks of the “Newfoundland” Red Crossbill (Loxia curvirostra percna), which is now endangered in Canada, during the fall and winter of 1916-1917 at Beach, as well as a few White-winged Crossbills. Ferry (1907) also relates a good flight of both crossbill species at Beach and points southward during the fall and winter of 1906. Sanborn also mentions numbers of Red-breasted Nuthatch, Northern Shrike, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, and Snow Bunting, regularly encountered in the dune areas at what is now Illinois Beach State Park, and which are often encountered there today as well.

Rare subspecies and breeding records

Several interesting birds, most rare (at least the subspecies) for Illinois, were collected at Beach by Sanborn and others. Included in such a list would be the “Sierra” Hermit Thrush (Catharus guttatus sequoiensis); four birds were collected 15 April 1927 and 14 and 28 April 1928; “Western” House Wren (Troglodytes aedon parkmani) collected by Sanborn on 24 April 1921 (Coale 1922, see Bohlen 1989); Bachman’s Sparrow (Aimophila aestivalis) “found in one of the pine groves” on 23 April 1922 by Sanborn (1922b); two different “Oregon” Dark-eyed Juncos (Junco hyemalis shufeldti and J. h. montanus) (Brodkorb 1930, see Bohlen 1989); and “Greater” Common Redpoll (Carduelis flammea rostrata) collected by Sanborn on 7 December 1919 (Brodkorb 1930).

The dunes at Illinois Beach State Park have also been home to rare breeding species, including Brewer’s Blackbird (Euphagus cyanocephalus) since at least 1929 (Lyon 1930), and the area still remains one of the very few places where this species can regularly be found breeding in the state. The sand and beach areas north of Waukegan were also formerly one of the few places where the state and federally endangered Piping Plover (Charadrius melodus) could find refuge along the lakefront to successfully breed. Nelson (1876) wrote that this plover was a “very common summer resident along the Lake Shore,” with some thirty pairs breeding along the beach at Waukegan within the space of two miles. This species has since become extirpated from Illinois as a
breeder, and no nests have been found in the area since 1979 (Bohlen 1989). Russell (1983) gives a good history of this bird as a breeder in the area and in the Midwest.

Sanborn (1922a) relates that Pine Warblers (Dendroica pinus) “used to breed at Beach a good many years ago.” Wilson’s Snipe (Gallinago delicata) have bred in the marshes and marshy swales in the Beach area since at least 1876, when some were found breeding by T.H. Douglas (Coale 1912), and it is still one of the more dependable locations to find them in Illinois during the breeding season today. Interestingly, Nelson (1876) mentions the nesting of Common Nighthawks (Chordeiles minor) at Beach, noted by a Mr. Rice in the summer of 1875 and spring of 1876, breeding “in considerable numbers among the sand hills on the Lake shore.” To my knowledge, this species rarely if ever breeds here now.

Per Coale (1912) the only record of Yellow-throated Warbler (Dendroica dominica) for Lake County at the time was a mounted specimen in the collection of the Douglas brothers, taken in 1876 at Waukegan. This species was rarely if ever reported again at Beach until 2006, when Eric Walters discovered five males and three females attempting to breed in plantings of large white pines near the lodge at Illinois Beach State Park (Kleen 2007). T.H. Douglas also found a nest with two eggs of a Chestnut-sided Warbler (Dendroica pensylvanica) possibly from the Beach area at Waukegan 13 May 1874 (Coale 1912).

Andy Sigler (1992) documented breeding Red Crossbills in the area south of the Dead River on 7 April 1991. This species was a building a nest in the crotch of an Austrian pine. Sigler mentions the crossbills nesting at the same location in 1973, when adults and immatures were noted there.

A few significant old breeding records include a Northern Harrier with a nest with 4 eggs on 12 June 1930, a Short-eared Owl with a nest with 6 eggs on 10 May 1925 and a Greater Prairie-Chicken nest with 14 eggs also on 10 May 1925, all found at Beach (Ford et al 1934).

Recent rarities
The latest string of rare sightings at Beach include Brown-headed Nuthatch and Red-cockaded Woodpecker (mentioned earlier) and interestingly, four species of rare corvids, including the latest, Clark’s Nutcracker on 3-7 November 2007, found and photographed by Eric Walters. The other corvids include a Black-billed Magpie (Pica hudsonia) found 5 October 1963 by A. L. Campbell at Waukegan (Mlodinow 1984); and another found by Joel Greenberg and Jerry Rosenband in the now “famous” Beach pines on 11 October 1980 (Mlodinow 1984, J. Greenberg pers. com.). Beth Chato and Bob Chapel found Illinois’ only Scrub-Jay, likely Florida Scrub-Jay, interior race (Aphelocoma coerulescens) perched atop a pine on 29 September 1984, remaining through 30 October (Chapel and Chato 1986), also in the southern portion of Illinois Beach State Park. Steve Huggins photographed the recently accepted record of a Common Raven (Corvus corax), which occurred 54 years to the day from the last record at Chicago (Bohlen 1989), on 13 October 2007, at the Illinois Beach State Park Hawkwatch site (see Stotz 2008). The nutcracker spent most of its time feeding on Asian pine cone seeds (pers. ob.), as may have the other corvids, save for the raven (only viewed flying over), which may have been feeding on the non-native seeds of cones from Austrian pines, or utilizing the acorns of the numerous native, stunted black oaks (Quercus velutina).

Records from various sources, especially from the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee reports and Field Notes sections of the Meadowlark, as well as Bohlen (1989), and other sources reveal the following uncommon to rare migrants and wintering species that have been found in the Beach area (or just offshore) with some regularity: Red-throated Loon, Long-tailed Duck, all three scoters, Northern Goshawk, Franklin’s Gull, Thayer’s Gull, Iceland Gull, Glaucous Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Red Knot, Northern Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl, Northern Shrike, Clay-colored Sparrow, Nelson’s Sharp-tailed Sparrow, and Snow Bunting. The Lake Michigan shoreline, as well as the sand dunes and marshy swales just back from the lake between Waukegan and Illinois Beach State Park, may be the best place in the state to view another rare, but regular species, the Whimbrel (often in September). The piers and jetties that stick out from the sandy beaches (and former sand beaches and mouth of the Little Dead River) are likely the easiest place in Illinois to find another rare species, the Purple Sandpiper (especially in November and December), as well as being one of the easier places to find and view Long-tailed Duck and Harlequin Duck in fall and winter. Other even scarcer vagrants which have been observed and documented at “Beach” include Brant, Ross’s Goose, Barrow’s Goldeneye, King Eider, Pacific Loon, Western Grebe, Brown Pelican, Reddish Egret, Tricolored Heron, Swainson’s Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Golden Eagle, Gyrfalcon, Prairie Falcon, Black Vulture, Whooping Crane, Parasitic Jaeger, Laughing Gull, California Gull, Mew Gull, Little Gull, “Nelson’s” Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, Ivory Gull (Ford 1956, Bohlen 1989), Gull-billed Tern, Sandwich Tern, Arctic Tern, Least Tern (Ford 1956), King Rail, Black Rail, Yellow Rail, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Red Phalarope, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Burrowing Owl, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Western Kingbird, Townsend’s Solitaire (Nelson 1876), Northern Mockingbird, Lark Sparrow, Harris’s Sparrow, Smith’s Longspur, and Hoary Redpoll. A Say’s Phoebe appeared for two days (22-23 September 2006) (see DeVore 2007), at the north end of the “Beach” area, and spent much of its time feeding low to the ground in the grasses and forbs of the sand prairie (pers. ob.). The exotic European Goldfinch has shown up recently at Illinois Beach State Park. A Grasshopper Sparrow collected on 12 November 1927 would also qualify as a rare, late sighting (Ford et al 1934). Cave
Swallows have been observed a few times already and it was just added to the state list. What species will show up at Beach next?

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**Author and editor's note:**

We invite *Meadowlark* readers to contribute similar articles on historical accounts of Illinois birds compared with today's ornithological conditions. We are happy to accept articles for review that could be published in this column.
On 7 July, 2008, Mike Eickman, a volunteer at the Sand Bluff Banding Station in Winnebago County, was on his way to a meeting of the Sinnissippi Audubon Society Board of Directors. The meeting was being held at the home of Chuck and Jamie Johannson, who live in the neighborhood very near the C. Henry Bloom School in northeast Rockford (Winnebago County). It was a windy, blustery day and a front was moving through. As Eickman approached the Johannsons, he saw a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*), an Illinois-endangered species, fly overhead.

Over the next few weeks, both Johannsons saw an unusual bird, and sometimes two, flying around the neighborhood. They subsequently came to identify the birds as Mississippi Kites. The Johannsons also saw the kites perched on dead trees or limbs near their home, and looking back, Jamie Johannson recalls seeing birds with the same shape as kites in the neighborhood for several weeks before the 7 July meeting.

The Bloom School neighborhood is park-like, with the Rock River about three-quarters of a mile to the west, and the Spring Creek valley about one-half mile to the north. Spring Creek joins the Rock River to the northwest of the neighborhood. Between the Rock River and the school is a city park that has the Rock River as its western boundary and a tree-lined golf course on its eastern edge. There is also a large wooded cemetery and the wooded campus of the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford in the area, both about four blocks west of Bloom School.

Between Spring Creek on the north and the school is a neighborhood of homes with many mature trees in a well-wooded setting, and in the immediate area right around Bloom School, a neighborhood of more homes with many trees of various ages.

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On Monday, 18 August, Chuck Johannson happened to meet Lee Johnson, a long-time Rockford birder and the master bird-bander at the Sand Bluff station. Chuck told Lee about the kites and, on Tuesday, 19 August, Lee and his wife, Lynda, went to the Bloom School parking lot, which has excellent fields of view in three directions. Lee and his wife saw a kite, and a report was posted on the Rockford area telephone birding hotline.

Left: An adult Mississippi Kite holds a Chimney Swift in its talons on 24 August 2008. Swifts were commonly fed to the chick that hatched in July 2008 in Winnebago County.

Below: A Mississippi Kite chick waits in its Winnebago County nest for a meal on 24 August 2008.
Above: A juvenile Mississippi Kite takes off on one of its first flights on 7 September 2008 after fledging from a Winnebago County nest. Note that the two outer tail feathers are not yet fully grown.

Below right: An adult male Mississippi Kite feeds an insect to a juvenile in Winnebago County on 7 September 2008.

On Wednesday, 20 August, Dan and Barbara Williams went to the Bloom School lot and saw two adult Mississippi Kites. Various observers over the next couple of days saw one or two birds. On Saturday, 23 August, Rob Gough discovered a nest in the neighborhood which he showed to Larry Balch and Ari Nok. There was one chick in the nest.

On Sunday, 24 August, Dan Williams, Vic Berardi, and his wife, Ann Berardi, saw three adult Mississippi Kites (a male and two females) in the vicinity of the Bloom School parking lot. The three observers saw two adult birds (the male and a female) carrying food and, in one instance, the three adult kites, one of which was carrying a Chimney Swift (Chaetura pelagica) in its talons and likely pursuing a potential predator. The neighborhood had Broad-winged (Buteo platypterus) and Cooper's (Accipter cooperii) Hawks, both adults and immature birds of each species, during the entire course of the observations reported here.

An adult male and an adult female kite were both frequently seen perching in a dead elm tree in a small grove of trees adjoining the school parking lot. While perched, the birds were often eating prey items, including Chimney Swifts. Barbara Williams found primary feathers from Chimney Swifts under the perch tree. The feathers are now at the Burpee Natural History Museum in Rockford.

On 27 August, the chick was out of the nest for the first time and, by 29 August, it was flying to nearby trees. It frequently gave its whistled call, which was repeated by the adults, who were seen coming and going with deliveries of food, including cicada, dragonfly, praying mantis, monarch butterfly, grasshopper, and Chimney Swift. The latter menu item was fascinating, both because the adults were successful in catching swifts on several occasions (including once while we watched) and because we thought that the acrobatic and elusive swifts would not likely be a prey item. Older sources including Bent (1937), who admitted in his writings that he had never seen a Mississippi Kite in his life, wrote “birds apparently are never molested, and small birds show no fear of it.” Recent research, however, has shown that “vertebrates... such as small birds and mammals are more frequent and important prey than commonly thought” (Parker 1999).

Nesting habits

In their normal breeding range – Mississippi, Louisiana, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico, and adjacent to floodplains on the northern edge of the nesting range (Wheeler 2003) – Mississippi Kites tend to nest in loose colonies in open forest savanna-type of settings (Bent 1937), which include residential areas, golf courses, cemeteries, parks, and campuses (Wheeler 2003). Since the mid-1970s, kites have nested abundantly in many urban areas (Parker 1999). The Bloom School area contains this kind of habitat, just a lot farther north than the species’ normal breeding range!

The northern edge of the Mississippi Kite’s breeding range in Illinois is in Union, Alexander, Calhoun, Jersey, Monroe, and Randolph counties, all along the Mississippi River in the southern and west-central part of the state, with multiple years of occurrence during the nesting season.
Mississippi Kites typically lay one to two eggs, and very rarely three; two is the normal clutch size (Parker 1999). Studies of breeding kites in southern Illinois showed that 21 of 33 nests held only one egg (Hardin et al. 1977, Evans 1981).

The normal period from hatching to fledging for a Mississippi Kite chick is 30-35 days (Wheeler 2003). Working back from the fledging date on 27 August puts the hatch date for the young Mississippi Kite in Rockford at roughly 23 July. The normal period of incubation from the date the egg is laid to the date of hatching is another 30 days (Wheeler 2003) so the approximate date for laying the egg was 23 June, which is about one month later than the standard date for egg-laying in the normal range of the kite (Parker 2009).

We infer from our observations and Wheeler (2003) that the kites might have attempted a nest elsewhere, had the nest fail, and moved to the school neighborhood, where they nested again, this time successfully. Parker (1999) reports that a pair may attempt to nest again after the loss of a single egg (citing Bent 1937).

Prior to this successful Rockford nest, it was suspected that Mississippi Kites nested near Quincy, Adams County, Illinois in the summer of 1992, when an adult was seen on several dates in June and July (Kleen 1993). An adult was also seen in Adams County on 22 July 1984 (Kleen 1995). Two juveniles were also reported from Adams County on 28 July 2007 (Bailey 2008).

**Other northernly records**

The Rockford nest record in northern Illinois is one of a series of Mississippi Kites nests that have been found more north and east of their traditional range in recent years. Nests were found southeast of Columbus, in south-central Ohio, in 2007 and the pair returned to nest in 2008. A second pair was discovered in the adjacent Athens County (McCormac and Boone 2009, in press). Two juveniles were also reported from Adams County on 28 July 2007 (Bailey 2008).

**September sightings**

As the juvenile became stronger, it was able to begin hunting for its own food. It was still seen catching its own food on 20 September, although it was also being fed by the adults. In flight, the juvenile was distinctive and easily separated from the adults, with rich, reddish streaking on the underparts; large, white, irregular spots on the upper feather ends; and a brownish tail with three to four narrow white bands (see Wheeler 2003).

After 1 September, the third adult, one of the females, disappeared. As the days passed, the remaining two adults kept away from the nest area for longer time periods. On occasion, the juvenile would sit near the top of a tree and call repeatedly for quite some time before an adult would arrive with food. The two adults continued to feed the chick until at least 21 September, when the male was observed bringing a monarch butterfly to the juvenile. The last time either adult was seen was 21 September, and the last date that the juvenile was seen was 29 September.

An interesting aspect of this species’ presence in Rockford is the lateness of the departure date.
an extreme northern breeding location), since most fall migration of Mississippi Kites in North America occurs from late August to mid-September (Parker 1999). This species has been an abundant migrant as far south as Veracruz, Mexico during this time period (Parker 1999).

A search of fall field notes from Meadowlark (1991-2007) and Illinois Birds & Birding (1990-1991), along with Bohlen (1989), showed many departure dates observed in Illinois for Mississippi Kites are from August, with the remainder mostly coming in the first half of September (18 August through 24 September), with two anomalous dates of 30 October at Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge (Jersey and Calhoun counties) and 4 November at Illinois Beach State Park (Lake County). Robinson (1996) stated most of southern Illinois’ breeding Mississippi Kites have departed the state by the end of August. Except for the two anomalous dates, the departure of the juvenile kite from Rockford is the third latest date for the state.

Acknowledgments:

Sincere thanks go to Vic Berardi for contributions of his excellent photographs and helpful suggestions for the text of this article, as well as the great company of Vic and Ann Berardi over many hours we spent observing the kites. I also thank Steve Bailey for his important contributions of information about the history of the kites at Quincy and the summary of departure dates, as well as his helpful suggestions and contributions to the text.

Author and Editor’s Note:

The exact location of the nest was intentionally not described here to minimize disturbance of the nest location. As this article went to press in May 2009, a pair of Mississippi Kites was seen in the general area where kites nested in 2008.

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The 2008 breeding season
by Steven D. Bailey

The weather

Temperatures leading into the peak of the breeding season were well below average; e.g., a reading of 28°F was logged on 9 May at Mogris in Grundy County, and eastern Illinois experienced its 11th coldest May since 1895. Precipitation, however, was well above average. It was the wettest December-May period in Illinois since 1895, with more than 25” of precipitation during that period! Rivers during this time were at normal to much above-normal levels, with the Mississippi River, the lower Illinois River, and the Ohio River at Cairo all exceeding flood stage during May. Severe weather was also common, with 12 reports of tornadoes, 108 hail reports, and 54 strong wind reports, with hail and high winds reported frequently toward the end of the month.

In contrast to May, temperatures in June were above average, but precipitation remained exceptionally heavy (close to 2” above the statewide average). Western Illinois areas recorded almost 8” of rain. Again, the Mississippi River, lower Illinois River and Ohio River exceeded flood stage during June. Southeastern Illinois was particularly hard hit, with one town in Crawford County reporting more than 7” of rain in one day and over 15” for the month. These rains produced significant flooding along the Wabash and Embarrass Rivers. Severe weather was again significantly widespread, with 56 tornado reports throughout the month (including 30 reports on 7 June in northeastern Illinois), 133 hail reports and 245 strong wind reports.

Temperatures in July returned to below average while precipitation continued well above average (statewide average of 6.3”, almost 2.5” above normal), resulting in the 8th wettest July on record. Northeast Illinois received the least rainfall at 5.29” while the west-southwest recorded the greatest at just over 8”. The town of Sherman in Sangamon County reported more than 7” of rain in one day and over 12” for the month, while the Rock River was out of its banks over much of its length most of the summer. Severe weather continued to be widespread, with 3 tornadoes, 51 reports of hail and 199 severe wind reports.

The numerous cold fronts that continued well into May might have hampered the migration of some species. The high water and stream levels in many areas evidently eliminated traditional breeding areas for a variety of species including swallows, Belted Kingfisher, most waterfowl and even Sandhill Cranes, while the recharging of water levels at other sites may have enticed higher numbers and a greater diversity of some wetland species to simply stay in good habitat in Illinois to breed. See, for example, the accounts of rails and bitterns.

Big stories

Small flocks of Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks turned up in four counties, mainly at the southern tip of the state in July. With this species becoming more common in the northern reaches of its US range, could these flocks be a precursor to a regular movement of these birds into our area, much as the Black-necked Stilt moved into Illinois in 1993 as a regular breeding species after extensive flooding further south in the Mississippi valley? Another big story of the 2008 breeding season was the unprecedented influx of breeding Black-necked Stilts throughout much of southern and even central Illinois, with a few male and female birds (pairs?) making it as far north as Chicago! Most encounters, even in central Illinois, involved multiple birds or small flocks, while several locations in southern Illinois hosted dozens of stilts, maxing out at well over 100 birds in Alexander County. Most of the stilts found were in flooded agricultural fields, which were quite prevalent during the summer, so who knows how many birds/pairs of this species were not found throughout the state in June and July! Almost as exciting was the presence of breeding pairs of endangered Wilson’s Phalaropes in several areas.

The biggest surprise of the season was the discovery of a pair/trio of breeding Mississippi Kites in residential Rockford! Birders going to observe these birds in late summer initially thought them to be vagrants, but soon discovered a nest with young (see story in this issue).

Vagrants

A Brown Pelican was seen well by a very experienced birder as it flew past his residence along Lake Michigan, and a Neotropic Cormorant was found at Horseshoe Lake in mid-June. The regularity with which this cormorant has shown up in Illinois the last several years, including during the summer, makes one wonder if breeding may be soon to follow. The most surprising vagrant was a MacGillivray’s Warbler seen over a three-day period in July in northeast Illinois.

Other notables

As usual, several non-breeding Snow Geese (many injured) lingered well into summer at their usual gathering sites. Among nesting waterfowl, extended cool and wet periods with much flooding during late spring and throughout the summer likely contributed to reduced breeding success, and comments were received from areas statewide regarding delayed nesting or low success for many waterfowl species, including all the common breeders, even cavity-nesting Wood Ducks. Trumpeter Swans, added to the state’s breeding avifauna in 2006, were back at their previous breeding spot in northwestern Illinois in May, but were apparently flooded out. However, look for breeding to begin sometime soon in northeastern Illinois where at least one pair has summered the last few years. Breeding Redheads were a pleasant surprise at two sites. Small numbers of summering Red-breasted and Common Mergansers are now almost an annual event. Also typical was the presence of a few Common Loons (in both breeding and non-breeding plumage), but a Horned Meadowlark.
Grebe in mid-June was quite unusual. Unfortunately, the recovering breeding population of Sandhill Cranes was negatively affected by flooded, low-lying marshes in Winnebago County and in the heart of their Illinois range in northeastern Illinois. Many pairs without colts were spotted throughout June and July in these areas.

Herons appeared to partly benefit from the extensive flooding during the season, with American Bitterns being especially widespread, with one even in southern Illinois. Both bitterns and most members of the rail family seemed to be extremely delayed in their migrations throughout April and May due to extended bad weather, with the apparent result that many decided to just stop in the many "recharged" wetlands to attempt breeding. However, some may have abandoned typical breeding sites when waters became too deep to feed in. Unfortunately, Snowy and Cattle Egrets and Little Blue Herons were not found at their usual southwestern Illinois rookeries, but many did appear as post-breeding wanderers in the heavily flooded areas near the Mississippi River. One major breeding area near Chautauqua NWR was abandoned for the second year in a row, perhaps partly due to water that was too deep for feeding during most of the summer.

Observers reported numerous King and Virginia Rails, and the state-endangered Black Rail was detected at three distinct sites. Soras were found into late May and early June, even in downstream marshes where they are not usually noted after mid-May, and may have attempted nesting there. High rainfall totals and the recharging of formerly shallow or dried-up wetlands also created more breeding habitat in new areas for American Coot, which is fairly uncommon as a breeding species. The sodden conditions in southeastern Illinois may have encouraged a few Wilson's Snipe to remain to nest substantially far south of their normal breeding range within the state. A few other shorebirds were seen well into June as well, making it a bit hard to tell if they were coming or going.

Illinois's four state-endangered species of nesting terns showed little success, due to a variety of negative impacts on their breeding attempts. Flooding along the Mississippi River took away virtually all the usual habitat available to Illinois's breeding population of the federally endangered Least Tern. However, acceptable areas were utilized by this species along gravel roads in Jackson County. Unfortunately, when these roads were closed off by the USFWS to protect the nesting terns, the terns and their nests mysteriously disappeared. Illinois's sole Common Tern colony once again failed due to Great Horned Owl predation, while breeding Black Terns were found only at their most regular breeding location.

The future continues to look bleak for the state-threatened Loggerhead Shrike, with breeding numbers apparently declining in one of its last strongholds in the southeastern portion of the state. A pair of Bewick's Wrens, now nearly extirpated in Illinois, bred once again at their usual site, while Swainson's Warbler was singing on territory at a new location in Alexander County. Quite unexpected for the summer season was an American Pipit in mid-June.

Informative research efforts

Thanks to all of those observers who take the time to tally and submit counts of various species found during the Breeding Bird Survey Routes that they conduct each summer. They provide excellent baseline data of numbers which can be compared with similar routes conducted throughout the state, as the routes all have the same number of census stops, the same duration of census stops (3 minutes), and all are conducted at approximately the same time. Over enough time, they can show significant trends in increases or declines in numbers of many species of birds.

Although American White Pelicans have not yet been found nesting in Illinois, the picture of their post-nesting movements is becoming clearer. Modest numbers (<100 individuals) of sum­mering pelicans at Chautauqua NWR begin to build quickly in July, as documented by regular censuses conducted by Richard & Sigurd Bjorklund for the last several years. A tally of 105 pelicans on 11 July rose to 1,096 on 16 July. Where do they come from?

Due to the efforts of Tara Beveroth with the Illinois Natural History Survey and her group of volunteer monitors, we received some quality information statewide on a variety of night birds. This was the first year of a project, flagged in the field notes as MOON (Monitoring Of Owls & Nightjars), designed to provide a clearer picture on the apparent declines (or future increases) of nocturnal species. There has been a large gap in our knowledge of such species for many years. Hopefully, volunteers who helped in 2008 will continue to do so in future years.

A radio telemetry study of Soras in the Champaign area in east-central Illinois showed the effects of the cold and stormy weather in late spring and early summer. One Sora departed into a head wind in a rainstorm one evening. Another moved from the Champaign area to marshland just southeast of Moline, in a more westerly movement than one might expect.

Through his extensive banding activities, Vern Kleen is showing just how numerous post-breeding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are in late summer in Illinois in localized areas near hummingbird feeders.

In Vermilion County, Mark Alessi found Prairie Warblers to be even more common than in previous years at Illinois's northemmost regular breeding outpost. Alessi also monitored a large number of nesting Yellow-breathed Chats at his study site, but nest success there was very poor, with less than one in ten nests fledging young.

Through volunteer nest-box monitoring and special studies, several early cavity-nesting passerines, including Tree Swallows, Eastern Bluebirds, and Prothonotary Warblers, were found to have been negatively affected in various ways during the cool, wet weather of the early breeding season.

Expanding

Ospreys continue to nest successfully in several areas and seem to be slowly increasing as a breeding species. Bald Eagles are also becoming a more common sight in summer over much of the state, even within agricultural areas and heavily urbanized northeastern Illinois, with a new nest found in spring 2008 at Chain-O-Lakes State Park in McHenry County. Eagles were also seen flying over Lake and Cook Counties, where they formerly were not often noted even in migration, let alone during the summer. As the numerous reports published in this summary illustrate, Cooper's Hawk has reclaimed (surpassed?) its previous widespread range and abundance as a breeder within the state, especially in suburban areas. For the second straight summer, a Merlin showed up in the northeast corner of the state at the end of July. Merlins have become dramatically more common (especially in towns) in winter in Illinois and in several other Midwestern states just within the last decade or so. They are also becoming more common as a breeding species in Wisconsin, with increasing reports from more southerly sites in summer, coupled with a new trend of breeding in towns, similar to many populations of breeding Mississippi Kites.

Birders continue to document the spread of the Eurasian Collared-Dove throughout all areas of the state, at least in small numbers. It will be interesting to see just how common they become.

The continued presence (including pairs) of Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins in June and July after impressive
As a printing aid the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

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<td>Non-Breeding Summer Occurrence</td>
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Allerton B = Allerton Park BBS (Piatt/Moultrie Cos)
Allen P = Robert Allerton Park (Piatt Co)
Am. Bms = American Bottoms (Monroe Co)
Athens B = Athens BBS (Menard Co)
Bartel Gr = Bartel Grassland Land & Water Reserve, Matteson (Cook Co)
Beaucoup B = Beaucoup BBS (Washington/Clinton Cos)
Beaverdam B = Beaverdam L BBS (Pope Co)
Belknap B = Belknap BBS (Johnson Co)
Burnt Pr B = Burnt Prairie BBS (White Co)
Busse F = Busse Forest Nature Preserve (Cook Co)
Btms = Bottoms
Columbia B = Columbia BBS (Monroe/St Clair Cos)
(L) Decatur = (Lake) Decatur (Macon Co)
Dogtooth I = Dogtooth Island (Alexander Co)
Dudleyville B = Dudleyville BBS (Bond Co)
Ec Cape Gr = East Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co)
Emiquon Psv = The Nature Conservancy Emiquon Preserve (Fulton Co)
ESL = East St Louis (St Clair Co)
Fairbury B = Fairbury BBS (Livingston/Ford Cos)
F Glen Psv = Forest Glen Preserve (Merrion Co)
Goose L Pr = Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area (Grundy Co)
Grant P = Grant Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Green Oakes = Green Oakes Biological Field Station (Knox Co)
Gr Lakes = Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)
Guzy Pr = "Guzy Prairie" = Margaret Guzy Pothole Wetlands Land & Water Reserve (Shelby Co)
Haanist B = Hanistown BBS (Macon/Logan Cos)
Hemenpin L = Hemenpin-Hopper Lake Restoration Area (Putnam Co)
Herrick L FP = Herrick Lake Forest Preserve (Du Page Co)
HL = Horshoesh Lake State Park (Madison Co)
HLCA = Horshoesh Lake Conservation Area (Alexander Co)
IBSP = Illinois Beach State Park (Lake Co)
ICC = Illinois County Conservation Area (Iroquois Co)
IL = Illinois
Jamestown B = Jamestown BBS (Champaign/Madison Cos)
JP = Jackson Park and vicinity, Chicago (Cook Co)
Kankakee = Kankakee (Kankakee Co)
Kankakee R SP = Kankakee River State Park (Kankakee County)
Kell B = Kell BBS (Marion Co)
Kennekuk P = Kennekuk County Park ( Vermilion Co)
Kidd L M = Kidd Lake Marsh State Natural Area (Macon Co)
L Le-Aqua-Na = Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park (Stephenson Co)
L of the Wds FP = Lake of the Woods Forest Preserve (Champaign Co)
McClaughrey = McClaughrey Springs Woods Forest Preserve (Cook Co)
Spgs Wds = Spring Woods Preserve (Cook Co)
Mchmis IS = McClimis Slough, Palos Township (sw. Cook Co)
Mdwbrk P = Meadowbrook Park, Urbana (Champaign Co)
Mermet L = Mermet Lake Conservation Area (Massac Co)
Midewin Pr = Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie (Will Co)
Midfork FP = Middle Fork River County Forest Preserve (Champaign Co)
Midfork Sav = Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve (Lake Co)
Milford B = Milford BBS (Iroquois/Vermilion Co)
Momence Wetlands = Momence Wetlands Nature Preserve (Kankakee Co)
Montrose H = Montrose Harbor, Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Nachusa Grs = Nachusa Grasslands Preserve (Lee Co)
Nelson L Psv = Nelson Lake Marsh Nature Preserve / Dick Young Forest Preserve (Kane Co)
Linc.P = Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Palos = Palos Township (sw. Cook Co)
Panther Crk SFWA = Panz Edgar Panther Creek State Fish & Wildlife Area (Cass Co)
Paul Douglas FP = Paul Douglas Forest Preserve (nw. Cook Co)
Pembroke Twp = Pembroke Township (Kankakee Co)
Philip SP = James "Pate" Philip State Park (formerly Ti County State Park) (Cook/Du Page/Kane Cos)
Pllm Crk FP = Plum Creek Play Meadow Forest Preserve (se. Cook Co)

Lake Cal = Lake Calmar (s. Cook Co)
Ldn-Mil = Lowden-Miller State Forest (Ogle Co)
Lin.P = Lincoln Park, Chicago (Cook Co)
Lost Mound = Lost Mound NWR (Jo Daviess Co)
Martinville = Martinville BBS (Clark/Crawford Cos)
Mazonia-Braidwd = Mazonia-Braidwood SFWA (Grundy/Will/Kankakee Co)
McCluggage = McCluggage Springs Woods Forest Preserve (Cook Co)
Midfork Sav = Middlefork Savanna Forest Preserve (Lake Co)
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14 Meadowlark
winter irruptions suggests likely undetected breeding attempts in northeastern Illinois. Pine Warblers continue their trend of showing up in new summering/breeding(?) areas, especially in northern Illinois, likely as a result of maturing pine plantations. A few Prairie Warblers were detected well outside their normal breeding range in the western and far northern areas of the state.

Increased sightings of Summer Tanagers, Blue Grosbeaks, and Orchard Orioles are altering their “uncommon” to “rare” status in the central and northern portions of the state, while records of Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Vesper Sparrow are similarly increasing at the southern edge of their ranges in southern Illinois. Lark Sparrows were found breeding in several southern Illinois locations where they are rarely seen, especially during the breeding season.

Clay-colored Sparrows continue to investigate areas in their newly expanded breeding range in the Chicago area. Both White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows were once again returned to its usual East St. Louis breeding location. with a large breeding population growing just to the west and nesting colony in some wetland in the far western or northwest

son summary, I raised the question of when breeding would be confirmed for one of the state’s most recent exotics, the European Goldfinch. An article by J. A. Craves, “Current status of European Goldfinch (Carduelis carduelis) in the western Great Lakes region,” published in the journal North American Birds (62:498-501) in 2008 includes recent evidence of breeding in Illinois. Adults with nesting material were photographed at Chicago’s Montrose Harbor in 2003; a juvenile was photographed at Harvard in McHenry County in 2005; and three instances of breeding occurred in three separate towns in McHenry County in 2006, with adults feeding young and with juveniles noted. Sincere thanks go out to those observers who take the time to organize, type, and send me their sightings, which are the backbone of Illinois’ historic bird record. Without them, future generations of birders and researchers would have little to compare their records with. Photographers who freely provide their increasingly excellent photos of both the common and rare birds included herein are also given my most sincere gratitude. Other important records in this report have been extracted from text within correspondence to an electronic mailing list entitled Illinois Birders Exchanging Thoughts (IBET), as well as from Birdnotes, a central Illinois birding listserve. Members of these groups are encouraged to send me compilations of their sightings. Weather summaries, including historical information, were found at the Illinois State Water Survey website at http://www.isws.illinois.edu/warm/climate.asp. As in previous reports, the sequence of credited observers below is based on alphabetization of last and middle initials rather than on alphabetization of last names; hyphenated last names are treated as consisting of a middle and last name: Amar A. Ayyash, Alan B. Anderson, Bob Andrini, Charles B.
As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. For a list of species requiring review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC), visit their website, http://www.illinoisbirds.org/oric.html. Easy to use documentation forms are also available at that website, or from the IORC Secretary, Douglas F. Stotz, Environmental and Conservation Programs, Field Museum of Natural History, 1400 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60605. Completed documentation forms of species on the IORC review list should be submitted to the IORC Secretary within one week of the observation. Documentation is also requested, and may be required, for remarkable nesting records, unexpected dates of occurrence and unusually high counts for more routine species.

The 2008 Breeding Season Report

BLACK-BELLED WHISTLING-DUCK
DeWitt Co: 8, late spring/early summer, w/2 photographed & staying several weeks (Jode Heid). Lewe Rd, Maestvorty (Monroe Co): 8 on 8 Jul (B. Grand Tower (Jackson Co): 3 on 11 Jul (JST ph). Ware (Union Co): 4 on 6 Jul (DMK, MSS).

Snow Goose
NBSO: Mt Sterling sewage plant (Brown Co): injured, 11 Jul (KAM, DMK, MSS). Sgmn Co: blue morph, 11 Jun; blue & white morphs, 12 Jun (IDB). DeWitt Co: 8, late spring/early summer, w/2 photographed & staying (IDB). BLACK-BELLIED WHISTLING-DUCK

Canada Goose

Mute Swan
Breeding: Rollins Sav: ad on nest on old munkrat lodge, 6 Apr (SDB, SLD) & 13 May (EWW), w/4 yg, 29 Jun (EWW). Lakewood FP (Lake Co): pr at nest & later pr w/2 pr, season (SDW). Powderhorn L FP, LCal pr w/4 yg, 20 May (WPM); pr w/3 yg, 27 Jun (DFS). Deadstick Pond, LCal pr w/4 yg, 22 May (WPM); pr w/1 yg, 27 Jun (DFS). Wolf L, LCal pr w/5 yg, 31 May (WPM); pr w/2 yg, 27 Jun (DFS). Eggers Gv FP, LCal pr w/4 yg, 17 Jun (WPM). 594hd, w/5 yg, 10 May thru period (VMBM). Heron County P (VMBM): ad on nest (first county nest record, 19 Apr (SDB, m.ob.). MC: 16. L. Renwick (Will Co), 27 Jul (GAW), 7, Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co), 1 Jun (JSS); 6 ad, Independence Gv FP (Lake Co), 1 Jun (JSS); 5, JBSP, 13 Meadowlark
Northern Shoveler


Northern Pintail


Green-winged Teal


Canvasback

Eminov P: 11 Jul (GJW et al).

Redhead

Breeding: Hebron (McHenry Co): pr & 3 yg, 28 Jun (EWW ph). Coal City sewage plant (Grundy Co): hen w/4 chicks, 28 Jun (DFS). MC: 7 (2 pr & 3 males), Hebron (McHenry Co), 8 Jun (EWW). Others: HL: 22 Jun (FRH); Monroe Co: pr, 30 Jun -5 Jul (KAM). Note: Only 5 breeding records during the last 30 years, with two of them from this year (EWW).

Ring-necked Duck


Hooded Merganser


MC: 190, Monroe Co, 13 Jul (KAM); 129, LindP, as above (GAW); 92, Kankakee, 8 Jul (JSS). Notes: “Fewer noted this summer on my areas” (ABA). First brood appeared later than usual, w/lower breeding numbers in general at JPP (PR). “Few broods” (RGB, SNB).

Blue-winged Teal


Volume 18, Number 1
**Ruddy Duck**

**Breeding:** Rollins Sav: 3 broods, w/6 yng, 9 Aug (MJH). Pratts Wayne Wds: 2 pr w/9 yng, 9 Jul (JWW et al.).

**Ring-necked Pheasant**

**Breeding:** Pecatonica (Wbg Co): hen w/9 chicks, 21 Jul (DWT). Matthiessen SP (La Salle Co): female w/3 chicks, 12 Jul (DJS).

**American White Pelican**

**Breeding:** Mazonia-Braidwood: juv, 27 Jul (JBH ph). L Michigan off Rogers Park, Chi: 11 Jun (APS).

**NEOTROPIC CORMORANT**

**HL:** 21 Jun (FRH ph, JPZ, WMR); third consecutive year at this site.

**Double-crested Cormorant**

**Breeding:** IBSP: 21 nests (first time nesting here), 1 Jun (EWJ). Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co): 200 ad, 18 May, 130 ad at 44 nests w/182 visible yng, 9 Aug (ABA); 622 ad & yng at rookery, 28 Jun (GAW). Worley L (Tazewell Co): nest w/one dead bird in heron rookery, 26 Jun (MS et al.).

**Common Loon**

**NBSO:** Crystal L (McHenry Co): 2 on 5 Jun, w/1 molting to breeding plumage, 2 Jul (DWT), Kibbuck Bfs FP (Wbg Co): 9 (family), 27 Aug (ABA, BD).

**American Bittern**

**Notes:** More whistling males than I've heard in years." (LHL) Now "exerted over large areas of east-central IL." (SDB)

**Pied-billed Grebe**

**Breeding:** Rollins Sav: 2 broods, 10 Jul (JSS). Burnidge FP (Kane Co): ad w/3 chicks, 9 Jun (HIL, GDN). Paul Douglas FP: ad w/3 juv, 30 Jul (CSF).

**Meadowlark**

**L Michigan off Rogers Park, Chi:** 11 Jun (APS).
Great Blue Heron
Breeding: Ridott (Stephenson Co): 31 (17 imm), 2 Aug (DTW), Pecatonica Wetlands FWA (Wbgo) 26, ad many going to & from nests at rookery; 22 Jun (DTW). Bakers L, Barrington (Cook Co): 17 ad & yg at rookery, 28 Jun (GAW). Paul Douglas FP: 22 on nest platforms, 20 Mar (SWS). Basse F: rookery of 28 occupied nests, 30 Mar; 52 nests/wads, 17 May; 51 nests w/ads or yg (incl. 1 nest w/5 yg, 3 nests w/4 yg, 10 nests w/3 yg, 15 nests w/2 yg, 9 nests w/1 yg), 29 May (ABA, RJ; McGinnis St: 18-20 Apr, 40-45 nests, Apr (WSS)). Miller Mdw, Maywood (Cook Co): 2 nests (first confirmed nesting at site), w/uvj present, 8 Jun (JAVA). Midlothian Mdw FP (Cook Co): nest w/3 yg, 19 Jun (ABA, JP, RW). Dowwers Grove TP (Du Page Co): ad at rookery on -20 nests, 19 Apr (KK). Kaneahe River SP: 3 ad on nests, 20 Apr (JB, m.ob.), Senachinie L (Putnam Co): active rookery, 4 Apr (TC); this rookery active 2003-2004, then abandoned when pl of eagles nested adjacent to rookery 2005-2007, but not in 2008. Henry (Marshall Co): new rookery w/20 active nests, 4 Apr (TC). Marshall SPFWA (Peoria Co): 79 nests active, 4 Apr, but likely abandoned by 27 Jun (TC, MS et al.). Pontiac (Livingston Co): pr at nest, 21 Mar (EWV). Vermont (Fulton Co): rookery/w/ads on 29 nests, 10 May (LH1). Wolry L (Tazewell Co): 283 active nests & 50 nests that had already fledged yg, 26 Jun (et al). Clear L (Mason Co): 180 nests (the lowest since initial survey in 1962), active 1 Mar-May, but abandoned by 23 Jun (CH, RGB, SNB et al.). Stockland Twp (Iroquois Co): several ad flying to & from likely rookery, 14 Jun (SDR). Urb: single nest along Saligne Branch Ditch, 15 Apr (JOS). St Joseph Twp (St Joseph Co): 12 nests along Saligne Branch Ditch Aug (JOS). Heron County P (Vmn Co): ad on nests at rookery (~40 nests, 19 Apr, SDR, m.ob.), w/manads feeding yg, 4 May (MFC). East Nelson Twp, L Shelbyville (Moultrie Co): many ads, likely rookery, Jun (RLJ). MC: 500, Union/ Alexander Co, 13 Jul (JL, TLK); 400, CarlF, 28 Jul (MSS); 550, Monroe Co, 13 Jul (DMK, MSS & KAM); 120, CarlLc, 24 & 26 Jul (DMK & MSS); 95, Chau, 25 Jul (RGB, SNB); 81, Am. Bns, 4 Jul (C&PD); 74, Rockton (Wbgo) Co, 20 Jul (DTW); 70, Keensburg (Wabash Co), 1 Aug (CLH); 66, Nygreen Wetland Pw (Wbgo), 30 Jul (DTW); 59, Stephenson Co, 26 Jul (CAT); 54, Mazonia-Braidw, 26 Jul (JHG); 43, Randolph Co, 14 Jun (KAM); 42, Jackson Co, 23 Jun (KAM); 40, McHenry Dam (McHenry Co), 7 Jul (BJS); 40, ECapGir, 7 Jul (JL); 34, Paul Douglas FP, 28 Jun (GAW); 30, HL, 1 Jul (DMK). Others: JP: 6 on 7, 13 & 20 Jul (PRC & KMC); L Salle L (La Salle Co): 19 on 13 Jul (DIS). L Decatur dredge ponds: 11 on 15 Jun (TAM).

Cattle Egret

Green Heron

Black-crowned Night-Heron

Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
Right: Osprey nesting in Kane County. 25 June 2008. The Osprey is endangered in Illinois. Photo by Cathy Iaden.


White-faced Ibises

Sac 1: Pr: 8 Jun (AFS, APS, *REF et al.).

Black Vultures


Turkey Vultures

MC: 40, Carl FI, 12 Jul (DMK, MSS); 40, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 8 Jun (DMK); 35, Bucket B, 6 Jun (DMK); 30, Kickapoo SP (Vmln Co), 12 Jun (BGS); 30, CarvL, 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 30, Levee Rd, Union Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 30, Bay City (Pope Co), 15 Jul (DMK); 25, Belknaps B, 12 Jun (VMK); 23, Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co), 16 Jun (DFS); 18, Mulberry Grove (Fayette Co), 13 Jun (RLJ); 16, Saganahkee Sl, Palos, thru period (WSS); 16, The Forestry, U of IL (Champaign Co), 15 Jun (HCRD); 15, Randolph Co, 14 Jun (KAM); 14, Dudleyville B, 8 Jun (DMK, MSS); 12, Kell B, 12 Jun (SDB); 12, E Cape Gir., 19 Jul (DMK, MSS).


Osprey

Breeding: Elgin Twp (Kane Co) (one nest): nest building, 19 Apr (ABA); ad incubating, 21 Apr; eggs hatching, 29 May; first flight (then remaining -3 weeks), 23 Jul (REH); nest fledging 3 yg (PAM). John L. Duffy Pk, Palos: ad bringing nesting material to nesting platform, 2 Apr (PD). Powderhurst L FP, L Cal (one nest): pr w/nest that fledged 4 yg, season (WJM, CAM, m.ob.); ad at nest, 30 Mar; pr touching up the nest and incubating eggs, 13 Apr; 2 newly hatched yg, 11 Jun; 2 yg fledged by 20 Jul (WJM). Banner M (Pulten Co) ad on nest, 8 May (KBB); 22 Jun (DMK) & 16 Jul (MB). Others: La Salle (La Salle Co): 18 Jun (MPW). Black Crown M Land & Water Reserve (McHenry Co): 18 Jun (MPW). Monmouth (Warren Co): 29 Jul (MJB). Rend L (Jefferson Co): ad, 1 Aug (EWW). NBSO: Merritt L., 21 & 23 Jun & 6 Jul (KAM, DMK, MSS).

Mississippi Kite

Breeding: Rockford: 3 ad (1 male, 2 females) near nest w/nesting (which later fledged), 19 Aug; ad feeding yg, 21 Aug; jag, 29 Sep (DTW, BCW, LGB, VB ph, m.ob., ph). Thebes (Alexander Co): 2-3 pr nesting in loose colony in rural cemetery, w/2-3 nests built by 21 May (fide SDB) and pr courting & copulating, 23 May (MPW et al. ph). MC: 70, Thebes (Alex Co): 22 May (and 1 still there, 26 Aug) (SDB); 21, Grand Tower Twp (Jackson Co), 21 Jun (RMR); 12, Levee Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 10, Dogtooth L, 21 Jun (DMK, BAH); 7 (ad & 1st yr), UCCA, 17 Aug (EWW, WSS); 4, Hl, 1 Jul (DMK); 4, Palisake B, 13 Jun (VMK).

Bald Eagles


Sharp-shinned Hawks


Meadowlark
Mississippi Kite in Thebes, Alexander County. 28 May 2008.
Photo by Mike Ward.

CAT; 5, Milford B, 14 Jun (SDB); 5, Columbia 8, 8 Jun (KAM). NSBO: JP, imm, 4 Jul (PRC).

American Kestrel
Banding: U of IL campus, Urb.: pr near nest site, 31 Mar (EK). Urb.: pr at nest site in building, Mar-Jul, w/feeding 2 fledglings, 18-19 Aug (SD, m.ob.). Hull: (Pike Co: 3) (family group), 15 Jul-16 Jul. MDC: 12, Kendall Co, 29 Jul (DFS); 8, Marion Co, 21 Jun (DMK, BAH); 8, Levee Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 5, St Clair Co, 3 Jul (KAM); 5, Jackson Co, 23 Jul (KAM). Others: JP, female, 16 Jul (RC), & 1 on 5 Jul (DCA).

Merlin
Grass L (Lake Co): 31 Jul (JRG, BS).

Peregrine Falcon

BLACK RAIL
Banding: 2 pairs aggressively defending adjacent territories & calling continuously, 11-14 Jun, w/single male thru 19 Jun (EWW, video, recording), Pwts Way Wds: season (PAM). Emiquon Psv: singing (breeding or migrant?), 16 Aug (EWW, WSS).

King Rail

Virginia Rail

Sora

Eagle Gin: 3 on 19 Jul (DMK, MBS). Note: While conducting research with...
Saras, U of IL researchers regularly encountered the species during late May in east-central IL, well past the usual spring departure dates for most individuals of this species. Like some other (especially marsh) species, the cool and stormy weather of late spring likely hampered normal migration patterns (SDI).

Common Moorhen


American Coot


Sandhill Crane

**Breeding:** Pecatonica Wetlands FP (Whgo Co): ad on nest, 7 Jun, but nest flooded out by 15 Jun (DTW). Harrison (Whgo Co): pr w/colt (only Whgo Co report of a colt all season), 29 Jul (AB fide DTW). McHenry Dam (McHenry Co): pr w/colt, 2 Aug (KML). Volo Bog SNA (Lake Co): pr w/small flightless yg, 3 Jul (CD PH). Ethel's Wds FP (Lake Co): pr at nest w/2 eggs, 10 May (SDB, SLD). Midforsk Sav: pr w/colt, 29 Jun (SDB, SLD, MJH). Kane Co: pr w/2 flightless colts, 1 Jun (PH). MC: 20, Volo (Lake Co), 11 Jul (ADF); 6, Goose L Pr, 5 Jul (BR); 5, Stephenson Co, 26 Jul (CAT). Others: Rockton (Whgo Co): 2 pr but no chicks, 20 Jul (DTW). Petite Vire (Whgo Co): 1 pr but no chicks, 27 Jul (DTW). North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co): pr (likely unsuccessful nesting nearby), 13 Jul (EWW). Rollins Sav: 2 on 11 Jun (DRD) & 19 Jun (BJS). Nelson L Psv: pr, 9 Jun (JH). Sugar Grove (Kane Co): 2 on 27 Jul (GAW). Barrington Hills (Cook Co): 2 Jun (ABA et al.). McMinnis Sp: pr, 24 Jun (DFS). Goose L Pr: pr & 2+ calling, 11 Jul (JAJ). Notes: The low areas adjoining the four major rivers that were flooded for much of the spring and summer season in Whgo Co were a detriment to “the cranes that normally nest in those same low marshy and prairie areas. High water in May likely ruined or frustrated their first nesting attempt. Subsequently, they tried to nest again when the water receded in late May/early June, only to have the rivers rise again and flood their new nests or nests sites” (DTW).

American Golden-Plover

**NBSO:** sw: Stephenson Co: breeding plunnage, 16 Jun (DNS).

Killdeer

**Breeding:** Deer Run FP (Whgo Co): ad w/4 downy chicks, 13 Jul (EBC). Tabler Rd, Kane Co: 3 small chicks, 26 May (DFS). Songbird Sl: pr w/1 small yg, 20 Jun (ABA). Northwestern Wds FP (Cook Co): pr w/2 small yg, 25 May (ABA). Rainbow Beach, Chc: nest w/4 eggs, 31 May (DFS). Goose L Pr: nest w/4 eggs, 12 & 28 Jun (DFS). EWW Psv: 5 flightless chicks, 12 Jun (DFS). McDonough Co: downy yg, 10 May (LH). Fulton Co: “strong nesting behavior”, 9 Apr (LH). Stockland Twp (Iroquois Co): pr w/3 downy yg, 14 Jun (SDBD). MidFork FP: 2 Bedlins, 17 Jun (EIC). Urb: fledgling, 10 May (EIC). PriBd pr at nest w/4 eggs, 26 Apr (KDF). Monroe Co: 36 ad & 4 yg, 5 Jul (KAM). MC: 375, Kendall Co sod farms, 29 Jul (DFS); 319, Am. Btms, 27 Jul (C&PD); 300, Carle, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 170, Monroe sod farm (Kankakee Co), 5 Aug (JBD); 100, McHenry Co sod farm, 17 Jul (DRD); 93, De Kalb Co, 20 Jul (GAW); 89, Stephenson Co, 26 Jul (CAT); 82, Chau, 11 Jul (RGB, SNB); 80, Monroe Co, 13 Jul (DMK, MSS, KAM); 60, Farina (Fayette Co), 12 Jul (DMK, MSS); 55, Kane Co, 27 Jul (GAW). Note: Although “many adults around, nesting success appeared low due to the cold, wet spring and destruction of nests by farming cultivation” (LH).

Black-necked Stilt

**Breeding:** Sandm Co: nest building, 10 Jun; distraction display, 14 Jun; nest w/4 eggs, 16 Jun; ad on nest, 17-23 Jun in now dry nest site, and nest deserted w/only 3 eggs, 24 Jun; then at another area, 23-24 Jun (HDB). Emiquon Psv: breeding colony in small island in Thompson L, w/3 chicks less than 1 week old in Jul (CLH). Although “many adults around, nesting success appeared low due to the cold, wet spring and destruction of nests by farming cultivation” (LH).

Notes:

1. The low areas adjoining the four major rivers that were flooded for much of the spring and summer season in Whgo Co were a detriment to “the cranes that normally nest in those same low marshy and prairie areas. High water in May likely ruined or frustrated their first nesting attempt. Subsequently, they tried to nest again when the water receded in late May/early June, only to have the rivers rise again and flood their new nests or nests sites” (DTW).

1. As observed from a boat, June 2008. As a result of this writing, the Sandhill Crane is threatened in Illinois. Photo by Claire Dassie.

Greater Yellowlegs

NBSO: Sgmn Co: 11 Jun (late spring migrant?) (HDB). Spotted Sandpiper


Upland Sandpiper


Least Sandpiper

NBSO: Sgmn Co: 19 Jun (early fall migrant?) (HDB).

American Woodcock

Breeding: Air Station Pr, Glenview (Cook Co): ad on nest, 20 & 26 Apr (+ K1, ABA, WSG ph). MC: 15 (mostly displaying males), Kenosha P & Heron County P (Vmn Co), 18-19 Apr (SDB, m.ob.). Logan Co (MOON), 26 Jul (JG). Others: Rollins Sav: 3 males on territory, 6 Apr Laughing Gull and friend (Ring-billed Gull). Montrose, Cook County.


Wilson's Phalarope


Laughing Gull


Ring-billed Gull

Breeding: Wd Dale Gv (Du Page Co): 1100 ad at nesting site, 29 Mar; 7 ad on nests & 3 copulating pr, 14 Apr; 61 ad on nests & 19 copulating pr, 19 Apr; 1030 ad w/535 juv, 7 Jun; 830 ad w/695 juv, 20 Jun (ABA). Harborcides Golf Course, LCal: 34 newly-fledged juv from nearby breeding colony, 25 Jul (WJM). Dinne Pier, Chic 20 juv from nearby breeding colony, 1 Jul (GAW). MC: 1870, North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co), 11 Jul; 1125 (all ad), same site, 21 Jun (EWW); 1020, LCal, 5 Jun (DFS); 1019, Montrose H, 23 Jul (GAW); 700, CarlC, 17-26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 450 (~10% juv), Mazonia-Braidwood, 23 Jul (JSS); 256, Chau, & 241, Laughing Gull. Others: Spfld L: 3 on 20 Jul (JAM), R Bend FP: 3 on 15 Jul (JSS). Elgin: 12 Jul (CAST, TLE); 60 on 27 Jul (KAM). CarlC: 2 juv, 17 Jul (DMK, MSS). East Fork L (Richland Co): 2 on 29 Jul (CLH); Rend L (Jefferson Co): 3 on 23 Jun (KAM).

Herring Gull


Lesser Black-backed Gull

North Point Marina, Winthrop Harbor (Lake Co): 4 (all molting to 2nd winter), 29 Jun; found after a severe thunderstorm and ne. winds, w/none encountered the rest of summer (EWW).

Caspian Tern

MC: 94 (incl. 9 juv) & 85, Mazonia-Braidwood, 31 & 26 Jul (and 3-20 regu.
regularly there, 24 Jun-11 Aug) (JSS); 42, Grilake Co, 10 Jul (DRD); 37 (at least 5 juv) & 19, Saganashkee Sl, Palos, 29 Jul (WSS, WJM) & 24 Jun (DFS); 37, La Salle L (La Salle Co), 28 Jul (MAM); 36, CarlC, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 25, Montrose H, 24 Jul (GAW); 25, L Decatur dredge ponds, 2 Aug (TAM); 14 (8 ad, 6 juv), Harborcides Golf Course, LCal, 25 Jul (WJM); 13, Des Plaines R widewaters, Channahon (Will Co), 12 Jul (BSm). NBSO: Chau: 2 on 13 Jun (RGB, SNB). IL: 22 Jun (JSS). Others: 24-35 migrant ad w/eg, 24 Jul (DMK, MSS). ECape Gir: 2 on 13 Jul (CAT, TLE). Others: IBSP: 4 on 22 Jun (EWW); Waterfall Glen: 12 Jul (REF, KDF).
Least Tern chicks in Alexander County. 7 July 2008. The Least Tern is endangered in Illinois. Photo by Keith McMullen.

80, Ware (Union Co), 6 Jul (DMK, MSS), 70, Montrose H, 1 Jul (GAW), 40, ESL, 1 Jul (DMK), 30, CarlC, 24 Jul (DMK), 39, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 30 Jul (DMK), 30, Levee Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS).

Eurasian Collared-Dove

Mourning Dove
Breeding: Wood Dale Grv (Du Page Co): ad nest building, 14 Jun (ABA). Prairie P, Schaumburg (Cook Co): flightless yg on ground, 26 Jul (ABA). Des Plaines (Cook Co): flightless yg on ground, 26 Jul (ABA). Plum Crk: 2 males, 1 Jul (DMK, MSS). B2 Bend: nest building, 3 May (C&PD). MC: 227, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT); 150, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 3 Jul (DMK); 103, Martinsville B, 15 Jun (SDB); 98, Harriworth, B, 21 Jun (VMK); 88, Jamestown B, 2 Jun (DMK). 79, Pembroke Twp, 4 Jul (DIS); 80, CarlC, 12 Jul (DMK, MSS); 70, Whiteside Co, 25 Jul (DIS); 66, Burnt Pr B, 10 Jun (VMK); 63, Milford B, 14 Jun (SDB); 62, Columbia B, 8 Jun (KAM); 59, Allerton B, 1 Jul (EJC); 57, Stephenson Co, 26 Jun (CAT); 57, St Morgan B, 7 Jun (KAM); 51, Pulaski B, 13 Jun (VMK); 50, Aurora West FP (Kane Co), 20 Jul (KAM); 50, Shiloh Springs B, 21 Jul (KAM). 49, Wood Dale Orv, 1 Ap (VMK); 49, Bell B, 12 Jun (SDB); 47, Belknap B, 12 Jun (VMK); 47, Wayneville B, 24 Jun (VMK). Note: “High numbers everywhere” in Champaign Co (EJC).

Meadowlark
Black Tern

Rock Pigeon
Breeding: Ironosis Wds FP (Cook Co): ad on nest under Interstate 294 bridge, 17 Aug (ABA). Urb: ad on nest, 7 Jun (EJC). Hull (Pike Co): 14 ad (and broken pigeon eggshell) under Interstate 72 bridge, 15 Jul (SDB). MC:
Great Horned Owl

Breeding: Northern IL U. De Kalb (De Kalb Co): ad feeding 2 yg, 30 Mar (DJS). Springfield Pr FP (Du Page Co): ad on nest, 3 Feb (JAS, m.ob.). Mt Greenwood cemetery, Chi: 2 ad w/fledgling, 4 Mar (WM, WSS, SF).


MC: 14 & 11, Jo Daviess Co (MOON), 21 May & 22 Jul (Hi), 9, Lawrence Co (MOON), 21 May (PN), 7, Bond Co (MOON), 20 Jul (SB); 6, Whiteside Co (MOON), 21 Jun (Hi); 6 & 5, Woodford Co (MOON), 21 May & 16 Jun (AC, LA); 5, Coles Co (MOON), 25 May (LT, RR). Others: Hebron (McHeyer Co): ad roosting in middle of marsh, likely preying on waterfowl at night, 8 Jun-26 Jul (EWW). Mazonia-Braidwood: 2 on 4 Jul & 3 Jul (JHo). Hancock Co (MOON): 3 on 20 May (BRs). Carlin: 3 on 26 Jul (DMSK, MSS).

Barred Owl


Common Nighthawk


Chuck-will’s-widow


Whippoor-will

Breeding: Walker Twp: pr flushed at nest site, 1 Jul (SDS). MC: 190, Jo Daviess Co (MOON), 21 May (DE); 104, Bond Co (MOON), 17 Jun (SB); 76, Jasper Co (MOON), 16 Jun (SAS); 15, Coles Co (MOON), 25 May (LT, RR); 14, ICCA, 14 Jun (GAW); 10, Calhoun Co (MOON), 14 Jun (JS); 9, IHB, 11 Jun (EWW). Others: Ne. Lake Co: 6 on 18 Jun (WSS, APS). Palos: 23 Jun (WSS). McClaughrey Spgs Wds: 22 Jun (RLS). Dowsers Grove (Du Page Co): in daylight by roadside, 3 Jun (REF, KDF). Cap Sauls Holdings NPsv (Cook Co) calling, 22
Iroquois Co: 3 on 14 Jun (GAW). Kankakee: 3 on 22 Jun (JBH). Shoal Crk (Menard Co), 9 Aug (VMK); 42 (banded), New Athens (St Clair Co), Twp (Bond Co): 14 Jun (DMK, MSS). Carl.F: 4 on 28 Jun & 4 Jul (DMK). Mississippi R Blflands (Monroe Co), 29 Jul (C&PD); 88 (banded, incl. Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site (Menard Co), 9 Aug (VMK); 42 (banded), New Athens (St Clair Co), 26 Jul (VMK); 34 (banded), Godfrey (Madison Co), 10 Aug (VMK).

Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Breeding: Downers Grove (Du Page Co): "breeding" in backyard, season (REF, KDF). River Forest (Cook Co): pr, Jun-4 Aug, w/2 jv, 13 Aug (JSA). Palos: female at nest feeding 3 yg, 30 Jun-8 Jul (PD ph). MC: 1500, Alto Pass (Union Co), 1 Jul–10 Aug (BST, PS, Julie VMK); 126 (at backyard feeders), Mississippi R Blflands (Monroe Co), 29 Jul (C&PD); 88 (banded, incl. 5 returns from previous years), Trail of Tears SF (Union Co), 2-3 Aug (VMK), 86 (banded, incl. 9 returns from previous years), Fayetteville (St Clair Co), 26 Jun (VMK); 86 (banded, incl. 2 returns from previous years), Valmeyer (Monroe Co), 5 Aug (VMK); 80 (banded, incl. 13 returns from previous years), Siloam Spgs SP (Adams Co), 5 Jul (VMK); 64 (banded, incl. 4 returns from previous years), Millstadt (St Clair Co), 5 Aug (VMK); 54 (banded), New Athens (St Clair Co), 14 Jun (VMK); 47 (banded, incl. 12 returns from previous years), Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site (Menard Co), 9 Aug (VMK); 42 (banded), New Athens (St Clair Co), 26 Jul (VMK); 34 (banded), Godfrey (Madison Co), 10 Aug (VMK).


Ruby-throated Hummingbird at nest. Palos Hills, Cook County. 4 August 2008.

A nesting Ruby-throated Hummingbird awaits food in Palos Hills, Cook County. Paul Dacko took these photos on 4 August 2008.
Northern Flicker
g, 8 Jul (PRC). Busse F: female w/juv, 7 Jun (ABA). Kankakee: 5 (incl. 2 Downy Woodpecker
Fulton Co, 23 Jun (LLT-1); 4, Kankakee, Twp (Hancock Co), 3-19 Jul (SDB); 11 (incl. pr w/2 juv), Plum Crk FP, 19 Jun (CBA). McClaughrey Spgs Wds: nest, Apr (WSS), later reused by (SOB); 8, Independence P, Marquette Heights (Tazewell Co), 26 Jun (TVL); 11, Andover (Henry Co), 20 Jun-1 Jul (SOB); 9, Greenbush Twp, 26 Jun (VMK); 12, Oudleyville
at all on 8 of 11 BBS routes” (VMK).

Breeding: Hairy Woodpecker
24, Martinsville

Red-bellied Woodpecker
Breeding: Poplar Grove (Boone Co): pr w/ledgings at sued feeder, season (AEB), Johnson-Sauk Trail SP (Henry Co): pr bringing food to nest hole, 7 Jun (EWW), Mulberry Grove (Fayette Co): carrying food for yg, 13 Jun (RLJ). MC: 28, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS), 26, Panther Crk SFwa, 19 Jun (KS); 24, Mariniville, 15 Jun (SDB); 18, Beaverdam, 8 Jun (VMK), 11 Jun (VMK), 18, Belknup B, 12 Jun (VMK), 15, Bureau Co, 17 Jun (DFS), 14, Andover (Henry Co), 1 Jul (SDB); 14, St Morgan B, 8 Jul (KAM), 14, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 17 Jun (RLJ), 14, Columbia B, 8 Jun (KAM), 14, Palmsville, 13 Jun (DMK), 13, Burrt B, 10 Juv (VMK), 12, Athens B, 27 Jun (VMK); 12, Dudleyville, 8 Jun (14 DMK, MSS), 11, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT), 10, Kellis, 12 Jun (SDB); 10, Janesville, 2 Jun (DMK).

Yellow-bellied Sapucker
Lost Mound: female, 13 Jun (SDB), Mississippi Palisades SP (Carrroll Co): male, 16 Jun (DFS), Pecatonica Twp (Wbgo Co): male drumming on telephone pole, 22 Jun (DTW).

Downy Woodpecker
Breeding: RockE: nest building, 24 Apr, & 2+ yg fledging, 12 Jun (EBC), Poplar Grove (Boone Co): pr w/ledgings at sued feeder, season (AEB), Jp: yg, 8 Jul (PRC), Busse F: female juv, 7 Jun (ABA), Kankakee: 5 (incl. 2 yg), 4 Jun (JHH). L. of the Wds FP: copulating, 5 May (CAY), Boney Wds, Urb.: fledging, 1 Jul (EICI), MC: 26, Palos, 24 Jun (DFS), 20, Walker Twp, 9-18 Jul (SDB); 18, Panther Crk SFwa, 18 Jun (KS); 16, Durand Twp (Hancock Co), 3-19 Jul (SDB); 11 (incl. pr w/2 juv), Plum Crk FP, 19 Jun (ABA); 11, Andover (Henry Co), 20 Jun–1 Jul (SDB); 9, Greenbush Twp (Warren Co), 26 Jun–16 Jul (SDB); 9, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 9 Jul (SDB); 8, Independent, Pennsylvania (Tazewell Co), 26 Jun (TVL); 8, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 17 Jun (RLJ); 8, Carlsc, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 7, L Le-Aqua-Na, 26 Jul (CAT); 7, Jp, 8 Jul (PRC), 7, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT); 7, Monroe Co, 5 Jul (KAM), 6, Honey Bend (Montgomery Co), 11 Jun (RLJ); 6, Martinsville, 8–15 Jun (SDB).

Hairy Woodpecker

Northern Flicker
Breeding: Somme Pr FP (Cook Co): excavating nest, 22 May (DFS). Budget Wds, Urb.: ad at nest, 11 May (MC), 18, Madison Sav, 28, Jun (SDB, SDL, MHJ); 13, Fontana Green Twp (Hancock Co), 26 Jun–17 Jul (SDB), 11, Palos, 24 Jun (DFS); 11, Lds-Mrr, 2 Aug (DFS), 10, Homerip L, 30 Jun (DFS); 10, Pembroke Twp, 4 Jul (DFS), 10, Lomax Twp (Henderson Co), 3 Jun–11 Jul (SDB), 9, Mctawwa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDB); 9, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT); 9, Kankakee, 11 Jul (JHH); 9, Walker Twp, 9-18 Jul (SDB); 8, Greenbush Twp (Warren Co), 26 Jun–16 Jul (SDB); 6, Carlsc, 4 & 24 Jul (DMK), 6, Levine Rd, Union Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 5, Lost Mound, 13 Jan (SDB), 5, Pembroke Twp, 12 Jun (GAW).

Red-headed Woodpecker

Alder Flycatcher

Willow Flycatcher
Breeding: Lake Villa (Lake Co): pr feeding 2 fledglings, 6 Aug (RB). Bode L FP (Cook Co): pr, 16 Jun, & ad feeding jv, 26 Jul (ABA). MC: 23, Herrick LL FP, 11 Jun (EES); 23 (19 males), Fountain Green Twp (Hancock Co) nesting there, 24 Jul (KBR). Midewin Pr: 4 (incl. 2 at Clay Co), 14 Jun (VMK); 10, Goose L Pr, 12 Jun (DFS); 26 Jun–17 Jul (SDB); 12, Lame-Pine Hills Ecological Area (Union Co), 23 Jun (KAM); 9, Pomona, 7 Jul (KAM); 9, Pulaski Co, 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 10, Goose L Pr, 12 Jun (DFS); 10, Rock Island Co, 16 Jun (VMK); 6, Herrick L FP, 29 Jun (GAW); 6, Greenbush Twp (Warren Co), 26 Jun–16 Jul (SBD); 6, Athens B, 27 Jun (VMK); 6, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 9 Jul (SBD); 6, Pulaski B, 13 Jun (VMK); 5, Wood Dale Grv, 14 Jun (ABA); 5, Kankakee, 4 Jun (BHH); 5, Rock Spgs CA (Macou), 23 Jun (TVL), 5, Jannestown Bl, 2 Jun (DMM).

Western Kingbird

Eastern Kingbird

Least Flycatcher
Bell's Vireo

**Breeding:** Orchard Park (Cook Co): ad feeding, 1 Aug (ABA, BR). Salt Creek WDS: feeding, 23 Jun (DMK, SDB). 

**Yellow-throated Vireo**

- Ldn-Mir: 2 Aug (DFS); present at this location in previous summers and likely breeds (SDB).

**Warbling Vireo**

- Breeding: Songbird Sl: pr feeding fledging, 20 Jun (ABA, SS). Bode (Cook Co): pr feeding, 1 Aug (ABA). Plum Creek FP: ad feeding jov, 9 Aug (DFS). MC: 6, Ldn-Mir, 6 Jun (DFS); 5 (6 males), Greenbush WTP (Warren Co), 26 Jun–16 Jul (DFS); 5, Mississippi Palisades SP (Carroll Co), 16 Jun (DFS); 5, Herrick LF, 11 Jun (EES); 5, ICCA, 20 Jun (DJM); 5 (3 males), Union Twp (Fulton Co), 16 Jul (SDB); 5 males, Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 19 Jul (SDB); 5 males, Fountain Green Twp (Hancock Co), 26 Jun–17 Jul (SDB); 5, Athens, 27 Jun (VMK); 4, Glacial P (McHenry Co), 17 Jul (BJS); 4 males, Walker Twp, 1–18 Jul (SDB); 4 males, Martinsville Sl, 15 Jun (SDB); 4 males, Renault (Montgomery Co), 15 Jul (RL); Others: Nuchuna Grs: 2 males, 17 & 28 Jun (ABH). Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co): 3 males, 10 Jul (RLJ). Belknap LF: 3 on 12 Jun (VMK).

**Blue-headed Vireo**

- Ldn-Mir: 2 Aug (DFS); present at this location in previous summers and likely breeds (SDB).

**Red-eyed Vireo**

**Breeding:** Rockhill: pr feeding dogwood berries to cowbird, 5 Aug (DTW). Weak: ad feeding jav cowbird, 5 Aug (JS). JP: territories, season (PRC), w/one fledgling, 14 Jul (KMC). Montrose H: feeding yw cowbird, 3 Aug (SS). MC: 27 (25 males), Andover (Henry Co), 19 Jun–1 Jul (SDB); 25, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS), 20, Ldn-Mir, 2 Aug (DFS); 20, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 21 Jun (DMK, BAH); 18, Salt Creek WDS, 22 Jun (DFS); 17 males, Walker Twp, 1–18 Jul (SDB); 17 (14 males), Renova (Montgomery Co), 19 Jun (RLJ); 16, Deer Grv FP (Cook Co), 31 May (BR); 14 males, Busse F, 7 Jun (ABA); 13, Panther Crk SFWA, 11 Jun (KJ); 12, Bonner Sl, 15 Jun (DMK, DJM); 12, Levee Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 11 (8 males), Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 25 Jun–19 Jul (SDB); 11, Independence P, Marquette Heights (Tazewell Co), 26 Jun (TVL); 10, Kankakee R SP, 30 May (JBH), 9, Mackinaw SFWA (Tazewell Co), 2 Jul (AC, DEB, LA); 8, Funks Grove (McLean Co), 30 Jun (MW, AC), 7, L. Le-Aqua-Na, 26 Jul (CAT); 7 (6 males), Erin Twp (Stephenson Co), 30 Jun (ABH); 7, Plum Crk FP (Cook Co), 13 Jul (HSL); 7, Belknap LF, 7 Jun (HSL); 7, Hunter Twp (Edgar Co), 5 & 10 Jul (MPW); 7, Berdan (Green Co), 2 Jul (MPW); 6 males, Honey Bend (Montgomery Co), 11 Jun (RLJ); 6 males, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 16 Jul (SDB); 6, Simpson Junction (Johnson Co), 15 Jul (DMK); 5 Camp Pr B, 29 May (VMK). Other: Grant P: migrant (singing male), 23 Jun (DFS).

**Blue Jay**

**Breeding:** Crystal P, Urb.: ad on nest, 27 Apr (BT, m.ob.). R Bend FP: nest building, 4 Apr (CRA). L of the Wds FP: fledging, 4 Aug, & family group, 25 Aug (CRA). MC: 37, Walker Twp, 10–18 Jul (SDB); 35, Pembroke Twp, 4 Jul (DFS); 23, Rockford Twp, 10 Jul (SD, MIH); 19, Lost Mound, 13 Jun (SDB); 18, Andover (Henry Co), 20 Jun–1 Jul (SDB); 18, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 16 Jul (SDB); 17, Keil, 12 Jun (SDB); 16, Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 3–19 Jul (SDB); 15, Athens, 27 Jun (VMK); 14, Deere Grv FP (Cook Co), 31 May (BR); 14, ICCA, 20 Jun (DMK); 10, Mettawa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDB, SLD); 10, Lonnax Twp (Henderson Co), 27 Jun–11 Jul (SDB); 9, Pomona, 23 Jun & 7 Jul (KJ); 9, Belknap LF, 12 Jun (VMK); 8, CarlC, 26 Jul (DMK, MMS); 6, Dudleyville B, 14 Jun (DMK, MMS). Notes: Waterfall Glen: “increasing” (REF, KDF). JP: no evidence of summering (PRC).

**American Crow**

**Breeding:** Linc.P: 11 (nested on site), 16 Jul (GAW). Grant P: fledging, 11 Jun (LR). JP: breeding in small numbers (PRC). Urb.: fellings, 7 Jun (EIC). MC: 67, Ogle Co, 14 Jun (DFS); 51, Pulaski 6, 13 Jun (VMK); 48, Belknap LF, 21 Jun (ABH); 24, Burnt Pr, 10 Jun (DMK); 39, Martinsville Sl, 15 Jun (SDB); 36, Fountain Green Twp (Hancock Co), 26 Jun–17 Jul (SDB); 35, Dogtooth 1, 6 Jul (DMK, MMS); 28, Belknap BF, 12 Jun (VMK); 25, Athens BF, 27 Jun (VMK); 20, Kankakee, 5 Aug (JBH); 17, Keil BF, 12 Jun (SDB); 16, Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 3–19 Jul (SDB); 15, Athens, 27 Jun (VMK); 14, Deere Grv FP (Cook Co), 31 May (BR); 14, ICCA, 20 Jun (DMK); 10, Mettawa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDB, SLD); 10, Lonnax Twp (Henderson Co), 27 Jun–11 Jul (SDB); 9, Pomona, 23 Jun & 7 Jul (KJ); 9, Belknap BF, 12 Jun (VMK); 8, CarlC, 26 Jul (DMK, MMS); 6, Dudleyville B, 14 Jun (DMK, MMS). Notes: Waterfall Glen: “very rare” (REF, KDF). “Continued slow increase in Des Plaines [Cook Co] this year” (ABA).
Purple Martin

Breeding: Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co): 18 at martin house, 1 Jun (JSS).
Independence Grv FP (Lake Co): 40 at martin box, 1 Jun (JSS). Chicago Botanic Garden, Glencoe (Cook Co): 7 scouts at martin house, 26 Apr; several females, 30 Jun (ABA). L. Arlington, Arlington Heights (Cook Co): 2 martin houses used by 18 pr, w/4 eggs hatched & 7 1/2 yg, all fledged by 25 Jul (JCB). Monterey H: 13 (nesting on site), 23 Jun (JAP). GF: 36 at martin houses, 4 Jun (PRC). Mahomet (Champaign Co): 60+ in 6 martin boxes, 7 Jun (C). Midwrk P: pr at nest, 22 Jul (EJC). MC: 200 (migrants?), 24 Jun; 26 May (JCB); 14 Jun (DMK, MSS); 150 (ads & juv), Urbandale (Alexander Co), 2 Aug (EWW); 77, Hennepin L, 30 Jun w/4 eggs in nest box, 28 Apr (JOS). Vmln Co: many nests (in 50 bluebird nest boxes & 4 pr in natural cavities, May-Aug (ABA). Bode L FP (Cook Co): 4 pr (in 3 nest boxes & 2 ad w/2 fledged yg), 16 Jun (ABA). Millochit Mdw FP (Cook Co): ad feeding yg at natural cavities, 18 Jun (ABA). Basse F: 10 pr nesting w/pr 4 & 4 pr in natural cavities, May-Aug (ABA). Bode L FP (Cook Co): 4 pr (in 3 nest boxes & 2 ad w/2 fledged yg), 16 Jun (ABA). MC: 453 & 256, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT) & 30 Jun (DFS); 200, Levec Rd, Monroe Co, 3 Jul (DMK); 150 (incl. many jcs), Pecatonica Wetlands FP (Wbgo Co), 2 Aug (DTW); 77, Harris Trwp (Faltor Co), 23 Jun (LH); 60, Dogtooth I, 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 53 (ads & jcs at breeding site), Bode L FP (Cook Co), 26 Jul (ABA). Notes: Five dead adult swallows in three nest boxes, w/one atop new nest, 14 May, and 22 dead adults in nest boxes (without nests) as of 11 Jun, likely due to "starvation/exposure due to cool, wet weather" in Vmln & Champaign Co (JOS). While checking 172 bluebird nest boxes in Champaign and Vmln Co, "most losses of swallows were due to competition from House Sparrows and/or House Wrens." (JOS).

Northern Rough-winged Swallow


Cliff Swallow


Barn Swallow

Tufted Titmouse
Breeding: R Bend FP: fledglings, 2 Aug (EJC). MC: 43, Beaverdam b, 11 Jun (VMK); 41, Walker Twp, 1-17 Jul (SDB); 27, Kill b, 12 Jun (SDB); 28, Palaski b, 13 Jun (VMK); 22, Dudleyville b, 16 Jun (DMK, MSS); 21 & 1, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co). 17 Jun & 10 Jul (RJL); 21, Beklopa b, 12 Jun (VMK); 19, Panther Crk SFWA, 18 Jun (KS); 18, Honey Bend (Montgomery Co), 11 Jun (RLJ); 15, Kendall Co, 29 Jul (DFS); 14, Athens b, 21 Jun (VMK); 14, Martinsville b, 15 Jun (SDB); 14, Monroe Co, 1 Jul (KAM); 13, Green Bay Co, 2 Jul (MPW); 12 & 10, Renaut (Monroe Co), 15 Jul & 19 Jun (RLJ); 12 & 9, Richview (Washington Co), 4 Jul & 12 Jun (RLJ); 12, Orchard Crk (Alexander Co), 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 10, Bunrt Pr b, 10 Jun (VMK); 11, Honey Bend (Montgomery Co), 2 Jul (RLJ); 10, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 9 Jul (SDB); 10, Lewe Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (JOS); 9 (incl. 2 family groups), Kibblo Hills Baptist Church, 27 Aug (ABA, DBD); 9, Columbia b, 8 Jun (KAM); 8, Independence P, Marquette Heights (Tazewell Co), 26 Jun (TVL). Others: CMPton FP (Kane Co): 19 Jun (AHB). Waterfall Glen: season (REF, KDF). Nachusa Grse: season (AHB). Stark Co: 4 on 20 Jul (CAT). Pembroke Twp: 6 on 12 Jun (GAW). Kankaakee R SP: 5 on 30 May (JHB). ICA: 5 on 20 Jun (JHB).

Red-breasted Nuthatch
Mundelein (Lake Co): 2 at feeders, 25 Jul (SDB). Downers Grove (Du Page Co) backyard, 15 Jul (REF, KDF). Deer Grv FP (Cook Co): 2 locations, 16 Jun (CSF). Note: Many other late-laying birds noted in the Chic area. Likely several early breeding attempts, especially in n. IL this summer after the exceptionally large winter invasion (SDB).

White-breasted Nuthatch
Breeding: Erin Twp (Stephenson Co): ad carrying food, 19 Jun (SDB), Deer Grv FP (Cook Co): ad carrying nest material, 16 Apr (CSF). Plum Crk FP: family groups of 4 (2 juv) & 3 (1 juv), 1 Aug (ABA, DR). Che-che-pinn-qua Wds FP (Cook Co): pr feeding 2, 3 Jul (ABA). MC: 28, Walker Twp, 9-18 Jul (SDB); 19, Palos, 24 Jun (DFS); 18, Panther Crk SFWA, 11 Jun (KS, TW); 15, Andover (Henry Co), 20 Jun–1 Jul (SDB); 14, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 16 Jul (SDB); 13, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT); 12, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 17 Jun (RLJ); 11, Plum Crk FP, 1 Aug (ABA, DBD); 11, Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 3–19 Jul (SDB); 8, L Le-Aqua-Na, 26 Jul (CAT); 8, Mettawa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDB, SL); 8, Greenbush Twp (Waukesha Co), 26 Jul (SDB); 8, Independence P, Marquette Heights (Tazewell Co), 26 Jun (TVL); 8, Berdan (Greene Co), 22 Jun (MPW); 6, Kankaakee, 11 Jul (JHB); 6, Beaverdam b, 11 Jun (VMK). Others: JPB: 2 on 13–27 Jul (PRC).

Brown Creeper

Carolina Wren
Breeding: Spfld pr feeding yg, Apr; ad on nest w/3 eggs in hanging flower basket, 14 May (RJL). McCloughrey Spgs Wds: carrying nest material, 23 Mar (AAA). L of the Wds FP: fledging, 25 Aug (CKA). HLA: nest w/yg, 12 May (EWW). Mode (Shelby Co): ad feeding yg, 24 Apr (KAF). MC: 36, Beaverdam Rd (SDB); 23, Palaski b, 13 Jun (VMK); 17, Monroe Co, 5 Jul (KAM); 16, Beklopa b, 12 Jun (VMK); 13, Bunrt Pr b, 10 Jun (VMK); 12, St Morgan b, 7 Jun (KAM); 11, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 30 Jul (RLJ); 10, Carl C, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 9, Panther Crk SFWA, 11 Jun (KS, TW); 9, Athens b, 21 Jun (VMK); 8, Columbus b, 8 Jun (KAM); 8, Martinsville b, 15 Jun (SDB); 8, Renault (Monroe Co), 19 Jun & 15 Jul (RLJ); 7, Rock Spgs CA (Monaco Co), 23 Jun (TVL). Others: PDouglas FP: 1 Aug (CSF). Lemont (Cook Co): 14 Jun (CAT). Sterling (Whitewater Co): 2 on 7 Jun (EWW). JPB: male, 25 Jun; then second bird, 13 Jul–season (PRC). Johnson-Sook Trail SP (Henry Co): 2 on 7 Jun (EWW). Ziononia–Braidwd: 3 on 31 Jul (JHB). Kankaakee: 4 on 11 Jul (JHB). Walker Twp: 4 (3 males), 1-10 Jul (SDB).

BEWICK'S WREN
Breeding: Sileam Spgs SPs (Adams Co): pr at usual nest site, 7 May (SDB) & w/2-3 half-grown yg, 24 May (EWW); pr still present 11 Jul (KAM, DMK) & 2 Jul (CAT, TLK).

House Wren

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Eastern Bluebird
Breeding: Midewin Pr; pr feeding yng, 24 May (JB et al.). Matthaeus SP (Salle Co): 2 males & female feeding yng in same nest box, 12 Jul (DJS).
Vmn Co: many nests in bluebird boxes, incl. 210 ygd fledged from 287 eggs, season (JOS). Vmn Co: 699 ygd fledged from 427 nest boxes monitored through season (in part, fide D.B.K.). Hull (Pie Co): female carrying food, 5 Jun (SB). Mode (Shelby Co): ad at nest w/4 eggs, 24 Apr (KAF). MC: 20, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 21 Jun (DMK, BAH); 18, Jackson Co, 23 Jun (KAM); 16, Pembroke Twp, 4 Jul (DFS); 16, Beaverd Cr, 11 Jun (VMK); 16, Belknap Rd, 12 Jun (VMK); 14, Mettawa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDL); 13, Pulaski, 8, 13 Jun (VMK); 12, Simpson (Johnson Co), 15 Jul (DMK); 12, Union Co, 23 Jun (KAM); 10, Carl Dr, 24 & 26 Jul (DMK, MSS). NBSO: JP: male, 12 Jul (ChG). Note: While checking 122 bluebird nests, "most losses of bluebirds were due to competition from House Sparrows and/or House Wrens." (JOS).

Veery

Wood Thrush
Breeding: Andover (Henry Co): female feeding cowbird fledgling, 1 Jul (SDB). Walker: empty nest, 7 Jun, then female on nest w/eggs & 2 cowbird eggs, 18 Jul (SB). MDC: 25 (3 males), Walker Twp, 1-18 Jul (SDB); 15, Funds Grove (McColl Co), 22 Jun (MWH, AC); 13, Ldn-Mc, 14 Jun (DFS); 13, Larue-Pine Hill Ecological Area (Union Co), 23 Jun (KAM); 12, Union Twp (Fulton Co), 9 Jul (SBD); 6, Belknap, 12 Jun (VMK); 9, Panther Crk SFWA, 11 & 19 Jun (KS, TW); 9 (8 males) & 8 males, Rentoul (Monroe Co), 19 Jun & 15 Jul (RLJ); 8, Big Bend SFWA (Whitehouse Co), 25 Jul (DFS); 8 (6 males), Andover (Henry Co), 20 Jun–1 Jul (SB); 7, Deer Grv West FP (Cook Co), 28 Jun (GAW); & 6 males, Penny Rd Pond, Spg Crk FP, 2 Jun (ABA); 6, Salt Crk Wds, 22 Jun (DFS); 6, Camp Plt, 29 Jun (VMK); 6, Hunter Twp (Edgar Co), 5 Jul (MPW); 6 males, Honey Bend (Montgomery Co), 2 Jul (RLJ); 6, Orchard Cr (Alex Johnson Co), 6 (DMK, MSS); 5, Beaverd Cr, 11 Jun (VMK); 5, Pulaski, 13 Jun (VMK); 4, Kinzirnico Kirk Cr (Boone Co), 26 Jul (EWM); 4 males, Wood Dale Grv, 14 Jun (ABA); 4, Plum Crk FP, 19 Jun (ABA); 4, ICA, 20 Jun (JBH); 4 males, Durham Twp (Hancock Co), 23 Jun–19 Jul (DMK); 4 males, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 17 Jun (RLJ); 4, Carl Dr, 12 Jul (DMK, MSS); 4, Simpson (Johnson Co), 15 Jul (DMK). Other reports: L. Le–Aurora Rd, 1-3 Jun (CAT). E. of: 1 male, 3 Jun (JSB); 3 territories, 3 & 19 Jun (SDB), Severson Dells FP (Wbgo Co): 2 on 28 Jun (DTW). Rocki: 3 on 25 Jul (DTW). Rocki: scolding ad, 10 Aug (DTW). Rock: Cr on 3 Jul (DTW), Wadsworth Westlands (Lake Co): 2 on 21 Jul (EWM). Grant Ws FP (Lake Co): 2 males, 25 Jul (BJS). Muncie: 1 male, 28 Jun (SDL, SDB, MH). Campion FP (Kane Co): 7 & 19 Jun (ABH). Herrick L FP: 2 on 11 Jun (EES). Waterfall Glen: season (REF, KDF). Busse: F: 3 males, 29 May (ABA). Grant P: 2 Jun (first Jun record for Grant P) (DFS). Montrose H: 26 Jul (LGM). Nachusa Grs: male, season (ABH). Mazonia-Braidw: 3 on 3 Aug (JBG). Kane County RP: 2 on 30 May (JBG) & 5 Jul (RDH). Pembroke Twp: 3 on 7 Jun (RDH). Independence P, Marquette Heights (Tarewell Co): 4 on 26 Jun (TVL). Milton F: 3 on 14 Jun (RSB). Rock Sgrs CA (Macoupin Co): 23 Jun (TVL). Atlh: 3 on 27 Jun (VMK). L. of the Wds FP: 2, incl. courting-singing, 12 May–4 Aug (AKA). Berdan (Greene Co): 3 on 22 Jun–2 Jul (MPW). Beaupre & 6 Jun (DMK).

American Robin
Breeding: Songbird St: nest w/3 nestlings, 29 May (ABA). Palos: nest w/4 large yng, 11 Jun (DFS). JBS: pr breeding w/male yng, season (PRC). Beaverville (Iroquois Co): nest w/4 small yng, 3 May (DFS). Baroldon (McDonough Co): 2 nests on ground in a cornfield, 2/8 & 3 eggs, May, & Tivolis (Peoria Co): nest on ground (much less mud than typical nest) in cornfield w/2 eggs & 2 newly hatched yng, 7 May; first nests on ground found by this observer in more than 60 years of observation (LHL). Allerton P: nest building, 20 Apr & 6 May (AKA). L. of the Wds FP: nest w/yng, 13 Jul (JBG). MDKwck P: ads on 2 nests in conifers, 30 Apr; nest w/3 yng in a flagbox, 28 May, then next at same spot (re-used?) w/3 yng, 24 Jul (JBG).
Twp (Hancock cowbird, Herrick L Rock Cut; Macon Co), 8, Carl F, 28 Jun (DMK, MSS); 8, Levee Rd, 11 Jun (KAM); 13, Bode L FP, (Cook Co), 16 Jun (ABA); 13, Montrose H, 3 Jul (GAW); 15, Savannah Blvd, 11 Jun (LR).

Black-throated Green Warbler

Yellow-roasted Warbler

Pine Warbler

Prairie Warbler
Breeding: Mississippi It Bifflards (Monroe Co): pr (incl. singing male), 7 Jun, then pr taking food to nest, 12 Jun, then nestlings, 16 Jun, and singing male near empty nest, 18 Jun (CPD & p); MC, BNS: males on territory, Cache & watershed (Union, Johnson & Palaki Co), Jun-Jul (PJP et al); 10 males, Kinnikinnick P, season (MG); 7 singing, Hilleman (Massac Co), 21 May–11 Jun (SDB), 4, Wildcat Bl Sna (Johnson Co), 21 Jun (DMK), BAH), 9, Union Co, 7 Jul (KAM). Others: Lost Mound: singing male, 20 Jun (DMK), 16 Jun (DMK), BAH), 7, Putnam Co (DMK); 9 males, 15 Jun (DMK), BAH).

Cerulean Warbler

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Swainson’s Warbler, south of Thebes in Alexander County. 7 July 2008. The Swainson’s Warbler, thought to be extirpated from the state, may still be breeding in Illinois. Photo by Keith McMullen.

Black-and-white Warbler

American Redstart
Breeding: McHenry Dam (McHenry Co): female feeding yg, 2 Aug (KML). MC: 23, Ogle Co, 6 Jun (DFS), 20, Illini Sp (La Salle Co), 3 Jun (ATS), 19, Bureau Co, 17 Jun (DFS); 19 (16 males) & 15, Fayetteville Twp (St Clair Co), 17 Jun & 10 Jul (RLJ); 12, Pomonà, 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 16, Monomence Wetlands, 14 Jun (GAW); 10, Santa Fe Blms (Clinton Co), 4 Jul (DMK); 7, St Morgan Sp, 7 Jun (KAM); 6, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 15 Jun (DMK). Others: Ridott (Stephenson Co: male, 8 Jun (EWW), Rock Cut: 3 on 8 Jun (EWW). McHenry Dam (McHenry Co): 2 males, 7 Jul (BJS). IBSP: 1 singing male, 26 Jul (KDF). Kell: male, 29 Jun (RLJ). Levee Rd (St Clair Co), 17 Jun & 10 Jul (RLJ); 12, Pomona, 6 Jul (DMK, MSS); 7, St Morgan J3, 7 Jun (KAM); 6, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 15 Jun (DMK). Union Co: pr in on territory, 23 Jun (KAM).

Prothonotary Warbler

Worm-eating Warbler
Breeding: Renault (Monroe Co): 2 fledglings, 15 Jul (RLJ). MC: 12 males, Renault (Monroe Co), 19 Jun (RLJ). Others: 3 males, 20 Jun (TTL); Two Rivers NWR (Calhoun Co: male still singing on territory, 16 Aug (EWW). Jamestown: 2: 2 Jun (DMK). Note: Although no adults or young were found dead in nest boxes in late Apr and May in s. IL during the cool, wet spring, ~ 5% of failed early nesting attempts were due to eggs not hatching. Although many pairs still built nests in the boxes during this period, most pairs waited for normal temperatures to return before laying their clutch of eggs (JPH).

Sawinson’s Warbler
Orchard Crk (Alexander Co): 1-2 singing males, 6 Jul-27 Aug (DMK, MSS, KAM ph, REF, m.ob.). Ovenbird

Louisiana Waterthrush

Kentucky Warbler
NBSO: Grant P: singing male, 24 Jun (DEW); record late spring date.

MacGillivray’s Warbler
Waterfall Glen: singing male, 9-11 Jul (~ ph, voice recording, m.ob.) responded to Kentucky Warbler song but not to a MacGillivray’s warbler song. If accepted by the IOC, this would be the first summer record and third overall record for the state.

Common Yellowthroat
Breeding: Metawa (Lake Co): female carrying fecal sac, 27 Jul (SLD). Yghuchand Pr: pr feeding yg, 9 Aug (ABA). Kincaide: 10, w/ad carrying food for yg, 22 Jun (JHH). Mowibw Pr: ad carrying food for yg, 10 & 21 Jun, & ad feeding yg, 28 Aug (CRA). MC: 82 (79 males). Fontaine Green Twp (Hancock Co), 26 Jun-17 Jul (SDB); 58, Monroe Co, 1 Jul (KAM); 45, Goose L Pr, 12 Jun & 5 Jul (BR); 45, Martinville B, 15 Jun (SDB); 31, Keil B, 12 Jun (SDB); 29 (28 males), Sgr Creek Hdwtr FP; 21 Jun (ABA); 20 males, Plum Creek FP, 19 Jun (ABA); 18, Mifflord B, 14 Jun (SDB); 16, Herrick L FP, 11 Jun (EES); 16, Pembroke Twp, 12 Jun (GAW); 16, ICMA, Meadowlark
Hooded Warbler at Swallow Cliff Forest Preserve, Cook County. 28 June 2008. Photo by Paul Dacko.

Young Hooded Warbler at Pine Hills, Union County. 9 August 2008. Photo by Keith McMullen.

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**Clay-colored Sparrow**

**County**: 8 June 2008, Photo by Bob Andrini.

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**Grasshopper Sparrow**

**Lake, Kane County**: 3 June 2008, Photo by Ken Schneider.

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**Henslow's Sparrow**

**County**: 4 June 2005, Meadowlark.

Song Sparrow
Breeding: Van Patten Wds FP (Lake Co): ads feeding yig, 3 Aug (JSS). Rolls Sav: ad w/ cowbird yig, 3 Jul (JSS). Midfork Sav: ad feeding 2 cowbirds, 10 Jul (BJS). Salt Creek P FP (Du Page Co): pr feeding juv cowbird, 17 Jul (ABA). Paul Douglas FP: ad feeding yig, 30 Jul (CSF). Busse F: ad feeding jun cowbird, 7 (ABA). Butterfield Crk LWR: ad feeding jun cowbird, 31 Jul (ABA). Midlothan Reservoir FP (Cook Co): ad feeding jun cowbird, 18 Jun (ABA). JP: 7 territories, season, first yig noted 24 Jul (PAC). Kankakee: carrying nest material, 3 Apr; ad carrying food, 28 May, 17 Jun & 24 Aug; 2 yig, 14 Jun; ad feeding fledgling, 22 Jun; ad w/yig 28 Jun (JBH). Midlak P: ad feeding jun cowbird, 21 Jun (ABA). Pembroke FP: ad carrying food for yig, 7 Aug (C&A). Homer (Vmin Co): nest w/4 yig in tomato plant in garden, 20 Aug, fledged 4 yig, 27 Aug-12 Jul (SDB). MC: 67, Martinsville B, 15 Jun (SDB); 48 (42 males), Fountains Green Twp (Fountain Co), 26 Jun-17 Jul (SDB); 47, Whitehouse Co, 25 Jul (DFS), 41, Milford B, 14 Jun (SDB); 39, Bureau Co, 17 Jun (DFS); 38 (26 males), Sqp Crk Hwts FP, 21 Jun (ABA); 38, Hennepin L, 30 Jun (DFS); 36, Kell B, 12 Jun (SDS); 35 (33 males), Bode L FP (Cook Co), 16 Jun (ABA); 32, Herrick L FP, 8 Jun (DFS); 31 (28 males), Calumet Water Reclamation Plant, LCal, 7 Jun (WJM); 30 (28 males), Songbird St, 21 Jun (ABA); 28 (26 males), Poplar Creek FP, 16 Jun (ABA); 27, Stephenson Co, 26 Jul (CAT); 27 (17 males), Busse F, 7 Jun (ABA); 26, Jamestown B, 2 Jun (DMK); 24 (22 males) & 16 males, Plum Crk FP, 19 Jun & 1 Aug (ABA); 22, L Descartes refuge ponds, 15 Jun (TAM); 21, Pembroke Twp & Monmouth: Wetlands, 12 Jun (GAW); 20, Midfork Sav, 28 Jun (SDB, SLD, MJH); 18, Dudleyville B, 14 Jun (DMK, MSS); 17, Burat Pr B, 10 Jun (VMK); 16, Carl C, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 16, Beaucoup B, 6 Jun (DMK); 15, Harrington W, 21 Jun (VMK).

Sword Sparrow

White-throated Sparrow

White-crowned Sparrow
Grant P: male, 11 Jun (LR) & 24 Jun (DFS).

Northern Cardinal
Bobolink with food. Herrick Lake Forest Preserve, DuPage County. 20 June 2008. Photo by Brian Kala.
Yellow-headed Blackbird
Breeding: Rollins Sav: female w/4 juv, 10 Jul (JSS). Pratts Wayne Wds: 2 pr, 2 ad, 6 fledglings, season (PAM). MC: 12, Pratts Wayne Wds, as above; 10 (4 males & 8 (6 males), Rollins Sav, 29 Jun (EWW) & 7 Jun (WSG); 6 (5 males), Hennepin L, 30 Jun (DFS); 5 males, Fulton (Whiteside Co), 16 May (EWW) thru 12 Jun (SDB). Others: L&D #13 (Whiteside Co): male, 16 Jun (AS). Goose L., ne. of Hebron (McHenry Co): male, 18-28 Jun (EWW). Eggers Grv FP, LCat: 3 singing males, 17 Jun (WJM). Rochelle (Ogle Co): female, 19 May; male, 6-18 Jun (EWW).

Brewer's Blackbird
South Unit, IBSP; 3 on 23 Jan (DRD). Springbrook Pr FP (Du Page Co): male, 7 Jun (ULS).

Common Grackle
Breeding: Songbird Sl: ad feeding yg, 29 May (ABA, RS). Montrose H: 21 w/several nests, 1 Jul (GAW). Lmc:p. 12 w/several nests, 18 Jun (GAW). Maywood (Cook Co): 2 nests w/3 & 4 yg, 12 May (DFS). Midwkr P: nest building, 22 Apr; fledging, 10 Jun; ad feeding yg, 19 Jun (CKA). MC: 300, Levee Rd, Monroe Co, 3 Jul (DMK); 268, Wayneville P, 24 Jun (VMK); 233, Pontiac (Livingston Co), 6 Jun (VMK); 200, Jamestown (Lee) P, 8 Jun (DMK); 200, Carl C, 26 Jul (DMK, MSS); 200, Levee Rd, Alexander Co, 20 Jun (DMK, MSS); 197, Harrisstown P, 21 Jun (VMK); 165, Stillwell B, 30 Jun (DMK); 140, Dudleyville B, 14 Jun (DMK, MSS); 120, ESL, 1 Jul (DMK); 114, Beacoap B, 6 Jun (DMK); 108, Banst Pr B, 10 Jun (VMK); 98, Allerton B, 1 Jul (EJC). Note: JP to low breeding population (PRC).

GREAT-TAILED GRACKLE

Yellow-headed Blackbird female with food for young. Rollins Savanna, Lake County. 14 June 2008. At right, male Yellow-headed Blackbird at Rollins Savanna. This species is endangered in Illinois. Photos by Paul Dacko.
Marengo (McHenry IL), American Goldfinch nests are initiated in March/April), especially in ne. IL, after the exception-

There were likely several other early breeding attempts this spring (most nests are initiated in March/April), especially in ne. IL, after the exception-

pine Siskin

Marceno (McHenry Co): 2 on 6 Jun (KML). Grandie (Lake Co): 6-15 Jun (JSS). Downers Grove (Du Page Co): 2 in yard, season (REF, KDF). Note: There were likely several other early breeding attempts this spring (most nests are initiated in March/April), especially in ne. IL, after the exception-

American Goldfinch

Breeding: Yghnaubar Pr: juv & ad nest building, 9 Aug (ABA). L of the Wds FF: female carrying thistle down for nest building, 11 Aug; male feeding 2 fledglings, 30 Aug (CAA). Champaign backyard (Champaign Co): male feeding 2 fledglings, 1 Sep (CAA). Midwkrk P: ad building nest, 22 Jul (EIC). MC: 47, Yghnbnd Pr, 9 Aug (ABA); 37, Fountain Green Twp (Flawock Co), 26 Jun–17 Jul (SDB); 35, Pembroke Twp, 4 Jul (DFS); 34, Midfolk Sav, 28 Jun (SDB, SLDB, MJH); 29, Mottawa (Lake Co), 27 Jul (SDB, SLDB); 28, Uernick 1, FF, 8 Jun (DFS); 28, Whiteside Co, 25 Jul (DFS); 25, Cannone, 1 Jun (HJJ); 26, Cabinet Water Reclamation Pl, LCal, 7 Jun (WIM); 24, Ldn-Mt, 14 Jun (DFS); 24, Busse F, 10 Aug (ABA); 24, Homespin L, 30 Jun (DFS); 22, Palos, 11 Jun (DFS); 21, Monroe Co, 5 Jul (KAM); 20, Carl C, 6 & 12 Jul (DMK, MSS); 20, Beverdann 8, 11 Jun (VMK), 18, Harristown 8, 21 Jun (VMK); 15, Lost Mound, 13 Jun (SDB); 15, Andover (Henry Co), 1 Jul (SDB); 14, Stark Co, 20 Jul (CAT); 14, Walker Twp, 10 Jul (SDB).

House Finch

MC: 52, Calumet Water Reclamation Pl, LCal, 19 Jul (WIM); 13, Milford B, 14 Jun (SDB); 12, St Morgan B, 7 Jun (KAM); 11, Dudleyville fi, 14 Jun (DMK, MSS); 9, Mazonia-Braidway, 4 Jul (HJJ).

Eurasian Tree Sparrow

Breeding: Chas: several ps nesting in hollow metal railing of water control structure, 30 May (RGB, SNB). MC: 18, Camp Pt 8, 29 May (VMK); 6, Granite City (Madison), 1 Jul (DKM ph). Other: Lomax Twp (Henderson Co): 4 on 3 Jun (SDB). HL: 4 on 7 Jun (KAM). Walker Twp: near bird nest boxes, season (SDB). Others (n. edge of range): Alkinston 8 (Henry Co), 16 Jun (DFS). N. Stark Co: 3 on 30 Jun (DFS).

Exotics

Chukar: Sugar Grove (Kane Co): 2 on 27 Jul (GAW).


Budgerigar: Montrose H: 4 Aug (JWL).

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Male Mississippi Kite in Thebes, Alexander County, copulating with female. 
The Mississippi Kite is endangered in Illinois.
Photo by Mike Ward.