

# Meadowlark

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## **Letter from Editor**

### *Playing favoritism*

Birders who know me well, also know my two favorite Illinois birds (if it is really possible to choose!). Here's why I'm attracted to these two particular species.

The first time I saw the Black-Throated Blue Warbler was at Ryerson Woods over ten years ago. I had been listening to bird song tapes that spring. I was alone. The bird was alone. It sang. And it was glorious. I felt as if I had been transported into another dimension. There was something immensely satisfying in having an auditory recollection emerge from my brain just before the most interesting pattern of black, blue, and white emerged from a shrub.

What is it about this bird that has since captured my passion? Perhaps it is the fact that we see fewer of them during migration than we see of other more common warblers like the Yellow-rumped, Palm, or Black-throated Green Warblers, or even Blackburnians and Bay-breasteds. I'm sort of an individualist and a free-thinker in this world, and I look upon the Black-throated Blue Warbler that way as well. Although I have observed the Black-throated Blue Warbler at Ryerson Woods on May 10 every year for the past eight years; last year, I nearly missed seeing my favorite warbler at all. That same year my birding colleagues were exclaiming they were seeing higher than normal numbers of the black and blue beauty — which only proves how fickle life can be. Another life lesson learned from a bird!

When the Black-throated Blue Warbler flies north to breed, my other favorite Illinois bird remains, the Yellow-headed Blackbird. My first encounter with this bird was at McDonald Woods in Lake County. What a sound that bird made! What a spectacular golden-yellow color on its head! What freedom it seemed to have flying over my head and back into the wetlands! What really solidified this species as a favorite was when I was doing the breeding bird atlas years ago and learned the call of the young from their nest. The same season I luckily confirmed them breeding in two different places in my atlas block in Lake County.

The sorrows and joys of life balance each other. One of the Yellow-headed Blackbird nesting sites was at a gun club. The next year, the club decided to expand its shooting range to include the wetland where the birds bred. I never could find them after that. Another breeding spot for these birds was at a marsh at the end of a subdivision. The residents built a duck blind, allowed purple loosestrife to take over, and, well, you know the rest of the story.

Breeding bird habitat is tenuous, and so is life. That's why both are so precious.

To learn the favorite birds of other Illinoisans, see the article beginning on page 24.

*Sheryl DeVore*

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## President's Message

It's difficult to think nesting season when "we northern folks" are still waiting for the migrants that we saw in southern Illinois during our annual meeting to make their way north. By all accounts the meeting, held the last weekend in April, was a great success; more than 200 Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) and IOS members attended. The weather was great and the field trips were superb. We enjoyed many migratory birds and wild flowers as well as excellent presentations. A successful meeting does not happen all by itself and requires lots of hard work by a group of people and those individuals need to be recognized. Organizing this joint meeting was Joe Suchecki for IOS and Marilyn Campbell of IAS. Marilyn and her office staff did a super job of handling registration, and Keith McMullen and his committee did an equally superb job organizing the field trips. The facilities at the Rend Lake Resort were great and the staff and caterers were most helpful.

Many others contributed to the success of the meeting that need to be recognized. Thanks to all of you who helped. A complete report on the meeting may be found in the newsletter.

If you haven't visited one of our fine state park lodges and resorts, you should plan to do so soon. Also mark your calendars for our Year 2000 Annual Meeting the third weeked in May at Illinios Beach State Park, where we northerners are planning to show the southerners a great time and some specialty birds of our own. In the meantime, don't forget to bird during breeding season. You'll find as many surprises during June, July and August, as you do during migration periods; it just requires more effort.

Until next time --- good birding.

*Bob Montgomery*

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## About Our Cover:

Purple Gallinule illustration by David J. Athans. See Frank Bennett's Mermet Lake nesting story on page 11.

# The Status of the Monk Parakeet in Illinois:

*with comments on its native habitat and habits*

by Jason South

Upon arriving at the University of Chicago in autumn 1996, I was greatly surprised by repeat sightings of Ovenbirds and Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers on the quadrangles. However, little could prepare me for the green and blue explosion I witnessed one fall day. Bright, startling color had emerged from a tree ripe with red crabapples, only to quickly disappear amid the dark branches. Later I learned I had seen the gregarious Monk Parakeet (*Myiopsitta monachus*), after a taxi driver alerted me to the huge twig constructions dripping from a green ash tree at 53rd Street and Lake Shore Drive. An opportunity now presented itself to employ the vast knowledge of the science libraries.

What I found, unfortunately, is that the ecology of the Monk Parakeet, also called Quaker Parakeet by the pet trade, is poorly understood in the United States. In the early 1970s, interest in this species peaked due to its reputation as a pest species in South America and its recent appearance in several urban areas. In 1967, free-flying Monk Parakeets had been reported in the New York City area, and three years later nests were already present. Over the next five years these parakeets appeared in the wild in over a dozen states, including the first sighting in Chicagoland in 1973. Perhaps these now-feral parrots shouldn't have



*Monk Parakeets love crabapples, which are plentiful in Hyde Park as they ripen in late summer. The parakeets manipulate food and nesting material with their claws and beak. Photos taken in the Summer of 1998 in Hyde Park by Jason South.*



been a surprise: from 1968 to 1970 over 30,000 Monk Parakeets were imported into the United States from the southern portions of South America (Neidermyer & Hickey, 1977).

Most of these small groups of parakeets throughout the United States disappeared as quickly as they had come, presumably from natural causes. In the spring of 1973 several states including New York and California initiated eradication campaigns. Shooting was the preferred retrieval method. Two separate counts estimated that 44% of the U. S. Monk Parakeet population was destroyed. Monk Parakeets have persisted in the Northeast until today, whereas the State of California completely eliminated Monk Parakeets through vigorous eradication policies. Birds are often destroyed at the state border, and when small colonies appear, they are quickly eliminated. Seventeen states besides California restrict Monk Parakeet ownership in some way, but Illinois is not one of them.

After 1973, interest in Monk Parakeets in the scientific community dwindled. One should find this lack of interest surprising, as the little data collected suggest the Monk Parakeet population in the United States has increased dramatically since then. One study analyzed Christmas Bird Count (CBC) records in which observers



reported 1,186 birds from 76 localities in 15 states in 1994-95, while they had reported a mere 33 birds in 1975-76. Most of the Monk Parakeet (1,463 or 80.6%) sightings in 1994-95 came from two states, Florida and Texas. These data fit the standard equation of exponential growth (Van Bael & Pruett-Jones 1996).

### Chicago population

The winter of 1998, I counted 48 nests in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago, and the summer of 1998, I noticed many new nests as well as previously existing nests that had grown. There were 83 active chambers in these nests, but the number is certainly larger now. Since Monk Parakeets are monogamous and roost in their stick nests year-round (Forshaw 1989), a fair estimate of the Hyde Park population the winter of 1998 would be 170 Monk Parakeets (although one or two young often stay

in the chamber with the parents until the next spring). However, several large nests were removed from utility poles in late October and early November. One of these nests contained at least 20 nesting chambers and rivaled a large appliance in size. These nests could have harbored from 60-90 more individuals, bringing the total population of Monk Parakeets in Hyde Park closer to 240.

While Monk Parakeets have bred continuously in Hyde Park for almost 20 years, they have also appeared in several other Chicagoland locations. Nesting has been confirmed in 1998 in Carol Stream (although nests have repeatedly been removed by the electric company), Bensenville, Berwyn, North Riverside, Calumet Park, and Burnham. Most nesting colonies outside of Hyde Park contain only one or two nests, but in Burnham there are at least seven (unpub. data, pers. comm. from Chicago-area birders). It is not

known whether the parakeets in Hyde Park are a source population for these other sites.

I suspect that there has been more than one escape or release, as one study in Argentina documented a median dispersal from natal nest to first breeding location as only 1,230 meters (Martin & Bucher 1993). At least two locations are obvious points of introduction: O'Hare Airport and Hyde Park. Additionally Monk Parakeets have been observed in free-flight in Addison, at Fermi Laboratory (DuPage County), in Zion (Lake County) where they nested, in Blue Island, and in downtown Grant Park.

Clearly the Monk Parakeet has established itself in Chicago. Only a vigorous, sustained effort could dislodge this species; that is, if you could win the sympathies of the general public that adores its parakeets. When the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced plans to eradicate the



*Monk Parakeets roosting in a tree in Hyde Park on an extremely cold afternoon. Photo taken by Jason South on 9 March 1998 when the temperature was 17 degrees F.*

Hyde Park birds in the late 1980s, a citizen group calling themselves the Harold Washington Memorial Parakeet Defense Fund, thwarted the effort with threats of a lawsuit (Chicago Tribune 1988). The late Mayor Washington was very fond of the birds that nested outside his apartment, and compared their experience to the plight of African-Americans in this city. University of Chicago students have also often seen the parakeets as representative of their status in Hyde Park, sometimes suggesting that the Monk Parakeet should become the school mascot.

Lately the Monk Parakeet has generated more negative attention, but not from any government agency. Commonwealth Edison, which supplies electrical power to Chicago, has found the parakeets to be a major nuisance. Monk Parakeets tend to nest in tall trees with few lower branches, or in the last century, utility poles. They favor the introduced eucalyptus in South America and the date palm in Florida, both tall trees with limited hiding spaces for predators (Spreyer & Bucher 1998). Utility poles are also very tall and have no obstructions between the nest and the ground. Furthermore, the lattice of supports, wires, and transformers at the top of utility poles provides an ideal nesting substrate, and it has been surmised that the electrical power running through the wires may provide some heat. It is perhaps a testament to the incredible building skills of the Monk Parakeet that their nests are such great insulators that they can cause the transformers to overheat. In the summer of 1997 one such fire broke out, damaging thousands of dollars worth of equipment and cutting off power to

residents. These nests have been removed three times now, but the birds continue to rebuild. The electrical equipment has been updated to eliminate many of the lattices that offer such great support for the huge stick



*In winter, Monk Parakeets rely heavily on bird feeders for sustenance. Photo taken in the Winter of 1998 in Chicago by Jason South.*

nests, but the parakeets have already rebuilt several of their removed nests.

In the winter of 1998, only 15% of the 48 Hyde Park nests were on utility poles; most were in trees in local parks. Most residents I have spoken with enjoy having the parakeets in their neighborhood. The only common complaint is the incessant noise, which can be oppressive if one lives near a large group of nests. A few residents also complain of the fallen sticks they must remove and of the pilfering of apples from backyard trees. On one occasion I have observed parakeets taking bites out of backyard tomatoes. Such observations force us to question whether the Monk Parakeet poses a real threat to Illinois agriculture, regardless of its charm. This hardy species reproduces quickly, but seems to be highly local-

ized. The nest offers shelter during the winter, but the parakeets may survive the coldest months solely on bird seed provided by man (Hyman & Pruett-Jones 1995). In that case they would not survive in large numbers in primarily rural agricultural areas and would not seem to pose a significant danger.

The scientific literature provides conflicting views of the threat posed by Monk Parakeets. One study in Brazil found that in a colony of Monk Parakeets nesting closely to agricultural fields, cultivated corn and wheat made up 54% and 10.3% of their diet, respectively (Dahlem 1994). In Florida, Monk Parakeets feed on agricultural crops of exotic fruit that include lychee, longan, mango, and black sapote (vanDoorn pers. comm.). However, the actual damage to crops in South America by parrots, especially Monk Parakeets, is often overstated. Government assistance is often at stake, and it is much easier to see bright green birds foraging on the crops than small insects. Poor agricultural practices may also lead to the most serious damage (Bucher 1992).

Competition with other species is another concern for the ecological and birding communities. Monk Parakeet populations have largely remained localized in residential areas, but in Florida and Puerto Rico the opportunity for parakeets to occur near agricultural fields may be high. This species does not compete for nesting chambers in trees, but little is known of its diet in North America.

So far the Monk Parakeet has not emerged as the next European Starling. It has been more of a local oddity, like the rare white deer from China that roam the grounds of

Argonne National Laboratory. The population growth of Monk Parakeets should be monitored closely, and more research on the most basic aspects of their natural history in North America should be undertaken. We shouldn't encourage the growth of this species through deliberate releases, but at the same time it seems unnecessary to utilize sparse resources to control the population at this time.

### How to see the parakeets

The best time of the year to view Monk Parakeets is in spring. They repair their bulky stick nests all year round, but in spring, construction is an obsession. Loud, chattering para-

keets fly from tree to nest all day, tearing off fresh twigs and weaving them into the nest structure with agile beak and feet. Plan a morning trip to Jackson Park in spring during peak warbler migration. Just south of Bobolink Meadow is a driving range where five or six nests are built on stadium lights. A short journey farther south will bring you to the Jackson Park Golf Course.

Just west of Hole 1 are another five or six nests woven into the branches of several tall trees. If you can't see the birds, you should hear them.

You might also look for the 27 seven nests in Washington Park, a short drive away. About half of those

are in the park at 54th Street and Cottage Grove, in between a playground and a National Guard Armory. You can stand in the middle of a grove of trees and literally be surrounded by Monk Parakeets and their nests. Another 10 or 11 nests are behind the armory, near the northwest corner.

Finally, there's Harold Washington Park at 53rd Street and Lake Shore Drive. At one time nine nests were in one green ash tree. Now there are only three, but one large nest is one of the most impressive in Hyde Park.

The Hyde Park parakeets are also online, at <http://student-www.uchicago.edu/users/jmsouth/>

**Editor's Note:** *The Illinois Ornithological Records Committee, in 1999, officially placed the Monk Parakeet on the Illinois State Checklist of Birds. The committee used this paper to help in its decision.*

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# Illinois' Second Confirmed Breeding Osprey

by Craig Thayer

Recently, Bergman Slough, part of the hodgepodge John J. Duffy Preserve in southwest Cook County, was nearly unknown to birders. This small body of water was notable only for the occasional observation of raptors (including Bald Eagle and Osprey) during migration.

In June 1996 the notoriety of this location changed. An Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) had been observed there in early June and on 20 June 1996, I visited the site in the



*Osprey in flight (1) and on nest (2) on 7 May 1997 at the John J. Duffy Forest Preserve in Cook County. The Osprey nest failed that year, but in 1998, a pair returned and successfully raised young in 1998. Photos by Eric Walters. See Field Notes for a photo of two Osprey juveniles taken in 1998.*

unlikely event the bird might still be present. Amazingly I observed an Osprey gathering freshly mowed grass from a field 0.3 miles southeast of the slough; it deposited this material in a dead tree at the edge of the slough. A thorough search for a definitive nest over the next few days was non-productive but on 11 July another noteworthy event occurred. On that date a pair of adult Ospreys was observed constructing a bulky stick nest at the exact location where the grass had been placed three weeks earlier. The pair remained in the vicinity until at least 11 August (and one of them was present until as late as 6 September), but there was never any sign of incubation. Two-year-old Ospreys may construct a nest, but not lay eggs (they begin breeding at 3 years of age or older), and this may be what occurred in 1996 (Ewins 1994).

In 1997, a pair of Ospreys was seen on 17 April. Utilizing the nest constructed the previous summer, the Ospreys apparently began incubating eggs by 9 May. Unfortunately by 22 June, the nest was abandoned without evidence of offspring. To add insult to injury, the nest was destroyed in a thunderstorm on 16 August. However the resourceful birds immediately constructed a new nest in a different tree before departing for fall migration. This was to serve as the 1998 home for three young Ospreys,



On 12 April 1998, Ospreys were first observed at Bergman Slough. By 26 April, incubation had apparently begun as the female persistently sat on the nest after this date. As

early as 8 June, behavior suggesting that young might be present was observed; the female reached down into the nest as if she might be feeding young (since the large stick structure was about 100 yards from the observation point and about 40 feet above the ground, direct observation wasn't possible). This coincides with the Osprey's average incubation period of about 40 days (Ewins 1984). On 21 June 1998, two young Ospreys, their heads barely protruding above the nest rim, were identified, and four days later a third one was seen. The young fledged by 5 August (consistent with the average fledging time of about 55 days after hatching). All three juveniles, easily distinguished from adults by pale feather edgings on their backs and upperwing coverts, were still present as late as 5 September and one was there until at least 3 October 1998.

The 1998 nest was downed in a thunderstorm, but not until 25 August after the young had fledged.

This is only the second confirmed occurrence of successful breeding by Ospreys in Illinois in the 20th century. The other one occurred at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge in 1952 (Bohlen 1989).

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Bergman Slough meets the main breeding-site requirements for Ospreys. It contains shallow water with nearby trees suitable for nest construction. The Osprey's diet consists almost exclusively of fish, which it captures near the water's surface (Johnsgard 1990). Although adults will leave the nest if excessively disturbed by humans (leaving the nestlings vulnerable to predation), they can usually tolerate humans and will readily accept artificial nest platforms. For example in Wisconsin in 1992 two-thirds of nests were on manmade structures (Ewins 1994).

The Cook County Forest Preserve District erected an Osprey nesting platform at Bergman Slough the first week of April in 1999 and is considering erecting another in south-

west Cook County.

Ospreys are monogamous and exhibit strong site fidelity to their eyrie (Johnsgard 1990). Adult mortality averages 10-15% per year. More importantly young Ospreys usually return to within 30 miles of their natal site to breed (Ewins 1994). They remain in Central or South America as 1-year-olds. As 2-year-olds, about 30-50% of Ospreys return to the vicinity of their birth, but do not breed. Breeding first occurs between 3 and 5 years of age.

#### Acknowledgments:

Special thanks to Wes Serafin who greatly helped monitor this landmark event in 1998. Others whose observations helped contribute to this report are Eric Walters and Ken Wysocki.

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## Mississippi Kite Breeds in Calhoun County

by John N. McCall

Every outing of our Saturday birding group leads to some natural wonder. Led by Helen Wuestenfield, from Jerseyville, Illinois, we explore a wide range of habitats from Pere Marquette State Park to the lower reaches of the Illinois River and the nearby Mississippi River. In July 1998, one of our group, Lou Hanes, took us to see a Mississippi Kite's nest (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) near his home in Calhoun County. He had found this nest while tracking adult kites in the area.

The nest was one mile east of Red's Landing on the Mississippi River and due west of Hardin, Illinois. It was in a mile-long strip of bottomland forest by the edge of a bayou. We watched from the oppo-



*The Mississippi Kite breeds in southern Illinois. It occasionally wanders north after the breeding season. Daniel T. Williams took this photo of the Mississippi Kite at Rock Cut State Park in Winnebago County (northern Illinois) on 1 August 1998. See Field Notes for two more photos.*

site bank, about 50 yards away. The nest was a tangle of small sticks about 45 feet high in a cottonwood tree. Lou spotted the well-hidden nest while watching the parents fly in to feed the single chick. One adult, before delivering its prey, slammed it against a limb with its beak. Apparently, this was to kill or soften the small animal for the chick to eat. (Lou said "marinate.")

The adults sometimes sat in a nearby dead tree to rest or preen. All three birds were quiet except during one later visit, when one adult moved to a distant tree in plain view and gave a 2-note whistle. This behavior seemed more like a distraction display than an alarm call.

At our first sighting of this nest, the chick sported an all-white downy coat, plus a dark eye-ring. Two weeks later, on 25 July 1998, the chick had gained most of its first-year, heavily streaked plumage. We noticed the parents remained close by even though they did not feed it.

I have not seen much evidence of this species north of St. Louis. Most of its nests are in floodplain habitat and it feeds mostly on insects as well as amphibians and small snakes. I have sometimes seen flocks of 20 gleaning large insects from the air. With noticeable skill, the kites skim grassy meadows, glide along tree tops, or circle high in the sky. Mississippi Kites also feed on annual cicadas, grasshoppers, and dragonflies (See Bohlen 1989 and Bent 1937).

The species has been seen well north of its breeding range in Illinois, especially during years of 13-year and 17-year periodical cicada (*Magicala sp.*) outbreaks. These overmigrants or wanderers are usually first-year birds in juvenile plumage and are usually seen during late spring or summer (Bohlen 1989).

The famous naturalist, John J. Audubon, observed the Mississippi Kite while living in Louisiana. He admired its grace and flying skill. Seeing an adult who was guarding its half-grown offspring, Audubon shot them both. Another time, he instructed a boy to climb a tall tree to collect its eggs, then destroy the nest.

Habitat destruction through the years has severely reduced this species' numbers.

The Mississippi Kite winters in Central and northern South America but returns by late April or early May to breed. Its range extends widely across the southern states, from the Carolinas to Texas and Oklahoma, in parts of Kansas and Arizona, and northward through the central Mississippi Valley. Occasional nest sightings occur to eastern Kansas and

north of St. Louis.

It nests in tall trees such as cottonwoods, which are often found in mature bottomland forests close to water. Most nests are placed 40 to 60 feet high in a fork, somewhat hidden from view. The crude collection of sticks and twigs, sometimes with leaves attached, resembles the nests of crows or Red-tail Hawks. Incubation for the two to three eggs takes about 31 days. Fledglings leave the nest in another 30 days. (See Hardin et al 1977 for a thorough description of this species' nesting habits in Union County, Illinois.) Mississippi Kites migrate south by the end of August. Some immatures lag for several weeks more.

### Finding Mississippi Kites in Illinois

The Mississippi Kite is best found during its nesting season, early May through July. Single individuals or pairs can be seen rather commonly at isolated nesting sites along the Mississippi River, from Cairo to St. Louis. Included are St. Louis suburbs including Webster Groves and University City (Webster Groves Nature Study Society 1998). (Remember, though, if you see the kite in St. Louis, you can't count it on your Illinois list.) One reliable nesting site is at

Fort Kaskaskia State Park, nine miles north of Chester, off Highway 3.

The largest population of nesting Mississippi Kites in Illinois is along the levee road on the Union County Conservation Area (De Vore in press), as well as fewer numbers in a few other areas in Union, Alexander, and Jackson counties (Robinson 1996).

After nesting, individual adults or immatures might be seen elsewhere along the major rivers and streams until late August, when the species migrates toward Texas.

Observers in open country near major streams should look for a slender, falcon-like bird, about 14 inches long with a 36-inch wing span. At a distance, its light gray head and underparts look almost white. Its shoulders and back are medium-gray, while its dark primaries and indented tail are almost black. The dark eye-ring and blood-red eye are definitive if seen at close range. The immature Mississippi Kite is heavily streaked over most of its body and its dark tail has three light bands.

This kite is often missed because it sometimes catches insects at very high elevations. Look high in the sky for the whitish head and dark back, wingtips, or tail. You will admire its aerial skills and distinctive looks.

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# Breeding Bewick's Wren in Western Illinois: A Birder's Perspective

by James L. Funk

*In most parts of southern Illinois ... and even in localities where the true House Wren occurs, Bewick's Wren is far the more numerous of the two.*

-- Robert Ridgway 1889.

The presence of nesting Bewick's Wrens (*Thryomanes bewickii*) in west-central Illinois the summer of 1998 generated a fair amount of interest from birders. The species was found at three locations in Adams and Pike counties during the nesting season and at least one of those spots produced fledged young. How has the abundance of Bewick's Wrens changed over the past 40 years in this particular area? If you missed the birds this year, what are your chances in 1999? Does having a gas

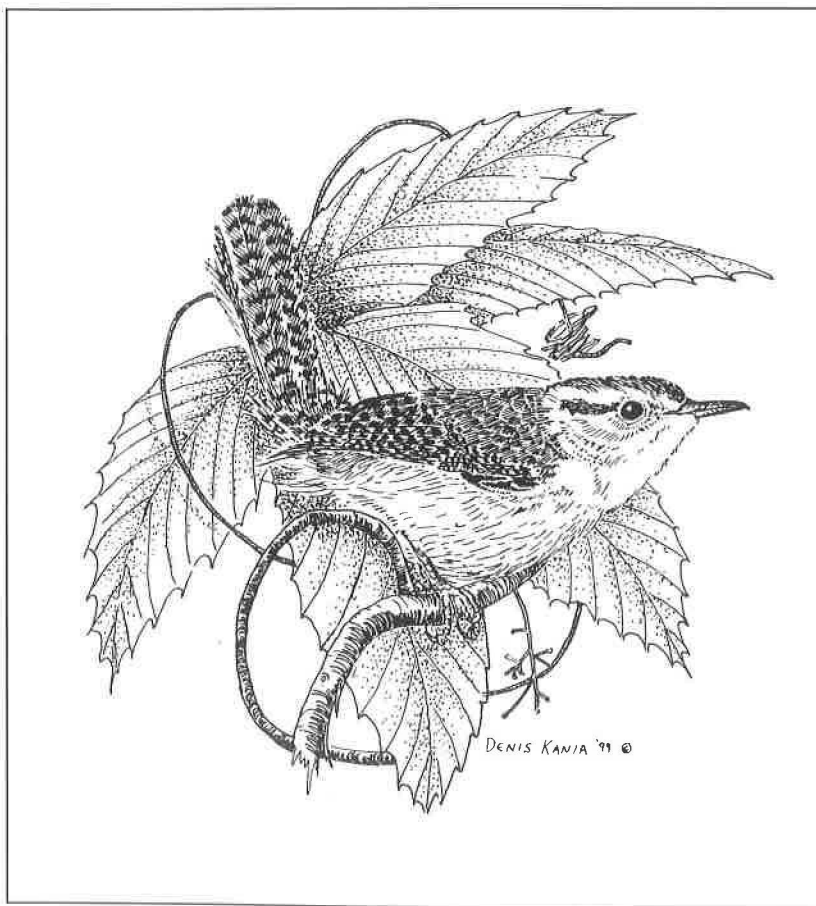
grill in your backyard really increase your chances of success? Inquiring minds....

To answer the first question, I checked the "first arrival" records and some daily lists kept by my parents, Loraine and Eunice Funk, beginning in 1947. Early arrival dates for the years 1947-1975 average about 28 March for Bewick's, with the earliest being 10 March in 1950 and the latest being 3 May in 1952. (Perhaps we were especially busy farming that spring?)

These dates correspond with those found in Bohlen (1989) for the rest of the state and give a good indication as to when to expect this wren's infrequent occurrence elsewhere in Illinois.

Daily lists during the spring season of those years (1947-1975) included Bewick's Wrens about half the time, but the species became more difficult to find after 1968 and was not seen at all during 1974. My own lists show that I heard one individual singing at the south end of Meredosia Bay in Morgan County in April of 1971 and that this was the first I had seen or heard since 1968.

After the mid-1970s, Bewick's Wrens were scarce enough in our area that any sighting merited attention. Probably the most attention given one individual bird was in April of 1977 or 1978 when a Bewick's landed on the railing of our small-town church during Sunday services and burst into song. A fair portion of the church congregation headed for the door! Knowing our family's reputation for the unusual, the rest of the congregation didn't seem to mind.



*Drawing of Bewick's Wren by Denis Kania.*

(Well, it "was" during the church school hour, not in mid-sermon....)

From the late 1970s until 1997, at least one Bewick's Wren has occurred around Beverly, in southeast Adams County almost every year. Nesting has occurred on at least six occasions, once in a wren box, once in a garage, twice in a barn, once in a dryer vent, and once in a gas grill. Other observers have noticed this wren's propensity for choosing unusual nest sites. See Ridgway (1889), Bohlen (1989), Robinson (1996), and Kennedy (1997).

In 1998, our first record of a Bewick's Wren was an individual

heard on Spring Court Day in Pike County, about 3 miles east of El Dara. The bird was singing near an abandoned house and outbuilding. No attempt was made that day to look for a nest, and the bird could not be located at the end of May. Another bird sang persistently from early May until almost the end of the month 1.5 miles south of Beverly near a barn. While successful nesting had taken place at this location in prior years, no nest was found in 1998 and no young were seen.

The successful nest in the area in 1998 was near the ranger's house at Siloam Springs State Park in eastern

Adams County, about ten miles from Beverly. This pair raised two broods; the first nest was in a gas grill and the second was in a nearby barn.

The ranger and his family were good enough to tolerate a steady stream of birders during late June and early July, and most who sought the birds found them. The available evidence would suggest that at least one Bewick's Wren could nest in the Beverly area in 1999. If we can put out enough gas grills for nesting boxes, perhaps the population will increase and you can all add it to your Illinois lists!

**Editor's Note:** *Funk's careful note-taking, as well as that of other members of his family, contributes to the knowledge of Illinois' ornithological history. At the time that these notes on the Bewick's Wren were being collected, the species was more common than it is now in the state. This species' numbers have dwindled drastically. Only one or two nesting pairs have been documented anywhere in the state within the past few years, and the species is now on the state-endangered list.*

*Although Robinson (1997) doubts the decline of this species is related to competition with House Wrens, Ridgway (1889) and, more recently, several other ornithologists (Kennedy and White 1996, Bartgis 1986, and Wilcove 1990) have felt otherwise. Other possible reasons for this species' decline in Illinois and elsewhere include use of pesticides and competition with other cavity-nesting species including House Sparrows, European Starlings, and Carolina Wrens. See Kennedy and White (1997) for more on this species' distribution.*

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# Purple Gallinules Hatch Young at Mermet Lake

by Frank K. Bennett

On 11 July 1998, I was taking my wife, Myra, for a morning drive around Mermet Lake in extreme southern Illinois to see the American lotus in full bloom, when I decided to stop at the second pulloff to snip a flower. As I began driving away, Myra, a non-birding spouse by her own admission, commented that she saw a "black bird with an orange beak and legs" jump off the top of some of the lotus pads near some buttonbush. She then demonstrated how the bird walked.

"Could it be?" I thought as I raced back. To my amazement, it was a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyrio martinica*) — and a life bird for me! Not a bad trade — one lotus flower for one life bird.

On 12 July, I arrived at 6:30 a.m. to enjoy an adult gallinule in breeding plumage making short flights from the buttonbush to the lotus. About 30 minutes later, my father arrived and we watched the gallinule land on top of the lotus pads. We also heard another gallinule clucking. I returned at 6 p.m. that day to meet with co-worker and fellow birder, Lester Barger and his wife. For 15 minutes, we saw no gallinule. We then played a tape of three gallinule clucks, and the bird instantly appeared. Another gallinule then emerged from the buttonbush. Lester and I then discovered there was a nest in the buttonbush. We also heard two different gallinules calling from farther out in the lake.

We enjoyed watching the brilliantly intense green, blue, yellow, and red colors of the adult, wondering how it camouflaged itself so well in the wetlands.

On 13 July, we noticed four chicks, which appeared to be about one-half the size of the adults, in the nest. On 14 July, we saw one gallinule sitting on

the nest while another flew back and forth into the lotus returning with food in its bill for the young. The chicks were fed approximately every five minutes.

On 15 July, Lester Barger and I saw two solid black downy chicks. Each had a bill that was red near the face, black in the middle, and then white at the tip. The legs appeared black, although the poor lighting made it difficult to determine the color.

We found two chicks still in the nest on 16 July, and two more in the buttonbush branches. The adults were nearby making soft clucks. The next day, I arrived to find the nest empty, but saw no chicks.

By this time, the word had gotten out across the state that the Purple Gallinule had successfully hatched young in southern Illinois. On 18 July, birders from Urbana and Chicago and arrived to glimpse the Purple Gallinules; everyone who came got at least one decent look.

I continued making trips after that to check on the status of the gallinules. Some hot evenings, I did not see the birds. Sometimes in the early morning, I heard the gallinules clucking and kicking in the breeding area.

One of my last views of the gallinules that summer was on 26 July 1998 from 8 to 9 a.m. when it was raining lightly. I saw three plain dark-backed chicks emerge from the buttonbush with an adult following them.

Another pair of Purple Gallinules successfully hatched young in 1998 as well.

Also, an adult Purple Gallinule was found injured in Jersey County on 28 June 1998. It died on 30 June (fide Frank Holmes) and since has been deposited at the Illinois State Museum (fide Vernon Kleen).

Bohlen (1989) lists the Purple Gallinule as a rare vagrant and very rare summer resident in southern Illinois. In 1989, two-thirds of the state records were for spring and most were found in marshes and at lakes, although some were seen in backyards. A dead Purple Gallinule was found in Lake County on 10 April 1997 at a forest preserve district golf course (Hurley 1997).

The only breeding records for this bird in the state of Illinois exist at Mermet Lake, which provides a shallow lake border habitat with emergent and floating vegetation, including the American lotus upon which the birds walk. Two downy young Purple Gallinules found at Mermet Lake in 1964 represent the first nesting evidence of this species for Illinois. A nest with eight eggs was found at Mermet Lake on 19 June 1973 (Bohlen).

The Purple Gallinule was on the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board's list of endangered birds from 1978 to 1994, but then was removed in 1994 on the basis that its breeding status in Illinois appears to be that of a vagrant, with Illinois occurring substantially north of its typical breeding range (Herkert 1995).

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# Successful Breeding Common Terns in Illinois: With A Summary of Common Tern Nesting Occurrences in Illinois

by Donald R. Dann



*Common Tern in flight near its nesting grounds in Lake County, 25 May 1995. Photo by Eric Walters.*

When I decided to pursue a second career in conservation, one of the first requests I received was from Amy Horstmann of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "How would you like to monitor what is probably the only breeding colony of Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*) in the state?" she asked. In the early spring of 1997, Horstmann and I met at the Commonwealth Edison Waukegan coal-fired power plant, where the birds had previously nested.

Joining us from ComEd was Tom Platt, the compliance specialist. Tom took us to the "fly-ash ponds", on the property's south end. Here, ash from the burned coal is slurred into two large ponds for settling and eventual dredging and disposal. In the center of both ponds is a narrow peninsula at the end of which is a circular island, approximately 15 meters in diameter. It was on these islands where the terns, which are endangered in Illinois, had nested, with mixed success, in prior years. See Appendix for de-

tails. Since the ponds are dredged in alternate years, our focus (and hopefully the terns?) was the island in the pond fully surrounded by water where no dredging activity occurred.

ComEd helped creating suitable conditions for the birds by building a 1.5-meter electrified cyclone fence around the periphery of each island. ComEd also created a surface of crushed stone to simulate the sandy or rock substrate of the tern's preferred nesting habitat (Ehrlich, et al), and left some sparse vegetation, which terns like to provide shade for the chicks.

On 16 May 1997, I counted 22 birds and observed classic tern nesting behavior; males prancing about with their struts and waddles, flying in from the lake carrying minnows and ritually feeding females, and competing with other males attempting to do the same. Birds were seen hunkered down (apparently females), on what appeared to be their scrape nests. Some nesting attempts seemed to be

occurring on the stone just outside the enclosure, which at the time made me more than a little nervous. (Events proved my anxiety well-justified). I made similar observations over the next few weeks, counting as many as 27 birds on one occasion.

Then disaster struck. The third week of June, I found the island empty. Every tern was gone, nowhere to be seen. What happened? Horstmann and I conjectured several possibilities. Perhaps the electric fence was not working, or maybe a raccoon had dug underneath it to reach the birds. Or perhaps a predator had struck a nesting bird outside the fence, which caused the entire colony to abandon the island.

The following April, 1998, Horstmann and I again met with Tom Platt, who helped improve the fence's security, and extend fencing material underground at an angle to deter predators. The contour of the land outside the fence was configured to deter nesting there. Plastic matting was installed under the stone with holes in only a few places to allow the right amount of plant material to grow.

On my first observation, 15 May 1998, I found no birds. On 22 May 1998, I found 2 Common Terns, one on an apparent nest inside the fence and the other flying in from the east carrying food. On 27 May 1998, I found 7 birds, and on 7 June, I saw 12 Common Terns!

As the weeks progressed the numbers continued to increase but so did the difficulty of getting an exact count. I did my studies with a scope from a road running along the south end of the pond, at least 100 meters from



*Common Tern eggs at Waukegan breeding site in Lake County. May 1998. Photo by Amy Horstmann.*



*Two Common Tern chicks at Waukegan breeding site in Lake County. 13 July 1998. Photo by Amy Horstmann.*

### **Appendix: A**

#### Summary of Common Tern Nesting Occurrences in Illinois

\* From a 3 June 1977 record of a phone conversation between Jim Neal and Richard Thom: In 1976, Jim Neal found two nests in the Johns-Manville tailing area north of Waukegan. Eight pairs attempted to nest on the Commonwealth Edison property near there. He found the nests, but they were all destroyed during the season. Terns are nesting this year (1977) in the rolling tailing piles on the Waukegan lakefront west of the Black-crowned Night-Heron colony.

\* From nest record cards for the 1980 nesting season: On 9 June, C.N. Becker reported a total of 29 Common Tern nests at Waukegan on the ash pond dike. This included 1 nest with 1 egg, 5 nests with 2 eggs, 22 nests with 3 eggs, and 1 nest with 2 eggs and 1 young. On 22 June 22, D. Johnson reported the entire colony abandoned.

\* From a 6 August 1983 memo from Randy Heidorn to Mike Sweet: A July 8 survey found 32 nests with 19 chicks and 8 eggs. Two young birds were found dead. Heidorn estimated that 21-28 birds had fledged by the time of this survey.

\* From a 15 August 1983 report by Mike Sweet on the 1983 nesting season based on five surveys of the Waukegan colony:

- 2 June: 24 nests, 65 eggs, 0 chicks, 0 fledglings
- 10 June: 28 nests, 70 eggs, 9 chicks, 0 fledglings
- 14 June: 32 nests, 74 eggs, 13 chicks, 0 fledglings
- 8 July: 8 eggs, 19 chicks, 21 fledglings (This appears to vary somewhat from Randy Heidorn's memo cited above.)
- 11 August: 0 nests, 0 eggs, 0 chicks, 0 fledglings

\* From a 15 May 1985 report by Mike Sweet on the 1984 nesting season: He recorded three surveys of the Waukegan colony:

- 4 June: 15 nests, 39 eggs, 0 chicks, 0 fledglings, 22 adults
- 23 June: 2 nests, 2 eggs, 2 chicks, 0 fledglings, 9 adults
- 27 July: 0 nests, 0 eggs, 0 chicks, 0 fledglings, 0 adults

- Glen Kruse

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the island. Moreover vegetation was growing on the outer perimeter of the fence, largely obscuring my sight lines of birds on nests. Once I climbed atop the roof of my car to try to look down into the enclosure. This seemed to raise the ire of the entire colony as, en masse, they took off and headed straight for me, screaming their high-pitched "tee-arr-r-r" calls. I was more than a little concerned, as they are known to release feces at an attacker at the low point of these aggressive dives.

On 13 July 1998, Horstmann, I, and a ComEd employee donned hard hats and walked the peninsula to the enclosure. Ignoring the protesting and attacking adults we used the insulated gate handle and went inside. We saw six down-covered tern chicks, hiding behind vegetation or scurrying around to avoid us. Horstmann photographed several. The total number of young birds for the season, either in the enclosure or flying, turned out to be seven, seen the following week. We had confirmation of successful nesting of this Illinois endangered species.

**Author's Note:** *In my first survey at this site, in May of 1999, I saw approximately 24 Common Terns preening, mate-feeding, and defending territory.*

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# An Intimate View: The Ring-Billed Gull Life Cycle in the new Waukegan Colony

by Eric Walters

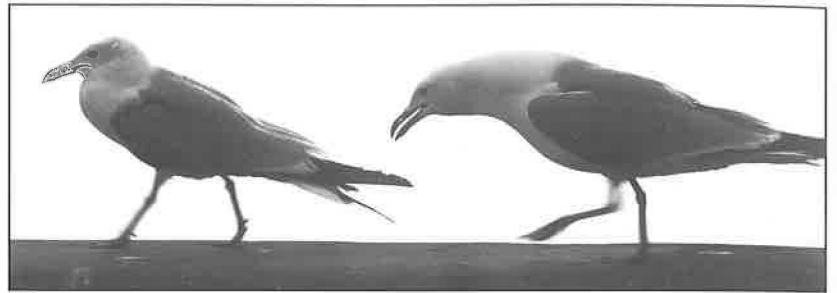
On 3 May 1996, I was birding Waukegan Beach on Lake Michigan in Lake County, Illinois, when a large commotion of gulls about 100 yards west of the beach caught my eye. I walked toward the site to discover an undisturbed area of private property encircled by a protected fence. An enormous flock of Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) appeared to be staging in this open and flat area. As I walked closer, I saw hundreds of gulls sitting on vegetation. It appeared that a new gull colony had started in Illinois.

Actually, people who worked near the area had seen similar activity at this location in the spring and summer of 1995. Between 1981 and 1988, observers had also recorded a few gull nests near this colony.

I counted at least 740 nests that day in May. Since I only counted from the east side of the fence, more nests could have present elsewhere that I did not see. I didn't make another nest count that summer. However, I counted 1,460 nests there on 14 May 1997, nearly twice the 1996 total. This count included views from the southwest section, made by gaining access to the private parking lot just south of the colony.

## Nest Cycle

Courtship dance and copulation begins the Ring-billed Gull cycle. I have seen Ring-billeds copulating a number of times in April to early May along the Evanston lakefront and at Chicago's Montrose Harbor. These sites are 23 and 20 miles respectively



*This Ring-billed Gull is using the long-call display to deter its opponent. Photo taken on 11 June 1997 at Montrose Beach, Chicago, Cook Co. by Eric Walters.*

from the nearest colony. I have also seen a subadult pair copulating as late as 22 May in Evanston. These observations suggest the initial stages of the breeding cycle need not occur near the colony.

Ring-billed Gulls express territorial defense and dominance in specific ways. Two common expressions are the "long calls" and "open-wing charges" (Ryder 1993). The "long calls" display starts with a gull slowly bowing its head down towards its feet and then slowly raising it back up to shoulder level. Extended call notes occur during this whole sequence, hence the name, "long call". Bowing of the head doesn't indicate subservience; rather the dominant gull performs this behavior. Its eyes are always on the bird to which it is displaying aggression. If the weaker gull doesn't move away in response to a "long call", the calling gull will often walk slowly in the direction of its opponent. This usually is enough to move the weaker one away. However, if this still doesn't work, then a gull might use an "open-winged charge".

An "open-wing charge" can occur over food disputes, prime roosting locations, and territorial claims. But it is in colonies where it can be seen most frequently. There, gulls are less tolerant to invasion of nesting space. An "open-wing charge" starts with the gull extending its wings perpendicular to its opponent followed by a mad rush with its bill wide open. No calling occurs during this display despite its bill being fully open. This display really looks fearsome and it consistently works.

Ring-billeds are single-brooded, and display a large range of nest dates. For example, peak egg-laying in a southern Ontario colony was from mid-April to July (Ryder 1993). "Birds show strong fidelity to colony site and specific area in colony"; older individuals begin egg laying up to two weeks earlier than young birds; younger birds (second years) breed regularly; two to four eggs are laid. Three is the most common number (Ryder 1993).

My 1997 nest count consisted mainly of full adults. Later in May or



June, younger birds appeared at the site. Those arriving later in the season were not the dominant adults and therefore had to settle for less desirable nesting sites toward the colony fringe. This also applies to settling for sites such as dense herbaceous and/or shrub cover, a location Ring-billeds avoid (Ryder 1993).

Most data from the three Illinois colonies, Dresden/Heidecke Lake, Lake Calumet, and now Waukegan, correlate with national average of about three eggs per nest. At all sites, the onset of nesting occurred in late April, with nest count peak around mid-May.

Incubation averages 26 days. The young stay in the nest for about 10 days prior to fledging (i.e. juveniles leaving the nest but staying within a 50 yard radius). About four days after fledging, the young leave the nest site, but remain no more than about 40 meters away. The young depart the colony 11 days after fledging (Ryder 1993). The young at the Waukegan colony had fledged by the first week of June 1997.

At the other colonies in northeast Illinois, fledging has been observed weeks later with mid-June being the earliest, but this could be a function of lack of consistent observation. At

**Table 1.** Ring-billed Gull Life Cycle

	Onset	Peak	Ending
Copulation & courtship	April 8	May 5*	July 5
Egg laying & nesting	April 15	May 10*	July 10
Maximum nest count	na	May 25	na
Hatching	May 10	June 5*	August 5
Fledging	May 20	June 15*	August 15
Leave colony grounds <sup>^^</sup>	May 31	June 25	August 25
Juveniles depart area	June 28#	July 19#	September 5
Adults depart area	July 25	August 25	September 25

Lake Calumet in 1991, hatched young were seen on 25 May (fide Walter Marcisz), which would put fledging no later than 5 June, consistent with Waukegan's 1997 results. This June fledging would coincide with egg laying occurring in the last week of April.

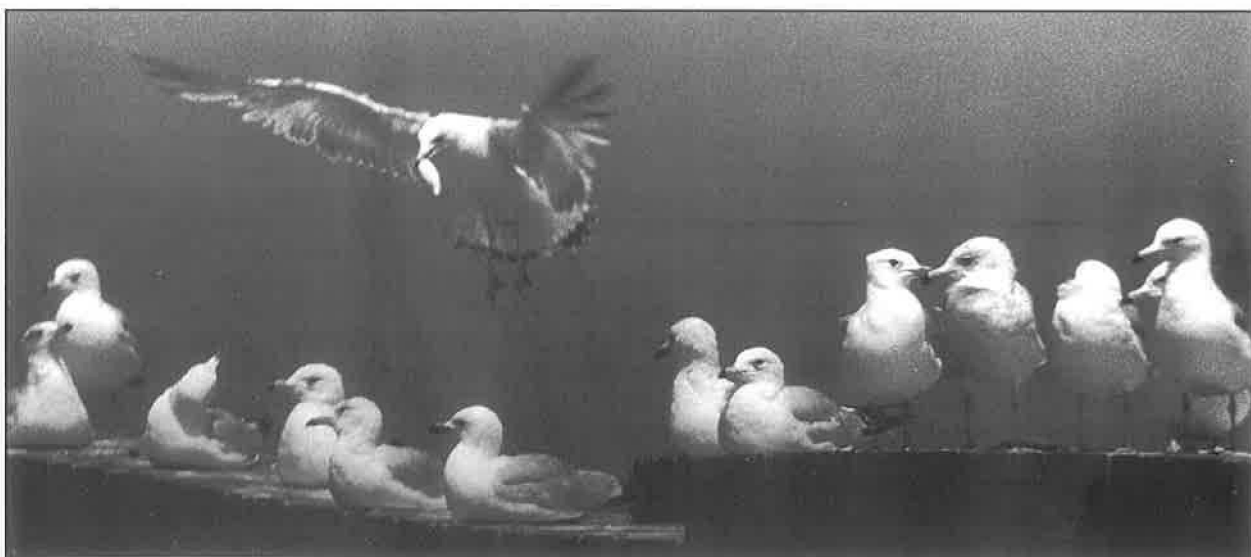
Table 1 summarizes the Illinois data published from the three gull colonies, other published research, and my data. This chart refers only to birds from the breeding colonies. The dates provide a general estimated time frame likely accurate within a week in Illinois for the onset and peak categories. The "Ending" column relies heavily on published data from outside Illinois colonies (Ryder 1993).

For example, the ending of the "Adults depart area" line is an estimate based solely on the fact that the

adults would have finished their body molt by then and would be moving. I have recorded their fall migration during October to mid-November, which supports this estimated departure date. The line, "Juveniles depart area" for the "Onset" and "Peak" refer to eight years of personal data. More research would certainly be of interest, especially since Illinois is at the southern end of this species' breeding range and should have earlier averages than sites further north.

\* Peak egg-laying and nesting activity appears to occur consistently between 20 April and 25 May. These dates reflect the approximate median date in the cycle for each category.

<sup>^^</sup> This refers to juveniles more than 50 yards, but within a mile of the colony site.



*Ring-Billed gulls, Dempster Street Beach, Evanston IL, 20 May 1997. Photo by Tony Kelly.*

# These two statistics were compiled from eight years of data collected at Evanston (north Cook County). It refers to the average arrival date or peak count of juveniles at that location. Evanston is 27 miles (and 23) from the Calumet (and Waukegan) colonies. The earliest juvenile arrival was on 22 June 1990 while the maximum peaks were about 700 juveniles on 13 July 1990 and 400 on 14 July 1993, respectively.



*The young started hatching in early June at the Waukegan Colony. Photo taken 6 June 1997 in Waukegan, Lake Co. by Eric Walters.*

### Fledglings / Successes and Dangers

After hatching, the need for food increases. Ring-billed Gulls mainly eat fish and insects. One parent does 95% of the foraging at the peak of hatching. The other parent defends the nest site. This foraging activity occurs during the first two and last two hours of the day (Ryder 1993).

With so many gulls hatching and fledging, competition for food likely drives gulls to new areas. Pressure to find new food sources is what may have driven adults into flooded fields during the early June of 1993 (fide Joe Milosevich) or into suburban alleyways in nearby towns during the last two spring and summers (fide Walter Marcisz). Juveniles can't compete with adults for food sites near the colony, so they leave the area sooner than adults to find food.

The need for food and the search in outlying areas from the colony site can lead to disaster for the young birds. Large-scale death from starvation was documented in 1997. Over 600 juveniles were found dead in outlying southern Cook County suburban locations (11 July TV news report, fide Walter Marcisz). I found numerous dead juveniles in the summer of 1997 near the Waukegan colony site as well as in the Evanston area.

Fledging is a time in which numerous territorial skirmishes occur.

Adults attack other chicks who cross into their territory, and will peck them to death (Ryder 1993). I saw one chick who apparently lost track of its parents and who went up to numerous other adults, only to be attacked on its neck. The gull was bitten so badly that its neck was bloodied with an exposed wound.

Young gulls can also become "road kill." Their lack of experience with fast-moving cars and slow reaction times to dangerous situations leave many dead. One recent summer day, 75 were found dead along Stony Island Avenue very near the Lake Calumet colony (fide Walter Marcisz). I found numerous casualties the summer of 1997 along McCormick Boulevard in Skokie and Evanston.

Weakness from lack of food and foraging in garbage dumps or other unhealthful areas could introduce bacteria or viruses into a young gull's system, which could ultimately cause death. Accounts of botulism have been reported, and probably took the lives of 600 gulls between 1959 and 1964 (Blokpoel and Tessier 1986).

Other factors contribute to the deaths of young gulls. Mammals such as coyotes, raccoons, skunks, or even rats invade colonies. The failure of the 1993 Grundy and Will County colony was probably due to repeated coyote predation (fide Joe Milosevich). One study from 1965

found that adults deserted eggs when a raccoon came by at night. That resulted in the deaths of 32 to 87 embryos, which had cooled below the temperature required for incubation (Emlen et al. 1966).

Human intrusion has impacted the colony's reproduction success. This intrusion causes an interruption of nesting activity, which leads to the eggs being exposed to low or ambient temperatures. This disturbance can result in a 16 to 31 percent desertion of nests (Vermeer 1970 & Southern and Southern 1981). In the spring of 1994, dredging activity and the resulting truck traffic at Lake Calumet disturbed nesting gulls. The use of a cannon to create loud noises frightened away the gulls (fide Walter Marcisz). These disturbances may have caused a 25 percent drop in nest numbers from the annual estimate of about 10,000 nests. That means some 5000 less young fledged that summer.

Typically, 90 percent of adults and 40 percent of chicks return to same colony to nest (Ryder 1993).



*This Ring-billed Gull fledged several days before Eric Walters took the photo on 11 July 1997 at the Waukegan Colony, Lake Co.*

Yet, in 1995, the Lake Calumet gull colony population dropped to an all-time 1990s low of 4,000 to 5,000 nests. That was the same year the Waukegan colony originated, and also when the Grundy/Will colony had the highest nesting totals. Perhaps the Lake Calumet birds were displaced to these other sites.

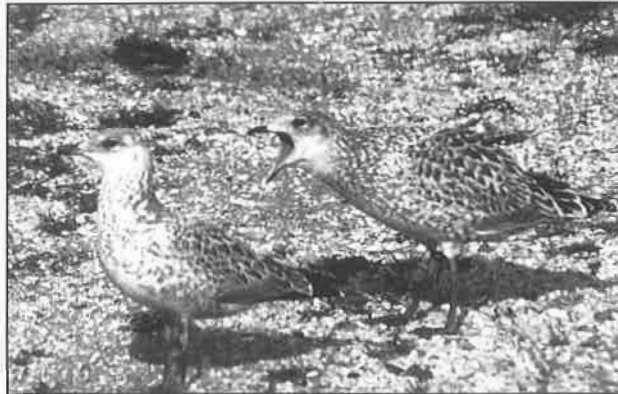
The Waukegan colony caused significant problems for the city and nearby businesses. Low-flying gulls and wandering juveniles regularly collided with cars.

At the nearby public beach, gulls congregated in large masses. When flushed into flight by humans, the gulls often deposited excrement on the beach and into the water. Unsafe levels of bacteria believed to be caused by the gulls' excrement was blamed for the record number of days the Waukegan beach was closed during the summer of 1997 (fide Chicago Tribune). Thin filament wire has been placed on the sand mound in the middle of the colony to prevent the gulls from landing and considering using the dune for nesting.

In 1997, an estimated 16,500 Ring-billed Gull nests were found in the southwestern Lake Michigan basin (Lake Calumet 10,000+; north-west Indiana about 5,000; Waukegan about 1,500; Will/Grundy counties none). This corresponds to 33,000 breeding adults present during the onset of nesting. A significant number of non-breeders would have been present as well. A conservative estimate from this region would be at least 5,000 non-breeders (the vast majority are in subadult, 2nd year plumage).

The total Ring-billed population prior to fledging was estimated at 38,000 for 1997. This number represents about 1 percent of the world's Ring-billed population based on 1993 numbers (Ryder 1993).

The Ring-billed population is poised for a significant population growth in the near future. Using estimates based on Ryder (1993), we will have an estimate of 48,000 gulls returning in 1998 with the potential to breed. This includes almost 35,000



*These two Ring-billed Gulls, approximately 15 days old, have left the confines of the colony and now begin life on their own. Photo taken on 11 July 1997 at the Waukegan colony, Lake Co. by Eric Walters.*

adults (including the 5,000 subadults now mature) and 13,000 young birds. This number represents a one-year 15 percent growth rate.

While the Ring-billed hasn't nested south of the Great Lakes in the Midwest until the Heidecke Lake/Dresden Lake locations, the expected future population explosion would appear to be the factor that could create new colonies to the south.

The Waukegan colony has established a foothold in the area and appears to be growing rapidly. What the effects of this population or the predicted future explosion of numbers will have on humans will likely become the subject of much interest. Until then, the lower Lake Michigan will continue to offer itself as an excellent summer home for the Ring-billed Gull.

## Acknowledgments

I thank Ken Brock, John Castrale, Walter Marcisz, and Joe Milosevich for their comments.

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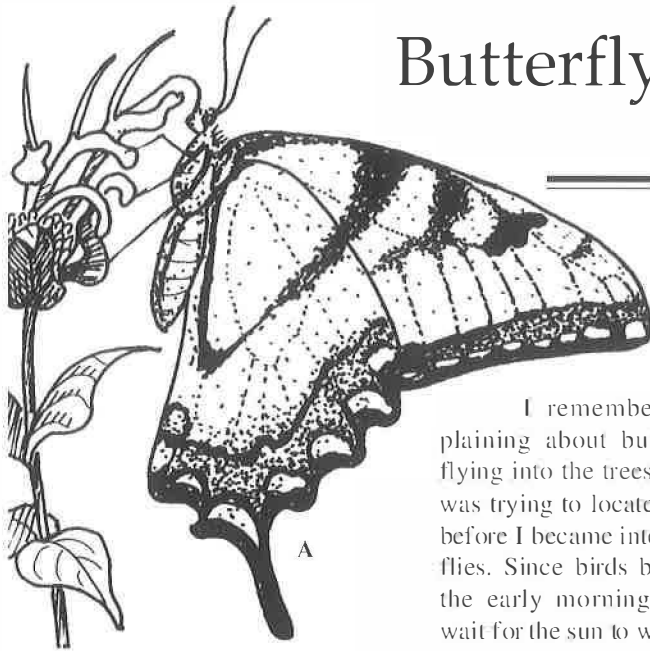
*Eric Walters*

7714 N. Marshfield Avenue, #2  
Chicago, IL 60626

**Author's Note:** *The property owners of the Waukegan colony site filled the area with fishing wire to keep the birds from nesting in 1998. However, the gulls appropriated an area about 75 yards west of the original site, where they nested in 1998. On 31 May 1998, there were 850 nests on the site. The first sign of fledged young (13 total) was on 31 May 1998. On 3 July 1998, there were 1,665 adults and 325 juveniles present. In 1999 the property owners used various methods to deter gulls from breeding. As of this writing the methods have been successful.*

# Butterflying for Birders

by Kathy Phelps



An Eastern Wood-Pewee whistles “pee-err,” pee-a-wee” and “fee-ba-dee” in random order. A Carolina Wren shouts its “tea-kettle” calls from the ravine, and an Indigo Bunting sings its series of paired notes. All as color creeps into the eastern sky, and as I fight to wake up from a cool night that invites sleep.

A Yellow-billed Cuckoo adds a series of “klowps,” and a Field Sparrow rolls his songs to a stop.

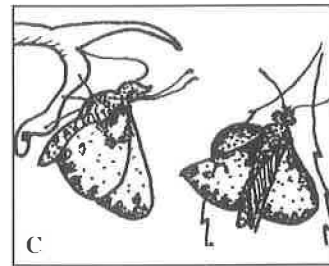
By 7 a.m. the bird chorus dwindles, and the grasshopper/cicada chorus builds. Even the abrupt calls of a White-eyed Vireo don't revive it. After all, what's to sing about on the first day of August? The little amount of activity doesn't do much to excite this birder. It's no excuse to stay home, though, not when the butterflies will begin basking, flying, and feeding as soon as direct sunlight reaches camp.

I remember complaining about butterflies flying into the trees when I was trying to locate birds. That was before I became interested in butterflies. Since birds become active in the early morning and butterflies wait for the sun to warm them before they fly, it simplifies things for this birder-butterflyer.

I camp at rural property we own seven miles southeast of Harrisburg. I mow the area around the camper and let the rest of the 33 acres grow naturally. The mixture of woods, two ravines, and barrens (a prairie-like plant community with scattered trees) offers a variety of habitat.

Sunlight slips over the driveway and the wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) bordering it. The first Spicebush Swallowtail

butterfly sails in and lands on the pink flowers, its forewings continually beating as it sips nectar. Soon two more join it. They fly about, feed, and occasionally bask with their black wings open flat. All the activity gives a good view of the row of light spots edging the wings and the wash of blue on



the hindwings. Two rows of orange spots edge a blue area underneath on their hind-wings. A

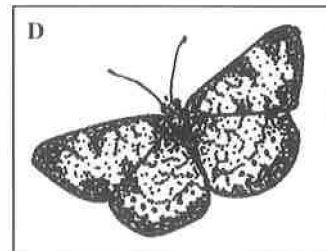
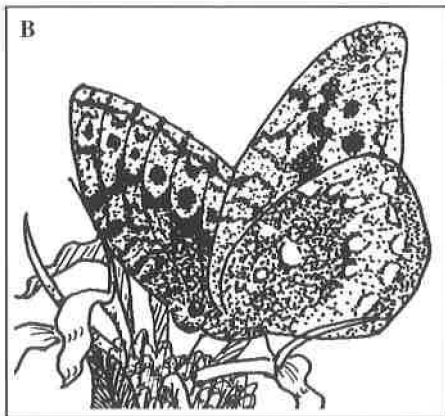
Tiger Swallowtail joins them. Its bold yellow and black pattern makes it easy to identify. Swallowtails are large butterflies with wingspans ranging between 2.5 and 5.5 inches, and with tail-like projections on their hindwings. Six species occur in Illinois.

As the sunlight covers more vegetation, the butterflies' area of activity broadens. Butterflies are cold blooded and need the sunlight to warm their blood and flight muscles.

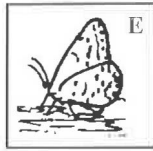
Next comes a Great Spangled Fritillary. Its large size, orange and brown wings with a black pattern, and silver spots underneath on the hindwings make it another butterfly easy to identify. It and the Variegated Fritillary are the only fritillaries in southern Illinois; three other species occur in northern Illinois.

Fritillaries are one of the many members of the large diverse Family Nymphalidae, or brush-foots. The front pair of legs on brush-foots are greatly reduced, giving them the impression of having only four legs.

A male Zabulon Skipper zips in, lands on the mint, spreads its hind-wings out flat, and angles its fore-



wings. At least the Zabulon is one of the folded-wing skippers with a distinctive pattern.



A female Zabulon basks on the grass. The male approaches her from behind, his wings in a rapid flutter as he bumps her. She flutters her wings in protest, and he flies back to the mints. He's patterned mostly with orange and yellow with a little brown; she's mostly brown with light spots on the forewing.

New birders find sparrows confusing. As their experience grows they find fall warblers a challenge and then really complain about shorebirds. They should try skippers. A few species are so similar it takes microscopic examination of their genitalia for positive identification. I don't do that. I use the "my first guess is" philosophy. At least a butterfly specimen can be collected and sent to an expert for identification. I send mine to Jim Wiker, a field assistant with the Illinois State Museum.

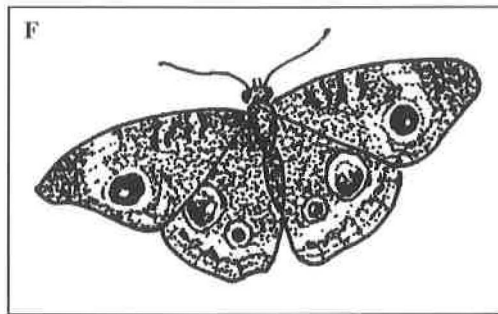
Fifty-two species of skippers occur in Illinois. Skippers aren't true butterflies: Butterflies and moths belong to the Order Lepidoptera. Butterflies are then divided into two superfamilies: the true butterflies (Papilionoidea) and the skippers (Hesperoidea). True butterflies have narrow bodies, long antennae, and brightly colored full wings. Skippers are stockier and more compact like moths, with short triangular wings that are most often dull colored.

The sky remains clear, and a breeze blows. A White-breasted Nuthatch gives "yank" calls as it moves through the woods, and a Summer Tanager repeats "pit-i-tuk-tuk" from perches around camp.

After a glass of iced tea, I walk the road looking for more species. Old roads like this one, with the woods, wet spots, and a roadside mixture of

weeds and native plants provide some of the best butterflying (unless the county mows the roadsides like they did two months ago).

There's a puddle party going on. The moisture from a rainy day before yesterday attracts several species of butterflies. Newly emerged males come to the road for the moisture and for salts and minerals needed for mating.



Sixteen Pearl Crescents fan their wings as they walk around and hold them closed as they sip. They're smaller and have less contrast to their orange and brown pattern than the Silvery Checkerspot. Both species fly now.

The Eastern Tailed-Blue's light blue-gray matches the color of the rocks. Seven flit about, all males. Males are blue above and the females brown. They rub their hindwings back and forth as they sit on the ground. Aredarea with a black spot makes a false target on the hindwing to attract a predator's attention away from the actual head. The tails become "antennae." The movement increases the attraction.

One of the five common buckeyes lands beside me as I sit on the road, at first fanning its brown wings and then holding them flat. An orange band connects two eye spots on the

hindwing, and a white band wraps part way around the eye spot on the forewing. Buckeyes migrate from the south and return in the fall.

The brown and tan pattern of the three Tawny Emperors matches the color of the wet dirt, until they open their wings and flash the patterned orange above.

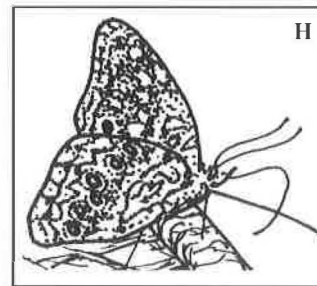
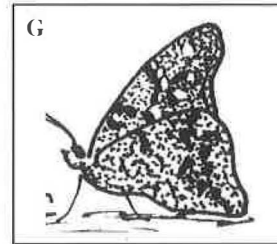
A Hackberry Emperor lands on the edge of my sleeveless blouse. I don't feel a thing as it sips sweat from my shoulder. This up-close view shows all the black spots on its brown and cream wings.

A Question Mark walks around on the road, fanning its wings and sipping. Its brown pattern underneath and shape give it the appearance of a dead leaf; fanning the wings shows the brilliant orange with brown markings on the forewing and the deep brown of the hindwing.

I can't see the silver question mark underneath on the hindwing from here. The Eastern Comma has a silver comma. To see these markings requires a cooperative butterfly. Often, I use the tail shape to differentiate the two: The Question Mark has a longer narrower tail and the Comma a shorter wider one.

The Question Mark, Eastern Comma, Mourning Cloak, and Goat-weed Leafwing all overwinter as adults and will emerge from hibernation on warm, sunny winter days. These species seldom visit flowers and instead prefer sap flows, rotting fruit, animal droppings, and carrion.

The nine Red-Spotted Purples either slowly fan their black wings or hold them closed. The purplish blue shines on the upper hindwings when



they're open, and orange spots show when they're closed. They resemble a Spicebush Swallowtail, only without the tails.

Except for the Eastern Tailed-blues, all the puddling species represent different sub-families of the brush-footed family.

A small brown butterfly flies low over the road in a hopping-style flight, its wings held more upright, barely flapping. Satyrs fly this way, landing in a sunny spot. Through my binoculars I see the silver area with black spots on the hindwing that identify it as a Gemmed Satyr. Satyrs have numerous eye spots and are shades of brown. Six species fly in southern Illinois.

Then when I think I've seen almost all there is to see, an American Snout flies at my approach and lands on the end of a dead branch in an oak tree. It's elongated palpi give it the impression of having a snout. It, the Hackberry Emperor, and Tawny Emperor all use hackberry trees as host plant.

I return to camp and discover a late-blooming butterfly-weed now in the sun. A Monarch nectars on the orange flowers. The Monarch is our only member of the Danainae sub-family of brush-foots. It flies.

Next, I head for the barrens. The first Virginia lespedeza to have any flowers, attracts the only Gray Hairstreak around. Bordering black and white lines pattern both wings, and its red area has two black spots. Hairstreaks are small fast-flying butterflies with tiny tails on the hindwing.

Blues, hairstreaks, and coppers make up the Family Lycaenidae. To find any coppers, I'd have to visit a site where dock grows.

Not much blooms in the barrens now to attract butterflies. Later this month more Virginia lespedeza, bush clovers, tick trefoils, tickseed sunflowers, and goldenrods will bloom.

I return to camp and eat lunch. Warm-weather cumulus clouds begin building and occasionally block the sun. The humidity level

rises with the temperature.

A Cabbage White lands on a selfheal and nectars on its remaining three flowers. The butterfly is all white except for the pale yellow under on the hindwing. A black spot and gray corner occur on the forewings.

A greenish-yellow Cloudless Sulphur flies through camp and lands briefly on a partridge pea, one of its host plants. This is a female; she has a spot on both wings; males are solid yellow.

Sulphurs and whites belong to the Pieridae family, which also includes Orange Tips. They're mostly yellow, orange, or white with black markings. Several species of sulphur fly in southern Illinois. Orange and Clouded Sulphurs are our most common ones. Orange Sulphurs have varying shades of orange on upper wing surfaces. Clouded are yellow above.

A Hoary Edge, one of the spread-winged skippers, circles the flowerhead on a selfheal as it sips from the violet and white flowers. It holds its wings at an angle, showing the fuzzy-edged white area underneath on the hindwing and the dark yellow band on the forewing. It darts up and chases a Spicebush Swallowtail.

Several species of spread-winged skippers occur in Southern Illinois. As the name suggests, spread-winged hold their wings out flat when perched.

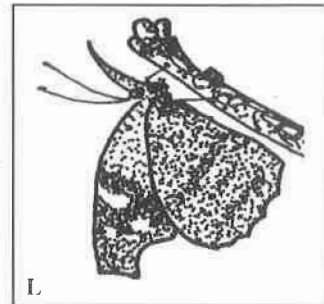
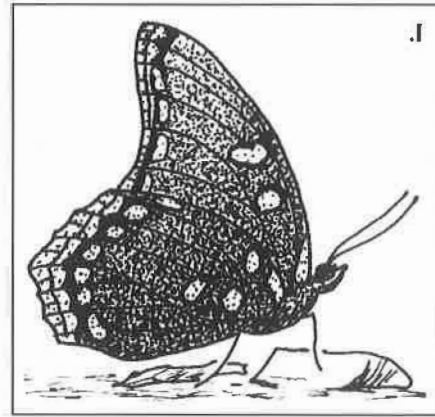
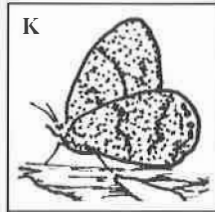
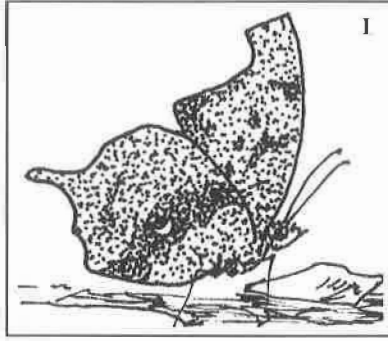
## Butterfly Counts

My interest in butterflies involves more than walking around tallying them. Activities associated with birding also apply to butterflying: I keep a life list, site lists, yard list, and an Illinois year list. My list for here includes 64 species and 47 in my yard. It shocks people when I tell them I can saw 75 species last summer in southern Illinois.

The Illinois checklist includes 129 species, and 717 species occur on the North American, north of Mexico list. As with birds, some occur in specific habitats and others in a variety. The best way to locate a certain species, is to look in the vicinity of its caterpillar host plant.

I record flight dates every year on charts of graph paper; this shows me when the species fly during the season and how many broods occur. In southern Illinois butterflies fly from March through October, depending on the weather.

**Meadowlark**





Last summer I made a calendar that shows 10 months on one page, and made copies of it. Then, as I see a species, I write its name along the top and record the site, number seen, and sex if I can tell it. This shows population numbers and sex ratios.

If that weren't enough, I note feeding and basking positions, nectaring records, behaviors, egg-laying times, and caterpillar host plants. Then I enter the data into a computer data base.

The National Audubon Society sponsors the Christmas Bird Counts; the North American Butterfly Association sponsors the Fourth of July Butterfly Counts. The count area covers a 15-mile-diameter circle, and the rules are basically the same for both.

Six counts took place in Illinois in 1996 (Beardstown, LaSalle County, McDonough County, McGraw Wildlife Foundation, North Park Village and Shawnee Hills). I'm the compiler

for the Shawnee Hills Count. Our highest tally was 42 species in 1997, and the lowest was 26 in 1992.

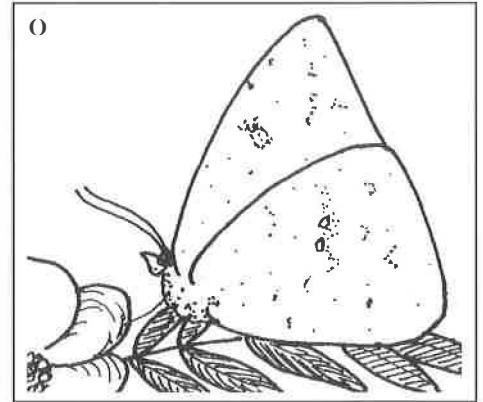
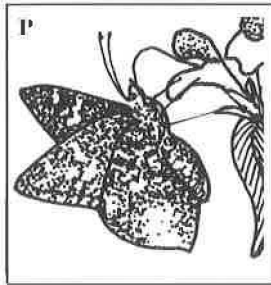
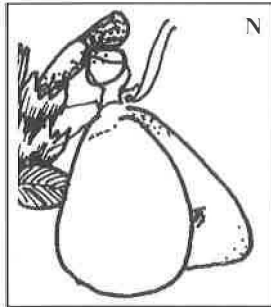
## Identifying Butterflies

If you want to get even more involved with butterflies, there's always rearing caterpillars and watching the adults emerge (which I find frustrating because more times than not, a parasitic wasp emerges instead). For identifying caterpillars, I recommend "A Golden Guide to Butterflies and Moths."

Butterflying requires basically the same equipment as birding: binoculars, field guide, and notebook. I use my birding binoculars for butterflies; some people use close-focus binoculars. I carry the "Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Butterflies" with me in the field. "The Butterflies and Moths of Missouri" (published by the Missouri Depart-

ment of Conservation) stays close by in the car.

The disadvantage to the Audubon field guide is that it has butterflies of the whole United States; the Missouri book has only species recorded in Missouri. "Butterflies of Indiana" has the best plates for identifications, showing several specimens of each



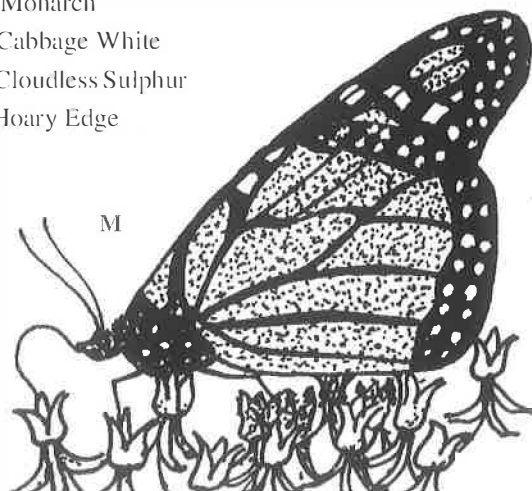
species. It's also limited to Indiana species and gives a distribution map for each. I figure basically what occurs in Missouri and Indiana, occurs in Illinois. "Butterflies East of the Great Plains" by Paul Opler and "The Butterflies of North America" by James Scott offer more technical information.

Obviously I don't complain about butterflies any more. I start my mornings with the birds and switch to butterflies. The progression seem like a natural one for any birder.

-- Kathy Phelps  
1385 Highway 145 S.  
Harrisburg, IL  
62946

- A. Spicebush Swallowtail
- B. Great Spangled Fritillary
- C. Zabulon Skipper
- D. Pearl Crescent
- E. Eastern Tailed Blue
- F. Buckeye
- G. Tawny Emperor
- H. Hackberry Emperor
- I. Question Mark
- J. Red-spotted Purple
- K. Gemmed Satyr

- L. Snout
- M. Monarch
- N. Cabbage White
- O. Cloudless Sulphur
- P. Hoary Edge



## Breeding Birds of Chauncey Marsh Natural Area, Lawrence County

by Jeffery W. Walk & Eric L. Kershner  
Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chauncey Marsh is an oxbow marsh of the Embarras River in northern Lawrence County. The 920-acre natural area also contains bottomland forest, shrub-swamp, and prairie communities. To guide managers restoring portions of the natural area, we conducted a breeding bird survey of the site in the summer of 1998 for the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.

**Methods.** We established seven transects through forest (4 transects), prairie (1 transect), and marsh/shrub-swamp habitats (2 transects) to survey breeding birds. Occasionally, we also made area searches into parts of the natural area not well-covered by transect sampling. Since the purpose of the survey was to document all breeding bird species, rather than quantify densities, all bird observations were recorded, regardless of distance from transects. Transects were 500-700 m in length and surveyed from sunrise to 1000 h on 3-4 dates each from 23 April to 24 June 1998. We defined breeding species based on nests located, fledglings observed or heard begging, observed copulation, observed nest building, and when pairs were observed for 3 weeks or longer and the species is known to regularly breed in the region.

As an index of abundance, we have ranked species based on percent of observations within marsh/shrub-swamp, forest, and prairie/forest edge habitats (Table 1). Species heard in one habitat but obvi-

ously located in another were not included (*e.g.*, Pileated Woodpeckers heard from prairie restorations, but located in the forest).

**Results.** We located 64 species during our surveys, at least 54 of which were breeding within the natural area during the survey period

**Table 1.** Relative abundances of breeding birds (% of observations) within different habitats at Chauncey Marsh Natural Area, 1998. Up to 20 of the most common species within a habitat are included.

*Marsh/Shrub-Swamp*

Red-winged Blackbird (34)	Common Grackle (16)
Common Yellowthroat (11)	Indigo Bunting (10)
Song Sparrow (6)	House Wren (5)
Yellow Warbler (5)	Willow Flycatcher (4)
Wood Duck (3)	Green Heron (<2)
Spotted Sandpiper (<2)	Carolina Wren (<2)

*Prairie/Forest Edge*

Indigo Bunting (14)	Common Yellowthroat (10)
Mourning Dove (7)	Common Grackle (7)
American Goldfinch (7)	American Robin (6)
Red-winged Blackbird (6)	Eastern Towhee (5)
Dickcissel (5)	Song Sparrow (4)
Northern Flicker (3)	House Wren (3)
Baltimore Oriole (3)	Northern Cardinal (3)
Red-headed Woodpecker (2)	Downy Woodpecker (2)
Northern Bobwhite (<2)	Grasshopper Sparrow (<2)
Brown-headed Cowbird (<2)	Field Sparrow (<2)

*Bottomland Forest*

Tufted Titmouse (18)	Downy Woodpecker (9)
Great Crested Flycatcher (8)	Eastern Towhee (8)
Red-bellied Woodpecker (7)	White-breasted Nuthatch (6)
House Wren (6)	Red-headed Woodpecker (5)
Eastern Wood-Pewee (4)	Blue Jay (4)
Carolina Chickadee (4)	Red-eyed Vireo (4)
American Crow (4)	Northern Flicker (3)
Yellow-billed Cuckoo (3)	Prothonotary Warbler (2)
Red-shouldered Hawk (2)	Yellow-throated Vireo (2)
Northern Parula (<2)	Cerulean Warbler (<2)

(Table 2). The most exciting find was a pair of state-threatened Red-shouldered Hawks and their four fledglings. We unexpectedly found two pairs of Cerulean Warblers and observed copulation of one pair in mid-May. Pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos and Vesper Sparrows observed in mid-June were south of their typical breeding range.

The forest habitat was dominated by cavity-nesting species. Downy, Red-bellied, and Red-headed Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, House Wrens, Tufted Titmice, and Great Crested Flycatchers were among the most frequently observed

species. Prothonotary Warblers were found where trees and standing water were close together. Yellow-billed Cuckoos, American Crows, and Red-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos were also common. Subcanopy birds were uncommon (only Eastern Towhees were regularly encountered) and ground-nesting birds, such as Ovenbirds, were absent. There are few sub-canopy shrubs, and poison ivy is nearly the only ground layer vegetation in the forest. Saturated soils likely discourage ground-nesting species as well.

The marsh and shrub-swamp area was dominated by Red-winged Black-

birds. Common Yellow-throats, Common Grackles, and Indigo Buntings were abundant in the marsh, responding to the extensive invasion of willows into the bulrushes. More typical marsh/shrub-swamp species included Green Herons, Wood Ducks, Spotted Sandpipers, Willow Flycatchers, and Yellow Warblers. Least Bitterns, Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, and Common Moorhens were not recorded, but have been located within similar habitats in Lawrence County.

The most common birds of the open habitat were those adapted to forest-prairie ecotones, such as Mourning Doves, Common Yellowthroats, Indigo Buntings, and American Goldfinches. More typical grassland species included Red-winged Blackbirds, Dickcissels, Grasshopper, and Field and Vesper Sparrows.

**Conclusions.** Chauncey Marsh Natural Area hosts a good diversity of breeding birds. The bottomland forests are significant for supporting breeding Cerulean Warblers and Red-Shouldered Hawks. However, observed diversity within the marsh habitat was low. Reintroduction of periodic burning and the ability to restore natural hydrologic patterns to the marsh would greatly improve this habitat. Monitoring the forest and marsh will be important to document continued breeding of Red-shouldered Hawks and to detect any threatened or endangered species that may begin utilizing the marsh as restoration efforts continue.

### Acknowledgments

Thanks to Terry L. Esker, District Heritage Biologist for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Richard E. Warner, University of Illinois, for encouraging and assisting with this project. This work was funded by a grant from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund.

**Table 2.** Birds of Chauncey Marsh Natural Area, April-June 1998. An \* denotes species known to breed *within* the natural area.

Great Blue Heron	*Green Heron
*Wood Duck	Hooded Merganser
Turkey Vulture	Red-tailed hawk
*Red-shouldered Hawk	*Northern Bobwhite
*Killdeer	*Spotted Sandpiper
*Mourning Dove	*Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo	Great Horned Owl
*Barred Owl	*Ruby-throated Hummingbird
*Northern Flicker	*Red-bellied Woodpecker
*Red-headed Woodpecker	*Hairy Woodpecker
*Downy Woodpecker	*Pileated Woodpecker
*Eastern Kingbird	*Great Crested Flycatcher
*Willow Flycatcher	*Eastern Wood-Pewee
*Horned Lark	Barn Swallow
*Blue Jay	*American Crow
*Carolina Chickadee	*Tufted Titmouse
*White-breasted Nuthatch	*House Wren
*Carolina Wren	*Gray Catbird
*Brown Thrasher	*American Robin
Wood Thrush	*Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher
Cedar Waxwing	*White-eyed Vireo
*Red-eyed Vireo	*Warbling Vireo
*Yellow-throated Vireo	*Yellow Warbler
*Northern Parula	*Cerulean Warbler
*Prothonotary Warbler	*Common Yellowthroat
*Red-winged Blackbird	*Orchard Oriole
*Baltimore Oriole	*Common Grackle
(*)Brown-headed Cowbird	*Northern Cardinal
*Indigo Bunting	*Dickcissel
*Eastern Towhee	*Grasshopper Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow	*Field Sparrow
*Song Sparrow	*American Goldfinch

# Favorite Birds of Illinois

by Sheryl De Vore

Todd Dilley has moved from Illinois to Colorado, he no longer can experience the almost-daily thrill of seeing his favorite Illinois bird. It's not a rare bird, either. In fact, it's Illinois' state bird, one of the most common and indeed, beautiful birds here, the Northern Cardinal.

"I miss them," said Todd. "I am in cardinal withdrawal." He said, "though cardinals are being seen more often in Colorado."

Todd's response to, "What's your favorite Illinois bird?" a question I posed on IBET, the Illinois birding listserv, shows that it's not necessarily the rare bird or the first state record that makes it to the top of a birder's list of best-loved avian species.

A person's favorite bird has more to do with how the species flies or nests, how the species can bring cheer to a dismal day, or how seeing a particular bird can remind you of a special person. For those who think birding is pure science, this article will not support that view. Instead, it shows that birding can be spiritual and can even renew one's hope.

"My favorite is the Brown Creeper," said Day Waterman. "There's something about its feeding behavior, size, relative scarcity, and nesting strategy that makes it unique and lovable."

In fact, Day admits to having killed several trees in her backyard trying to attract creepers, who feast on insects within the bark. "I may try artificial bark next to attract them," said Day. Obviously Day is obsessed with Brown Creepers.

Laraine Wright of Carbondale said her favorite all-time North Ameri-

can bird is the Black Skimmer (a bird that made its first Illinois appearance this fall.) Her favorite Illinois bird is the American White Pelican.

She likes these two species because "both stay in flocks, are magnificent flying together and settling in together, are dramatic, easy to see (when present!), and non-frenetic."

---

**"That little flash of blue and orange will forever bring me a special feeling of warmth and hope."**

*...about an Eastern Bluebird*

---

A few people hemmed and hawed and mentioned several birds, before settling on an answer, for example, Donald Dann finally gave up and made it a tie between the male Wood Duck and the Red-headed Woodpecker as breeders and Blackburnian Warbler for migrants. Donald probably needed 10 different categories so he could get all his favorite birds mentioned.

Robert Chapel of Champaign also had a difficult time deciding. He has a favorite Illinois bird – the Northern Saw-whet Owl. Anyone who knows Bob knows his skill in finding the saw-whets at Allerton Park during winters. I would have thought he'd say Yellow Rail.

But Bob was next musing about how he had a favorite individual Illinois bird, the Rock Wren he saw one fall at Montrose Harbor in Chicago. "It had been found the day be-

fore on rocks just east of the Magic Hedge, and that was where it was when I first saw it. However, other people were coming later from downstate only if it was still around. As it happened, I got blocked in by a 10K race, so couldn't leave Montrose. So I decided to keep tabs on the Rock Wren. After a while, the bird moved to the mouth of the harbor. At that point, too, the harbor mouth was a turnaround for the 10K race. So, the wren and I sat down together to watch the runners. The wren bounced up and down as each runner ran by and occasionally burst into song."

Tadas Birutis knew his answer immediately. "This one is easy," he said. "Black-capped Chickadee in Illinois. The best description of this guy is on a placard at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center. It reads something like this: This busy bit of fluff is a cheerful ambassador of the woodlands. How true! Anytime of the year he looks marvelous and is always there to greet!"

Forgive Tadas for referring to the chickadee as a "he," and calling "him" a "cheerful ambassador," but when people start talking about their favorite birds, they can't help anthropomorphizing a bit.

Consider Julie Stielstra's description of her favorite Illinois bird, the Black-crowned Night-Heron. "I had always been fond of these grumpy old men in tuxedos," she said. "One day, after watching some immature Green Herons for a few minutes, I turned and realized a black-crown was sitting in a tree about six feet away from me, quietly watching me. I met his gaze, and we just looked at each other.

Then he scratched his head with those comical yellow toes, and continued looking mildly at me with his hair all askew. He was like some rumples old avuncular family friend, and I just fell in love with him. And told him so."

Julie, who lives in Lyons, wondered, however, if she could change her mind and say her favorite all-time bird is the Pileated Woodpecker. "Do I have to have really seen one for it to count," asked Julie, who is still looking for that bird to add to her life list. Sure. Why not? A birder's prerogative is to change her mind regarding her favorite bird.

She's in good company because Craig Thayer of Cook County has also claimed the Pileated Woodpecker as his favorite all-time bird.

No matter how many times some birders are asked, they will always name the same favorite avian species because seeing that bird instills childhood memories.

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He was like some  
rumples old  
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friend, and I just fell  
in love with him.  
And told him so."

*...about a Black-crowned Night-Heron*

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Bernie Wiltshire of Heyworth near Bloomington chose Barn Swallow because "I grew up with a very healthy population in my grandfather's barn. These birds are so graceful in flight! I also saw them on many occasions really making life difficult for the stray cats, which were also plentiful around the barn. Alas, the barn has since succumbed to a very windy night, so the population really took a nosedive after that. But they will always be my favorite!"

The barn is gone, but Barn Swallows still fly! Do these two facts reflect the permanence and transient aspects of life?

Karen Land of Batavia, grew up in Algonquin in the 1950s at a time when the city was still considered rural. "The first bird I was aware of and would track and watch seasonally was the Great Blue Heron," Karen recalled. "We had several that fished in the ponds and creek near my home." The herons kept "the then 6-year-old, me, entertained for years. I even had names for them but had no way to tell them apart. I would just name them in the order I saw them each day."

Linda Macunovich of Westmont considers the Bald Eagle her favorite Illinois bird. "My husband and I have gone on an eagle trip to the Mississippi every winter for the past four years and they keep drawing us back. The majesty and mystique surrounding them doesn't diminish."

Two birders shared painful stories about losing someone they love, and finding a way to remember them through the birds they love.

"A dear friend of mine passed away from cancer in the spring of 1997," said Peter Weber. "We had worked together and enjoyed each others' company for about twelve years. The morning he succumbed to the insidious disease, I had my first Eastern Bluebird visit my yard."

"Despite my efforts to attract Eastern Bluebirds to my nest boxes for almost three years, I had been denied the beauty of flashing blue and orange. The sad day that Ed passed away was sunny, bright, and beautiful, made even more so by the appearance of both a male and a female bluebird. They were only around for about an hour that day, and didn't reappear until the spring of 1998 (when they successfully raised a family in my Peterson Box)."

"I'd always enjoyed the Eastern Bluebird's beauty. Until this day, however, I wasn't sure which bird was my favorite. That little flash of blue and orange will forever bring me a special feeling of warmth and hope."

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"My father died of  
Lou Gehrig's disease  
...and when I see the  
night-hawks in the  
fall, I picture his  
spirit flying  
overhead and  
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watching over me."

*...about the Common Nighthawk*

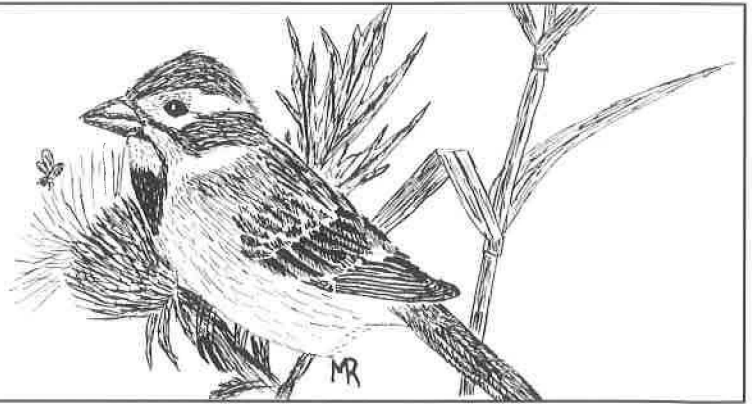
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The same is true for an Illinois birder named Mary Alice when she sees the Common Nighthawk. "My father taught me how to bird, and this was the first non-common bird that he taught me how to identify. Every time I see them, I can't help but think of him. He died of Lou Gehrig's disease seven years ago and when I see the nighthawks again in the fall, I picture his spirit flying overhead and imagine that he's watching over me."

Mary Alice's short poignant story reminds us that although birding can be scientific, competitive, frustrating, rewarding, and challenging; it can also be a way for us to cope with loss and rejoice in living.

*Sheryl De Vore,  
967 Braeburn Road,  
Mundelein, IL 60060*

# Field Notes



*Dickcissel drawing by Michael Retter.*

## The 1998 Breeding Season Report

by Vernon M. Kleen

The breeding season was extremely wet. At times, persons doing specific field surveys, especially in June, were unable to complete their work because of extensive rain. However, the season turned out to be excellent for nesting cormorants, herons, eagles, moorhens, cranes, Henslow's Sparrows, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, and several other species.

Somemajorbreeding records were: first confirmed Osprey fledglings in nearly five decades, (see story in this issue), second (and third) confirmed nesting of Purple Gallinules, (see story in this issue) and renewed nesting of Black-necked Stilts. Other notable nesting occurrences were: nests of American and Least bitterns, possible Little Blue Heron nesting at Lake Calumet, wild-reared young of the exotic Trumpeter Swan, nestlings for four less common duck species: Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Hooded Merganser and Ruddy Duck, expanding range of Mississippi Kites (see article in this issue), increased numbers of Bald Eagle fledglings, Swainson's Hawks continuing to survive, more records of nesting rails, excellent numbers of American Coots, good numbers of Upland Sandpipers at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, first recorded nestings for Eurasian Collared-Doves, increased numbers of Barn Owls, returning Western Kingbirds, successful nests of Bewick's Wrens (see article in this issue), high numbers of Sedge Wrens, and a good number of "northern" nesting records for the Loggerhead Shrike. Of special note is the 12-year old Carolina Chickadee that has continued to nest near Charleston.

As usual, June and July observations included a variety of other highlights as well; although some records can be labeled late spring migrants and others early fall arrivals, some don't fall into either category and have been identified as: Non-breeding Summer Occurrences (abbreviated N.B.S.O. in the accompanying species accounts). It is my anticipation that three such species, American White Pelican, Caspian Tern and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher may soon be added as new breeding species in Illinois. Other interesting

records that fit the 1998 N.B.S.O. criteria were: Illinois' first **White-winged Dove** (see story in this issue), lingering loons and ducks, the occurrence of out-of-place herons and ibises, Springfield's Black Vulture, Rockford's Mississippi Kite, the June Parasitic Jaeger, several June/July gulls, and Red-breasted Nuthatches. Of course, there were several late departing records for shorebirds, flycatchers and warblers and early-arriving records for shorebirds, flycatchers and warblers (and these records were forwarded to the spring and fall seasonal editors.).

This year more observers submitted more information for the Breeding Season Report than any previous year. We thank each and every one of them and hope this trend continues. Speaking of trends, nearly all of Illinois' 81 Breeding Bird Survey routes were completed this year and most have been run by the same observers, year after year; this is significant in order to obtain comparable population results each year; therefore, special accolades to all of the surveyors (nearly all of whom are volunteer) who take this responsibility seriously every year.

Part of the huge success of this year's Breeding Season Report is the availability of key information provided by Illinois Natural History Survey and university staff who were conducting extensive field investigations throughout Illinois this past summer. As a result, new information has been included for the Savanna Army Depot, northeastern Illinois wetlands, Jasper County and extreme-southern Illinois. I especially thank Mike Ward for his copious records and can appreciate the difficulty he must have had trapping and color banding 132 Yellow-headed Blackbirds.

As already mentioned, this compilation is the result of field efforts by dozens of dedicated professionals and non-professionals. Without their continued support we'd have minimal centralized information to pass on to future researchers. The persons responsible for records in the accompanying species accounts have been acknowledged individually after their records. As usual, major effort has been



made to be sure that all information is correct and properly acknowledged and can be traced to original source documents available in the permanent record file. A few records not printed here may still be under review by the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee; once accepted, they will appear in an addenda to a future report.

Collectively, the observers and contributors to this report are: Alan Anderson, Cindy Alberico, Doug Anderson, Ed Anderson, Louise Augustine, (DB) David Bohlen, (DBi) Dale Birkenholz, (DBo) Denis Bohm, Eric Bollinger, Frank Bennett, John Bates, Nancy Bent, (RB) Richard Biss, (RBa) Renee Baade, (RBj) Richard Bjorklund, (SB) Steve Bailey, (SBj) Sigurd Bjorklund, (TBu) Todd Bugg, Vic Berardi, John Ciciel, Karin Cassel, Paul Clyne, Robert Chapel, Bill Davison, Donald Dann, Jim Day, Larry David, Myrna Deaton, Sheryl De Vore, Tim Dever, Josh Engel, Carolyn Fields, Matt Fraker, (JF) Jim Frazier, (JFu) Jim Funk, Bill Glass, Don Goerne, Mark Guetersloh, Shawn Gill, Urs Geiser, (AH) Ann Haverstock, (AHO) Amy Horstman, Barrie Hunt, Cathie Hutcheson, Frank Holmes, (JH) Jim Herkert, (Jeh) Jeremiah Haas, (JHe) Jim Heim, (JHo) Jeff Hoover, Leroy Harrison, Scott Hickman, (DJ) David Johnson, (DJa) Dorothy Jackson,

Dan Kassebaum, Eric Kershner, Laurel Ann Kaiser, Vernon Kleen, James Landing, Sue Lauzon, (AM) Anne Mankowski, (AMo) Angella Moorehouse, Cindy McKee, (JMc) John McKee, (JnM) John McDaniel, (JoM) John McCall, (KM) Keith McMullen, (KMc) Kelly McKay, Lonnie Morse, (RhM) Rhonda Monroe, Walter Marcisz, Debbie Newman, Kevin Richmond, Larry Rice, (MR) Michael Retter, Roger Reason, Al Stokic, Brad Semel, (DS) Darrell Shambaugh, (DSt) Doug Stotz, Eric Smith, (JS) James Smith, Leonard Stanley, (MSi) Michelle Simone, Scott Simpson, Wes Serafin, Craig Thayer, Diane Tecic, Jenny Vogt, Chris Whelan, Dan Williams, Eric Walters, Helen Wuestenfeld, (JW) Jeff Walk, (JWi) John Wilker, (KWy) Ken Wysocki, Michael Ward, and Peter Weber. Many thanks, too, to Paul Clyne for reviewing this report and finalizing it for formal publication in *Meadowlark*.

As standard policy, all observers, regardless of experience, must fully document all unusual observations. Easy to use documentation forms are available from the Secretary of the Illinois Ornithological Records Committee (IORC) or me on request. Completed documentation forms should be submitted to the Secretary of IORC within one week of the observation.

As a printing aide, the following abbreviations have been used throughout this report:

Carl.L.	= Carlyle Lake (Clinton Co)	ad.	= adult
Chi	= Chicago--excluding JP & LCal (Cook Co)	subad.	= subadult
Clin.L	= Clinton Lake (De Witt Co)	imm.	= immature
CONWR	= Crab Orchard N.W.R. (Williamson Co)	yg.	= young
DPRWDP	= Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project (Lake Co)	pr.	= pair
DPCA	= Des Plaines C.A. (Will Co)	☐	= documented record
ESTL	= E. St. Louis (St Clair Co)	☐☐	= specimen record
GCSP	= Giant City S.P. (Jackson Co)	resp.	= respectively
GLPSP	= Goose Lake Prairie S.P. (Grundy Co)	m.ob.	= many observers
GLNTC	= Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Lake Co)	est.	= estimate(d)
GRCA	= Green River C.A. (Lee Co)	B.B.S.	= Breeding Bird Survey
HL	= Horseshoe Lake (Madison Co)	Co(s)	= County(ies)
IBSP	= Illinois Beach S.P. (Lake Co)	C.A.	= Conservation Area
ICCA	= Iroquois County C.A. (Iroquois Co)	F.P.	= Forest Preserve
JP	= Chicago's Jackson Park (Cook Co)	F.W.A.	= Fish & Wildlife Area
KCP	= Kennekuk Cove Park (Vermilion Co)	L	= Lake
Kidd L	= Kidd Lake Marsh (Monroe Co)	N.A.	= Natural Area
LCal	= Lake Calumet (Cook Co)	N.C.	= Nature Center
LChau	= Lake Chautauqua N.W.R. (Mason Co)	N.P.	= Nature Preserve
LCNP	= La Salle County Nuclear Plant (La Salle Co)	N.W.R.	= National Wildlife Refuge
LMSF	= Lowden-Miller S.F. (Ogle Co)	S.F.	= State Forest
LRen	= Lake Renwick (Will Co)	S.P.	= State Park
LRSHNC	= Little Red School House N.C. (Cook Co)	M.C.	= Maximum Count(s)
LShef	= Lake Shelbyville (Shelby Co)	N.B.S.O.	= Non-Breeding Summer Occurrence
M.Arb	= Morton Arboretum (Du Page Co)		
MFP	= Middlefork F.P. (Champaign Co)		
MFWA	= Middlefork F.W.A. (Vermilion Co)		
MM	= McKee Marsh (Du Page Co)		
MNTP	= Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie (formerly Joliet Army Ammunition Plant -- Will Co)		
MPSP	= Mississippi Palisades S.P. (Carroll Co)		
MS	= McGinnis Slough (Palos, Cook Co)		
PRSNA	= Prairie Ridge S.N.A. (Jasper Co)		
Rend L	= Rend Lake (Franklin Co)		
SAD	= Savanna Army Depot (Jo Daviess Co)		
Sang.L	= Sangchris Lake S. P. (Sangamon Co)		
Spfld	= Springfield (Sangamon Co)		
SRSF	= Sand Ridge S.F. (Mason Co)		
SRSP	= Starved Rock S.P. (La Salle Co)		
Wauk	= Waukegan (Lake Co)		

A number in parentheses ( ) indicates the number of birds observed at a particular location or on a particular date. No number signifies single birds.

## 1998 Breeding Season Report

### Common Loon

**N.B.S.O.:** Maple L (Cook Co), 17 June (DS); Spfld (non-breeding plumage), 25 July (CO); Champaign (breeding plumage), 5 June (MW); Newton L (non-breeding plumage), May thru July (JW, EK); Olney (Richland Co), 9 June (LH); HL, 10 June (DK); Waterloo (Monroe Co), 27 July-8 Aug.+ (KM).

### Pied-billed Grebe

**Nesting:** Whiteside County, 24 June (MW); Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (2 pr.), May/July (MW) and (1 yg.), 11 Aug. (EW); McHenry/Lake County line (5 prs. w/ 20-25 yg.), 27 July (SD); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (3 broods = 11 yg.), May/July (MW); Round L Marsh (Lake Co) (2+ prs., 3 yg.), May/July (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (2+ pr., 3 yg.), May/July (MW); LCal (several prs - 1st yg. noted on 11 July) (WM); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (2 broods = 8 yg.), 11 July (WM); Chi (Eggers Woods) (4 broods = 10 yg.), 1 July (WM); Riverdale (Cook Co) (3 yg.), 9 July (WM); MS (40--14 ad., 26 yg.), 15 Aug. (DS); GLPSP (3 yg.), 27 June (DJ) and (ad. + 5 yg.), 4 July (CM & JMc); Decatur (dredge ponds) (6 pr. w/ 3-5 yg./brood), 17-31 July+ (MD); e. Sangamon County (ads. w/ 2 yg.), 30 June (DB); Beardstown Marsh (Cass Co) (6 ad., 9 yg.), 23 June (SB fide MW). **Others:** Spfld (+), June/July (DB); KCP, 20 June (RC); Arcola (Douglas Co) (2), 21 June-18 July (RC); Wabash County, 3 July (LH); New Athens (St. Clair) (pr.), 19 June (DN); Kidd L (+), June/July (DK).

### American White Pelican

**N.B.S.O.:** LShel (2), 5 July (RC).

### Double-crested Cormorant

**Nesting:** I & M Canal (La Salle Co) (nested), early May (CM, JMc); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (12 nests), 13 June (RBj); Sanganois C.A. (33 nests), 23 June (RBj); Meredosia N.W.R. (Morgan Co) (27 nests), May/July (MW); HL (2 nests), 28 June (FH); Carl.L. (200 nests), 25 June (DK). **Others:** Fox River (Lake Co) (26), 28 Apr. (BS); Baker's L (Cook Co) (285), 18 July (JV); Riverdale (Cook Co) quarry (101 -- roosting only), 7 June (WM); Spfld (some), June/July (DB); Newton L (Jasper Co) (2), 23 June (LH); HL (35 & 45), 20 June & 5 July, resp. (FH); CONWR (3), 16 July (KM); Mermet L C.A. (2), 16 July (KM).

### American Bittern

**Nesting:** PRSNA (nest: 4 eggs to hatching), June/July (JW, EK et al.). **Others:** GLPSP, 1 June (JH, BG).

### Least Bittern

**Nesting:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (6+ pr., 4 nest w/eggs), 3 June (MW); Country Club Road (McHenry Co) (2 nests), June/July (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (nest, but no eggs), 13 June (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (2+ pr.), June/July (MW); Wadsworth (Lake Co) (nest, but no eggs), June (MW); Chi (Eggers Woods) (pr.), June/July (MW); Mermet L C.A. (Massac Co) (1-4 ads., 1-2 yg.), 11-19 July (FB); Cypress Creek N.W.R. (Johnson Co) (4 ad., 2 nests, 1 fledged yg.), 27 June (MG). **Others:** LCal (Burnham Prairie), 16 June (Dst) and (Big Marsh), 12 July (DJ); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 15 July (WM); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 7 June (AS); GLPSP (3), 20 June (JnM); L. Bloomington (singles), 7 & 10 June, resp. (MF); Normal (ad.), 16 June (MF, m.ob.); Beardstown Marsh (Cass Co) (pr. w/ yg.), June (MW) and (2), 19 Aug. (PW); KCP (2), 20 June (RC); Arcola (Douglas Co), 21 June (RC); PRSNA (Marion Co) (ad.), 11 June (SS); Lawrence County, 15 July (LH); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co), early June (SB fide MW).

### Great Blue Heron

**Nesting:** Tamarack Club (McHenry Co) (86 nests), 27 Apr. (BS); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (78 nests), 4 May/June (BS, DJ, MW); Indian Creek (Lake Co) (40 nests), 27 Apr. (BS); Cedar L (Lake Co) (9 nests), 6 May (BS); Fox River (Lake Co) (130 nests), 28 Apr.

(BS); Mill Creek (Lake Co) (17 nests), 28 Apr. (BS); Fritzer (Lake Co) (75 nests), 27 Apr. (BS); Kemper L (Lake Co) (8 nests), 28 May (DJ); Bartlett (Cook Co) (285 nests), 27 Apr. (BS); Baker's L (Cook Co) (15 nests), 8 July (EW); Goose L (Cook Co) (100+ nests), 9 Apr. (JC); Streator (La Salle Co) (4 nests), 10 May (DG fide JMc); Marshall County (259 nests), 9 June (MSi et al.); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (184 nests), 13 June (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (331 nests), 16 June (RBj); Sanganois C.A. (225 nests - new site location), 23 June (RBj); LShel (Moultrie Co) (131 nests), May (ES); Allerton Park (Piatt Co) (102 nests), 23 Apr. (ES); Salt Fork (Champaign Co) (2 nests), 30 Apr. (JS); Carl.L. (120 nests), 5 May (VK); Rend L (225 nests at 2 locations), 5 May (VK); other s. Illinois colonies: 11 locations (aerial est.), 1850+ nests, 5 May (VK); other Illinois River colonies: 4 locations (aerial est.), 1325 nests, 4 May (VK); other Mississippi River locations: 18 locations (aerial est.), 4300+ nests, 4-5 May (VK); Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Section Report provides complete 1998 nesting details. | M.C. (away from known colonies): 103, Spfld, 18 July (DB).

### Great Egret

**Nesting:** Fox River (Lake Co) (85 nests), 28 Apr. (BS); Kemper L (Lake Co) (2 nests), 28 May (DJ); Baker's L (Cook Co) (6 nests), 8 July (EW); LCal (Big Marsh) (est. 10-20 nests), 13-14 June (WM); Marshall County (8 nests), 9 June (MSi, et al.); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (46 nests), 13 June (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (61 nests), 16 June (RBj); Sanganois C.A. (16 nests - new location), 23 June (RBj); Alorton (ESTL) (est. 75), 26 May (VK, DT); other s. Illinois colonies: 6 locations (aerial est.), 370 nests, 5 May (VK); other Mississippi River colonies: 8 locations (aerial est.), 975+ nests, 4-5 May (VK); other Illinois River colonies, none, 4 May (VK). **Others:** LShel (5), 5 July (RC); Kidd L (75), 20 July (DK); Carl.L. (15), 17 July (DK); Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Section Report provides complete 1998 nesting details. | M.C. (Away from known colonies): 130, Wabash County, 4 July (LH); 10, Spfld, 15 July (DB).

### Snowy Egret

**Nesting:** Alorton (ESTL) (present perhaps 20-25), 29 May (VK, DT). **M.C.:** 31, HL, 5 July (FH). **N.B.S.O.:** LCal (Burnham Prairie) (1 ad., 2 ad.), 12-29 & 19 July, resp. (AS, DSt, m.ob.), and (Big Marsh) (ad.), 13 June-12 July (WM, DJ); PRSNA (1<sup>st</sup> local record), 11 June (JW, EK). **Others:** Marion County (2 ad.), 17 June (LH).

### Little Blue Heron

**Nesting:** LCal (2-3 ad. in area) (possible nesting in Big Marsh), 6 June-early August (WM, DSt, AS, m.ob.) and "fledgling" suspected, early July (WM); Alorton (ESTL) (est. 100 nests), 29 May (VK, DT). **M.C.:** 47, Monroe County, 27 July (KM). **Others:** LCal (Hedgewisch Marsh) (ad.), 25 June (MW); Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 July (KMc); Kidd L (200), 20 July (DK).

### Cattle Egret

**Nesting:** Alorton (ESTL) (est. 1200 nests), 29 May (VK, DT). **M.C.:** 165, St. Clair County, 15 June (KM); 50+, Meredosia N.W.R. (Morgan Co), June/July (MW); 25, Wabash County, 4 July (LH). **N.B.S.O.:** LCal (4), 25 July (WM); Lren, 21 June (DW); SRSP, 19 June (DW); SRSF (22 & 34), 12 June & 2 July, resp. (RBj); Spfld (present), June/July with max. count (6), 12, June (DB); Fairmount (Vermilion Co), 16 June (JS).

### Green Heron

**Nesting:** JP (1 nest, unsuccessful); June (PC); LCal (Heron Pond) (1 successful nest; yg. observed), 8 July (WM); Sang.L. (yg.), 13 July (DB); Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (4 yg. in nest), 5 June and (nest w/ 3 eggs), 16 June (JS); Charleston (2 nest w/ 3 eggs each), 13 June (both failed) (BH); n.e. Massac County (2 ad., 5 fledglings), 22 July (FB). **Others:** Sangamon County (9), 15 & 18 July (DB); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (5), 13 June (RC); Madison County (4), 17 July (KM).

### Black-crowned Night-Heron

**Nesting:** Baker's L (Cook Co) (3 nests = 9 yg.), 25 June-31 July (CF); LCal (Big Marsh) (est. 500 nests), 13 June (WM); Worley L (Tazewell Co) (15 nests), 13 June (RBj); Clear L (Mason Co) (none), 16 June (RBj); Alorton (ESTL) (est. 250 nests), 29 May (VK, DT). [Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Section Report provides complete 1998 nesting details.]  
**Others:** Riddott (Stephenson Co) (5 - 3 ad., 2 imm. - perhaps the result of nearby nesting), 12 Aug. (DW); JP (a few summering adults), June/July (fide PC); GLPSP (3), 1 June (JH, BG); Spfld (3 ad., 1 imm.), 14 June (DB); Arcola (Douglas Co) (subad.), 5 July (RC); Carl.L (2), 21 June (DK); Carl.L (Fayette Co) (8 ads. and imm.), 17 July (DK).

### Yellow-crowned Night-Heron

**Nesting:** LCal (Burnham Prairie) (2 -- ad. & imm.), 16 June (DSt); Granite City (Madison Co), 22 Apr. (1<sup>st</sup> nest) thru 23 May (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> nests), and (fledglings), 1-24 July (FH, DT); Rend L (ad. + 3 yg.), 27 July (LS); Mermet L C.A. (Massac Co) (juv.), 19 & 26 July (FB). **Others:** Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 11 July (KMc); LShel (Moultrie Co) (2 imm.), 5 July (RC); Stump L (Jersey Co), June (SB fide MW); HL (1, 2), 2 June (FH) and 19 July (KM) resp.; Sauguet (St. Clair Co), 1 July (DK).

### Glossy Ibis

**N.B.S.O.:** Frank Holton S.P. (St. Clair Co) (1-2 ad.), 29 May-29 July (most often only 1 observed) (KM, m.ob.).

### Black Vulture

W., Sangamon Co (1<sup>st</sup> county record), 20 June (\*DB).

### Turkey Vulture

**M.C.:** 161, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 July (KMc); 80 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 45+, Pike/Adams Cos., 1 July (SB fide MW); 33, MPSP, 16 May (EW); 27, Spfld, 20 July (DB); 21, Saganashkee Slough (s.e. Cook Co), 2 Aug. (CT); 13, Jersey County, 22 July (KM); 12, Mason City (Mason Co), 21 July (SB fide MW); 12, Washington County, 16 July (KM). **Others:** n.w. ●gle County (2), 13 June (DW); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (3), 27 June

(AA); LCal (O'Brien Lock & Dam) (3), 17 June (WM); Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co), 15 July (WM).

### Snow Goose

Sang.L (2 "blues") thru 9 June and (1) thru 14 June (DB), ["With the explosion of this species' population and the extended shooting into spring, a few linger (wounded)."] (DB).

### Canada Goose

**Nesting:** Riverwoods (Lake Co) (13 nests), 8 Apr. (EW); MM (13 nests), 11 Apr. (EW); Sangamon County (18 broods: 1-15 yg./brood), 19 Apr.-18 June (DB). **M.C.:** 400 (incl. yg.), Newton L, 14 July (JW, EK); 210 (incl. yg.), Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 131 (all yg.), JP, 22 May (KC fide PC); 120, Spfld, 26 July (DB).

### Mute Swan

**Comment:** 5 n.e. Illinois counties (McHenry, Lake, Cook, Du Page & Will): 48 pairs, 37 nests found, 22 successful nests, at least 35 known yg., 25 Mar.-31 July (EW). **Specific Nesting:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (pr. w/ 3 yg.), 17 July (SD, LK); Redwing Slough (Lake Co) (10 ad., 4 broods w/ 2-4 yg./brood), 27 June (DW); Indian Creek (Lake Co) (nest), 27 Apr. (BS); Chi (Egger's Woods) (nest), 8 May and (4 yg. & 2 yg.), 20 May & 1 Aug., resp. (DSt); Chi (Wolf Lake) (3 broods = 8 yg. & 6 yg.), 5 June & 1 Aug., resp. (DSt); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh) (1 yg.), 17 May-6 June (WM); e. Sangamon County (yg.), 1 July (DB); Newton L (nest), April (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 4, Spfld, 8 June & 17 July (DB). **Others:** Spunky Bottoms (Brown Co), May/July (MW).

### Wood Duck

**Nesting:** Winnebago County (10 broods), June/July (DW); Cuba Marsh (Lake Co) (female w/ 11 yg.), 4 July (CF); Palatine (female w/ 14 hatchlings), 21 May (CF); Chi (Wooded Isle) (2 broods = 10 yg.), 24 May (DSt); JP (5 broods = 40 yg.), May/June (PC); LCal (brood w/ 9yg), 16 June (DSt); Heyworth (McLean Co) (4 broods), June (MF, TBu); Clin.L (3 broods: 2, 7 & 9), 14 June (RC); Sangamon County (19 broods, 4-18 yg./brood), 18 May-2 Aug. (DB); Homer (Vermilion Co) (3rd brood hatched), 5 Aug. (JS). **M.C.:** 120 (incl. yg.), Pere Marquette S.P., 20 June (KM); 77, Spfld, 16 July (DB). **Others:** MFP (19), 20 June (RC); Carl.L (Fayette Co) (100, 25 June (DK).

### Gadwall

**N.B.S.O.:** Palatine (Cook Co) (male), thru 12 June (CF); LCal (pr.), 28 June (JE) through 11 July (JL); GLPSP (2), 1 June (JH, BG); Arcola (Douglas Co) (male), 5 July (RC).

### Mallard

**Nesting:** Riverwoods (Lake Co) (22 yg.), 6 July (EW); Sangamon County (34 broods, 1-12 yg./brood), 23 Apr.-20 July (DB); PRSNA (19 nests), April/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 450 (incl. yg.), Newton L, 14 July (JW, EK).

### Blue-winged Teal

**Nesting:** Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (2 pr.), June/July (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (pr.), June (MW); Chi (Egger's Woods) (pr.), June/July (MW); Burnham Prairie (Cook Co) (9 yg.), 4 July (WM); Decatur (dredge ponds) (about 12 ads. and 25 yg.), 17-31 July+ (MD). **Others:** Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (pr.), June/July (MW); Deer Grove E.F.P.



Female Mute Swan with young on 14 May 1998 in Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.

(Cook Co) (2 males), 10 June (CF); JP (female), 7 June (PC); GLPSP (10), 4 Aug. (SB fide MW); Shabbona L.S.P. (De Kalb Co) (5), 26 July (DS); GLPSP (3), 23 June (JH, BG); Laura (Peoria Co) (8 males), 22 July (SB fide MW); Spfld (5), 30 June (DB); MFWA (male), 20 June (RC); Arcola (Douglas Co) (pr. & male), 21 June & 5 July, resp. (RC); LShel (Moultrie Co) (2 males), 5 July (RC); HL (4), 17 July (KM).

#### Northern Shoveler

**Nesting:** Deer L.F.P. (Lake Co) (pr. & 2 yg.), 22 Aug. (EW).  
**N.B.S.O.:** Lake/McHenry County line (pr.), mid July (MW); LCal (female), 11 July (JL).

#### Northern Pintail

**N.B.S.O.:** GLPSP., 10 June (JH); Arcola (Douglas Co) (female), 21 June (RC).

#### Green-winged Teal

**N.B.S.O.:** GLPSP, 23 June (JH, BG); LShel (Moultrie Co) (male), 5 July (RC); Decatur (dredge ponds), 31 July (MD).

#### Ring-necked Duck

**N.B.S.O.:** Arcola (Douglas Co) (male), 21 June-5 July (RC).

#### Lesser Scaup

**N.B.S.O.:** GLNTC (subad. male), 27 June-early Aug. (EW).



*Osprey juveniles on tree near nest in the summer of 1999 at Bergman Slough in Cook County. The young represent the first two confirmed fledglings in Illinois since 1952. Photo by Craig Thayer.*

#### Bufflehead

**N.B.S.O.:** GLNTC (female - 2<sup>nd</sup> summer record for Illinois), 22 May-early Aug. (EW, mo.b.).

#### Common Goldeneye

**N.B.S.O.:** Carl.L. (injured), thru 6 June (DK).

#### Hooded Merganser

**Nesting:** Barrington (Cook Co) (2 large yg.), 31 May (CF); Evanston (imm. or female), 18 June (EW); GLNTC (imm. or female), 3 July (EW); Shabbona L.S.P. (De Kalb Co) (pr. + 5 yg.), 5 July (DS); Sangamon County (4 broods, 3-7 yg./brood), 23 Apr.-7 June (DB); Wabash County (2 broods = 16 yg.), 3 July (LH). **Others:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (pr.), June/July (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (pr.), June/July (MW); MS (female plumage), 8 July (DSt); Champaign (female) 5 June (MW); Arcola (Douglas Co) (female), 21 June (RC); HL (female), 10 June (DK); Kidd L (5), 10 July (DK).

#### Red-breasted Merganser

**N.B.S.O.:** Chi (Wolf L) (2 females & 1 female), 10 June (DSt) & 3 July, resp. (KWy).

#### Ruddy Duck

**Nesting:** Lake/McHenry County line (male, female & 7 yg.), 25 July (DBo); Decatur (dredge ponds) (2 yg.), 31 July (MD). **Others:** Deer L.F.P. (Lake Co) (male), late May-27 June (EW); Baker's L. (Cook Co) (male), 12 June (CF); Chi (Wolf L) (male), 5 June (DSt); Riverdale (Cook Co) (2 males & 1 male), 1 July and 9-13 July, resp. (WM); Mendota (La Salle Co), 27 June (DS); Champaign (male), 5 July (RC); Arcola (Douglas Co) (female), 5-18 July (RC); Newton L (ad. male), 23 June (LH, JW, EK); HL (female), 24 June-21 July (FH, KM, mo.b.).



*A female Bufflehead (left) spent the summer at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center in Lake County. Lesser Scaup is on the right. Photo taken 19 July 1998 by Eric Walters.*

#### Osprey

**Nesting:** Bergman Slough (Cook Co) (nest: 3 yg, fledged), 25 July (CT), 2d confirmed breeding success in the state this century. See article in this issue. **Others:** Hampton (Rock Island Co), June/July (KMc); Stickney Run C.A. (McHenry Co) (fly-by), 10 June (MW); SRSP (vicinity) (ad.), 12 July (CM, JMc); Spfld, 18-22 June (DB); Carl.L., 25 June (DK).

#### Mississippi Kite

**Nesting:** Red's Landing (Calhoun Co) (one yg. in nest), 25 July-9 Aug. (JoM, UG), see article in this issue; St. Mary's River (Randolph Co) (ad. & subad.), 17 June (DN, DT). **Others:** Rock Cut S.P. (Winnebago Co) (ad.) 26 July-8 Aug. + (DW, mo.b.); Spfld (subad.), 4-9 June (\*DB); Turkey Bluffs F&WA (Randolph Co) (2), 2 June (SB fide MW); GCSP (ad.), 18 May+ (CH).

#### Bald Eagle

**Nesting:** At least 30 active nests reported by May (of which 14 are new in 1998) (JH). Some include: Jo Daviess County (8 active nests - 14 fledglings); (EA); Carroll County (1 active nest - 2 fledglings) (EA); Marshall County (2 nests, 2 fledglings each), April/June (MSi); Clear L (Mason Co) (2 fledglings), June/July (RBj); LChau (attempted, but nest blown down) (RBj); Fulton County (1 fledgling), June (AM); Carl.L. (Bond Co) (2 fledglings) (DK); Wabash County (ad. & yg.), 12 July (LH); Randolph County (1 fledgling), 17 July (DT); UCCA (3 nests) (KM); Little Black Slough (Johnson Co) (1 fledgling), June (MG); Cypress Creek N.W.R. (1 fledgling), (MG); HLCA (1 nest) (KM). **Others:** n. Winnebago County (pr.), June/July (DW); Chi (Montrose Beach) (imm.), 22 July (JL); Chi (Wolf L) (imm.), 29 July (DSt); Spfld (ad.), 4 June and (subad.), 10 June (for first Sangamon County summer records) (DB); Jasper County (subad.), 16 June (LH); Pere Marquette S.P. (ad.), 20 July (KM).

#### Northern Harrier

**Nesting:** PRSNA (6 nests), May/July (JW, EK, et al.); east of Vienna (Johnson Co) (nest w/ 6 eggs) (LM fide MW). **Others:** SAD, June/July (KMc); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (pr.), 29 May-7 June (AH); Arrowhead (McLean Co) (female), 24 June (VK); Effingham County (female), 9 July (LH); Beckemeyer (Clinton Co), 14 July (DK); Kidd L., 27 July (DK); s.w. Franklin County (pr.), 21-24 June (LS).

### Sharp-shinned Hawk

**N.B.S.O.:** Monroe County, 27 July (KM); Chester (Randolph Co)(ad.), 17 June (DN, DT).

### Cooper's Hawk

**Nesting:** Evanston, 12 Apr.-9 May (before abandoning) (EW, JE); Deer Grove F.P. (Cook Co) (2 yg. in nest), mid-May (CF); Chi (Egger's Woods) (female incubating), 8 May (DSt) and (pr. w/ 2yg.), June/July (MW); Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co) (ad. & yg.), 6 July (WM); Normal (nest w/ yg.), 6-8 July (DBi fide MF); Champaign (female and recent fledgling near nest), 25 July (RC); Spfld (2 yg. in nest), 9 June (DB); Pomona (Jackson Co) (territorial pr.), April/May (KM); Pine Hills (Union Co) (territorial pr.), April/May (KM). **Others:** SAD, June/July (KMc); n.e. Carroll County ad.), 13 June (DW); Stickney Run C.A. (McHenry Co) (pr.), May/July (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (pr.), May/July (MW); Ryerson C.A. (Lake Co), 27 May (EW); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (ad.), 27 June (AA); Palos (Swallow Cliffs F.P.) (2), 4 June (DSt); Westchester (Cook Co), 12 June (DSt); Walnut (Bureau Co) (ad.), 29 July (SB fide MW); KCP, 20 June (TC); Urbana, 27 June (RC); Jasper County, 12 June (LH); s. Coles County (ad.), mid July (EB fide BH); Charleston (ad.), 28 June (BH); Spfld (3 territories - incl. nest above), April/June (DB); s. Morgan County (pr.), June (MW); Fieldon (Jersey Co) (ad.), mid July (SB fide MW); Red Hills S.P. (Lawrence Co), 15 July (LH).

### Red-shouldered Hawk

**Nesting:** SRSP, 7 June (DS); Chauncey Marsh (Lawrence Co) (ad. & 4 fledglings), 16 June (JW, EK); Dixon Springs S.P. (Pope Co) (nest w/ 3 yg.), June/July (LM fide MW). **Others:** Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co) (2), 27 June (KMc); Durand (Winnebago Co), June/July (DW); e. Sangamon County (imm.), 18 July (DB); Richview (Washington Co) (ad.), 8 June (SB fide MW); Monroe County, 25 June (KM); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (ad.), early June (SB fide MW).

### Broad-winged Hawk

Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co) (heard), 3 July (CF); Palos (Swallow Cliff F.P.) (2, suggested nest building), mid-May/June (DSt); Belle Smith Springs (Pope Co) (pr.), May/July (fide MW).

### Swainson's Hawk

s.e. McHenry County (1-2 ad.), 27 June-10 Aug. (AS, SD, RBa); n.e. Kane County (2 - ad. & imm.), 27 June (VB).

### Red-tailed Hawk

**Nesting:** s.w. Cook County (7 nests), Apr./June (WS); MNTG (3 nests fledging 2 yg. each), May/June (DSt); Homer (Vermilion Co) (2 successful nests), May/June (JS); s.w. Jasper County (3 nests), April/June (JW, EK). (**Krider's**) - Barrington Hills (Cook Co), 27 June (AA).

### American Kestrel

**M.C.:** 20 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 16, Livingston County,

21 July (DSt); 11, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 11, Spfld, 27 June (DB); 9, De Kalb County, 8 July (DS).

### Peregrine Falcon

**Nesting:** Chi (7 nests; 13 yg. fledged from 5 of those nests) (fide SL); E.St.L (yg. in nest, success not known) (fide SL). **N.B.S.O.:** Rockford (ad.), 4 July (fide DW); LCal (Big Marsh) (ad.), 1 July (WM); Hopedale (Tazewell Co) (injured ad. w/ two bands); sent to U of I wildlife medical ward for treatment, 10 July (MSi et al.); Spfld (ad. chasing pigeons), 23 July (DB).

### Gray Partridge

Utica (La Salle County) (3), 1 Aug. (DS); Kendall County (2), 7 June (CM, JMc).

### Ring-necked Pheasant

The 1998 statewide spring pheasant call index (results from 50 census routes) declined 12% compared to the 1997 index and was 42% below the previous 5-year mean, and 36% below the 1975-1998 mean; however, the August brood index (from most of the same routes) increased 5% over the 1997 results after a 50% decline in 1996 and another 15% decline in 1997 (LD). **M.C.:** 51, Fairland B., S. (Champaign/Piatt Cos), 3 June (RC); 50, Monticello B.B.S. (Piatt/McLean Cos), 10 June (RC); 27, Dailey B., S. (Vermilion Co), 26 June (VK).

### Greater Prairie-Chicken

**Nesting:** PRSNA (9 nests & 19 broods: 1-13 yg./brood), April/July (JW, EK et al.).

### Wild Turkey

**Nesting:** Freeport (Stephenson Co) (female & 8 yg.), 7 Aug. (DW); McHenry County (2 prs.), 14 June (DW); GLPSP (8 eggs), May (SB fide MW); Athens (Menard Co) (2 ad., 14 large yg.), 4 Aug. (VK); Sang.L (12 yg.), 1 Aug. (DB); PRSNA (1 nest), May (JW, EK); Washington County (ad. w/ yg.), 8 June (SB fide MW); Mermet L.C.A. (2 ad., 7 yg.), 18 July (RC). **Others:** Kendall County (5), 30 May (DS); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (5), 13 June (RC); Jasper County (3), 7 June (RC); Madison County, 25 June (KM).

### Northern Bobwhite

**Nesting:** PRSNA (2 nests), May/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 69, Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 51, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 44, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM); 40, Stillwell B.B.S. (Hancock Co), 10 June (VK); 37, Beaverdam L. B.B.S. (Pope Co), 17 June (VK); 36, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 33, Burnt Prairie B.B.S. (White Co), 2 June (VK); 29, Spfld, 17 June (DB); 28, Camp Point B.B.S. (Adams Co), 9 June (VK); 27, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 25, St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); 25, Belknap B.B.S. (Johnson Co), 5 June (VK); 21, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc). **Others:** Winnebago County (3), 30 May (DW); Boone County, 14 June (DW). **Annual Bobwhite Call Count Results:** The Statewide June call index showed an increase of 9% since 1997, but is still 18% below the mean of the past 5 years and 23% below the mean of the past 23 years (LD).



An adult Mississippi Kite was seen at Rock Cut State Park in Winnebago County from 26 July through 16 August 1998. Daniel T. Williams took these two photos on 1 August 1998.



### King Rail

**Nesting:** PRSNA (2 broods of up to 3 yg.), June/July (JW, EK).  
**Others:** GLPSP, 20 June (JnM) and 4 Aug. (SB fide MW); ICCA, 3 July (RC); e. Hancock County (pr.), 10 July (SB fide MW); Wabash County (ad.), 3 July (LH).

### Virginia Rail

Stickney Run C.A. (McHenry Co) (pr.), thru June (MW); Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (pr.), thru June (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (3), thru June (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co), thru May (MW); GLPSP, 23 June (JH, BG) and 4 Aug. (SB fide MW).

### Sora

Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (pr.), thru May (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (pr.), June (MW); GLPSP (2), 1 June (JH, BG) and (4), 5 Aug. (SB fide MW); e. La Salle County, 21 June (DSt); Jasper County (male calling), 9 June (LH); Lawrence County, 15 July (LH).

### PURPLE GALLINULE

**Nesting:** Mermel L.C.A. (Massac Co) (4 ads., one nest located, 2 broods of 1-4 yg. observed), 11 July-9 Aug.+ (\*FB - video, m.ob.) See article in this issue. **Others:** Dow (Jersey Co) (ad. found injured), 28 June (died, 30 June) (FH); \*\*specimen now at Illinois State Museum).

### Common Moorhen

**Nesting:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (ad. w/ 3 yg.), 17 July (SD, LK) and (pr. w/ 5 yg.), 11 Aug. (EW); Stickney Run C.A. (McHenry Co) (pr. w/ yg.), June/July (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 pr. w/ 4 yg.), June/July (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (2+ pr., w/ 4 yg.), June/July (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (2 pr. w/ 16 yg.), June/July (MW); Wadsworth (Lake Co) (pr. w/ 8 yg.), June/July (MW); Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (5 broods = 28 yg.), 22-29 Aug. (EW); LCal (5 broods = 25 yg. + 1 nest) 17 June- early Aug. (WM, DSt); Chi (Eggers Woods) (2 broods = 5 yg.), 17 Aug. (DSt); Beardstown Marsh (Cass Co) (family), July-19 Aug. (MW, PW). **Others:** LCal (area) (3 supplemental sites with 1 or more ads.), June/July (WM); Arcola (Douglas Co), 18 July (RC).

### American Coot

**Nesting:** McHenry/Lake County line (4 pr., w/ yg.), mid July (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (2 broods = 12 yg.), June/July (MW); Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (14 yg.), 22 Aug. (EW); Chi (Eggers Woods) (2 pr., 4 yg.), May/July (MW); LCal (Hegewisch Marsh) (2 broods = 9 yg.), 3 July (WM); Riverdale (Cook Co) (2 broods = 4 yg.), 9 July (WM); Decatur (dredge ponds) (20 ads. & 40 yg.), 17-31 July+ (MD). **Others:** McHenry/Lake County line (5 prs. with 20-25 yg.), 27 July (SD); Chi (Eggers Woods) (9 ads.), 1 July (WM); Heyworth (McLean Co), 7 June (MF); Sangamon County (+), June/July, with max. count (6), 3 June (DB); Arcola (Douglas Co) (4), 21 June and (1), thru 18 July (RC); Jasper County (2), 12 June (LH); Wabash County (2), 3 July (LH); HL, 20 June-2 July (FH); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (7), early June (SB fide MW).

### Sandhill Crane

**Nesting:** Stickney Run C.A. (McHenry Co) (2+ pr.), thru May (MW); Almond Marsh (Lake Co) (nest: failed), 25 Apr. (MW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (pr. w/ yg.), May/July (MW); Lake Villa (Lake Co) (nest, predated), May (MW); DPRWDP (2 ad. w/ yg.), 25 July (AS); Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (2 pr. = 3 yg.), 22 Aug. (EW); Wauk, (2 yg.), 11 May (RB). **Others:** Fulton N.P. (Carroll Co) (6), June/July (KMc); Winnebago County (2 prs.), June/July (DW); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (pr.), 17 June (CF); Marshall County (pr.), April/July (present since fall of 1997) (MSi, LR et al.).

### Killdeer

**Nesting:** Jo Daviess County (newly hatched yg.), 24 July (DW); Sangamon County (11 broods), 1 May-31 July (DB). **M.C.:** 171, Spfld, 30 June (DB); 102, LCNP, 12 July (CM, JMc); 87, Livingston County, 21 July (DSt); 60 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 55, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 55, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark

Cos), 23 June (KMc); 37, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 6 June (RC); 29, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 22, Heyworth (McLean Co), 13 July (MF, TBu).

### Black-necked Stilt

**Nesting:** n.e. Massac County (nest w/ 4 eggs; nest flooded out just prior to hatching), 1-5 June (FB, VK, CH - photo); s.w. Jackson County (2), 28 July-2 Aug. (RhM, m.ob.) then (2 ad., 2 medium-sized yg.), 22-29 Aug. (RhM, LWr et al.). **Others:** E. Cape Girardeau (Alexander Co) (ad.), 19 July (MR et al.).

### Spotted Sandpiper

**Nesting:** Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co) (6 ads., 2 downy yg.), 6 July (CF); LCal (yg.), 7 June (CA); LCNP (2 ad., 3 yg.), 5 July (CM, JMc). **M.C.:** 16 (ads.), LCal, June/July (WM). **Others:** Palatine (Cook Co) (1-2 pr.), mid-May to Mid July (CF); LChau (6), 16 July (RBj).

### Upland Sandpiper

**Nesting:** MNTP (50 prs.), May/July (BD); Decatur (airport) (pr. w/ 3 yg.), 12-31 July (MD); PRSNA (5 prs., 3 nests located), May/July (JW, EK et al.). **Others:** SAD (15 max.), June/July (KMc); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (2 ad.), thru 12 June (AH); Earlville (La Salle Co) (pr.), June/July (CM fide DS); Carthage (Hancock Co) (ad.), 10 June (VK); e. Hancock County (ad.), 17 June (AMO); Savoy (Champaign Co) (2 prs. distraction displays), 14 June, but only 2 males remained after flooding, 21 June (RC); Charleston (airport) (present through at least 28 May (BH); Sparta (Randolph Co), 19 July (\*TD).

### White-rumped Sandpiper

**N.B.S.O.:** Spfld, 30 June (DB).

### Common Snipe

GLPSP (2 ad.), 20 June (AS) and (2), 4 Aug. (SB fide MW); e. La Salle County, 21 June (DSt).

### American Woodcock

**Nesting:** IBSP (8 - incl, 3 yg.), 27 June (EW, JE); MNTP (ad. w/ 3 yg.), 8 June (DSt); Spfld (4 yg.), 1 May (DB); Newton L (nest w/ 4 eggs), 7 Mar. (LH et al.); PRSNA (3 nests), April/May (JW, EK). **Others:** Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (3), 17 June (CF); Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 5 July (CF) and (3), 23 July (MW); LCal (2), 8 July (WM); Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 6 June (WM); Zander Woods (s. Cook Co), 13 June & 26 July (WM); Calumet City Prairie (Cook Co), 14 June (WM); Lone Grove F.P. (Kane Co), 26 June (DS); GLPSP, 23 June (JH, BG).

### Parasitic Jaeger

**N.B.S.O.** Spfld (2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup>-year bird chasing Forster's Terns and Ring-billed Gulls), 22-23 June (\*DB).

### Laughing Gull

**N.B.S.O.:** Evanston (ad.), 16 July (JB fide DSt); Chi (ad.), 28 May-5 July (MB fide WM); Spfld (subad.), 16 June, then (ad.), 20-23 June & 22 July and (imm.), 30 June (DB).

### Bonaparte's Gull

**N.B.S.O.:** IBSP (ad. & imm.), 25 July+ (AS); LCNP (1<sup>st</sup>-year), 12 July (CM, JMc); Spfld (imm.), 17 & 21 June (DB).

### Ring-billed Gull

**Nesting:** Wauk (est. 580 nests), 31 May (EW); LCal (colony estimated at around 12,000 nests; juveniles 1<sup>st</sup> noted, 27 June (JL), (72 road-killed along Stony Avenue), 28 June (WM); LCNP (1 unsuccessful nest, may attempt again in the future), 7 June (CM, JMc). **N.B.S.O.:** Hampton (Rock Island Co) (250), June/July (KMc); LCNP (72 -- 22 ad., 50 subad.), June/July (CM, JMc); LChau (est. 254), 16 July (RBj); Spfld (50+), June (DB); HL (185), 17 July (KM). **M.C.** (away from known colonies): 200, Spfld, 15 July (DB).

### Meadowlark



## CALIFORNIA GULL

Spfld (1<sup>st</sup> summer bird), thru 14 June (DB—w/ possible video tape available).

### Herring Gull

**Nesting:** Baker's L (Cook Co) (pr. nesting building to 1 fledgling), 30 May-mid-July (CF); LCal (colony estimated at less than 200 nests; juveniles 1<sup>st</sup> noted, 27 June) (JL); **N.B.S.O.:** LCNP (8 subad.), 7 June (CM, JMc); LShel (Moultrie Co) (ad.), 5 July (RC).

### Great Black-backed Gull

**N.B.S.O.:** Chi (Grant Park) (1<sup>st</sup>-summer), 20 & 22 July (DSt).

### Caspian Tern

**N.B.S.O.:** Redwing Slough (Lake Co) (10 ad. & 16 fledged yg. -- but no evidence of local breeding), July (MW); IBSP (8, 12 & 12), 4, 11 & 25 July, resp. (AS); Wauk (6), 4 July (AS);

Baker's L (Cook Co) (3 & 14), 4 & -- late July, resp. (CF); Chi (lakefront), June/July, but juveniles appeared, 24 July (JL); Chi (Wolf L) (8 & 6), 5 & 10-16 June, resp. (DSt); LCal (1-2 ads.) June/July (WM); Spfld (+), 20-22 June (DB).

### Common Tern

**Nesting:** Wauk (20 ad., 7 fledged yg.), 13-27 July (DD, AHo). **Others:** IBSP (12), 11 July (AS).

### Forster's Tern

**N.B.S.O.:** Baker's L (Cook Co), 11 July (CF); Evanston, 30 June (JE); Spfld, 22 June (DB).

### Least Tern

**Possible nesting:** w. Alexander County (ad.), 18 July (RC); Wabash River (Wabash Co) (ad. carrying food), 3 July and (4-5 birds incl. 1 yg.), 18-19 July (LH). **N.B.S.O.:** Newton L (Jasper Co) (ad.), 15 June (JW, \*EK); Fountain Creek (Monroe Co), 1 July (DK); Spfld (ad.), 19 June (DB).

### Black Tern

**Nesting:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (60 nests), June (EW); Broberg Marsh (Lake Co) (20 pr. + nests), June/July (MW). **Others:** Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (2), 5 July (AS); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (2), 17 June (CF).

## EURASIAN COLLARED-DOVE

**Nesting:** Chi (Lincoln Park—Montrose), 1<sup>st</sup> noted in April and by 27 July had undergone 4 unsuccessful nesting attempts (JL, m.ob.); Nokomis (Montgomery Co) (10, including yg.), 22 June (MR). **Others:** Grand Ridge (La Salle Co) (pr.), 5-6 June (CM, JMc); Carrollton (Greene Co), June/July (basically all spring and summer, 1<sup>st</sup> noted there 2 years ago) (\*HW, JD—photo).

## WHITE-WINGED DOVE

**FIRST ILLINOIS RECORD:** Homer (Vermilion Co) (heard and seen), 22 July (\*JS—photos). See article in this issue.

### Mourning Dove

**Nesting:** Newton L (43 nests), April/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 200, Monroe County, 27 July K+(KM); 104, Spfld, 30 July (DB); 98, Livingston County, 21 July (DSt); 93, Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 73, Belknap B.B.S. (Johnson Co), 5 June (VK); 52, Pulaski B.B.S. (Pulaski/Alexander Cos), 3 June (VK); 50, Burnt Prairie B.B.S./ (White Co), 2 June (VK).

### Black-billed Cuckoo

Chi (Wolf L), 16 June (DSt); LMSF, 6 June (JnM); LCal, 28 July (JL); KCP, 20 June (RC); Chauncey Marsh (Lawrence Co) (+) June



*Eurasian Collared-Doves at Montrose Harbor, Cook County, 13 June 1998. Photo by Eric Walters.*



(JW, EK). **N.B.S.O.:** Mermet L (Massac Co) (ad.), 25 July (DJ et al.).

### Yellow-billed Cuckoo

**M.C.:** 18, Fayetteville (St. Clair Co), early June (SB fide MW); 12, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM); 11, Spfld, 17 June (DB); 10, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 6, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 29 June (KMc); 5, KCP, 20 June (RC).

### Barn Owl

**Nesting:** S.e. Christian County (2 yg. ready to fledge), 4 Aug. (JWi, et al.); s.e. Union County (3 yg. in a silo), 16 May (CH et al.), some birds present thru July (m.ob.). **Others:** Specimen (female) (presumed of local origin) picked up in Clark County in August (\*\*fide RS).

### Eastern Screech-Owl

**Nesting:** Urbana (ad. & 2 yg.), 10 June (RC); Homer (Vermilion Co) (3 yg. fledged), May (JS).

### Great Horned Owl

**Nesting:** s.w. Jasper County (3 nests), April/May (JW, EK).

### Barred Owl

**Nesting:** Mackinaw SF&WA (ad. w/ yg.), 7 June (MF). **M.C.:** 6, Washington County C.A., 9 June (SB fide MW).

### Short-eared Owl

**Nesting:** PRSNA (3 nests—1st known since 1994), April/June (JW, EK et al.).

### Common Nighthawk

SRSF (7 est. territories), 8 June (RBj). Very scarce in several areas.

### Chuck-will's-widow

SRSF (3 territories), 8 June (RBj); Randolph County C.A. (2 males), 2 June (SB fide MW); Lake Murphysboro S.P. (Jackson Co) (2 males), 2 June (SB fide MW).

### Whip-poor-will

Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (male), 19 June (AH); SRSF (134 est. territories), 8 June (RBj); Washington County C.A. (22 males), 9 June (SB fide MW); Randolph County C.A. (30+ males), 2 June (SB fide MW). Disappearing from Sangamon County (DB).

### Chimney Swift

**M.C.:** 250, Spfld, 5 June (DB); 100, HL, 15 June (KM). **Others:** 50-100 road-kills during inclement weather at Springfield dam, 3-5 June (DB).



**Ruby-throated Hummingbird**

**M.C.:** 15 (at feeders), W, Frankfort, 28 July (LS); 12, Johnson County, 28 July (KM); 9 (7 males, 2 females), KCP, 20 June (RC). **Others:** Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co) (male), 15 July (WM); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 26 July (WM).

**Belted Kingfisher**

**M.C.:** 8, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 6, Sang., 29 July (DB).

**Red-headed Woodpecker**

**Nesting:** Cuba Marsh (Lake Co) (pr. feeding yg.), 4 & 11 July (CF); e. Sangamon County (several yg.), 12 July+ (DB); Homer (Vermilion Co) (2 successful nests), May/June (JS). **M.C.:** 20 & 10, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 12 & 11 July, resp. (KMc); 9, Palos (2 locations), 2 July (DSt); 7, Spfld, 7 June & 29 July (DB); 7, Pere Marquette S.P., 20 July (KM). **Others:** Upper Illinois River valley –no immatures this summer (DS).

**Red-bellied Woodpecker**

**M.C.:** 19, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 18 July (KMc); 17, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 15, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 13, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 13, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker**

SAD (2), June/July (KMc); MPSP, 10 June (KMc).

**Downy Woodpecker**

**M.C.:** 33, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 19, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 12 July (KMc); 12, Spfld, 7 June (DB).

**Hairy Woodpecker**

**Nesting:** Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co) (male feeding yg.), 7 June (CF). **M.C.:** 10, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 7, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 29 June (KMc); 5, Spfld, 13 June (DB); 3, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF).

**Northern Flicker**

**M.C.:** 27, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 15 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 12, Spfld, 21 June (DB).

**Pileated Woodpecker**

**Nesting:** Spfld (Riverside Park) (yg.), 16 July (DB). **M.C.:** 6 & 5, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 29 June & 18 July, resp. (KMc); 5, GLPSP, 10 July (SB fide MW); 4 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 4, Spfld, 7 June & 16 July (DB); 4, Fayetteville (St. Clair Co), early June (SB fide MW).

**Eastern Wood-Pewee**

**M.C.:** 30, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 20+ (males), Iroquois Co. C.A., 3 July (RC); 18, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 16, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF); 12, Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), in June (WM); 12 & 11, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 & 12 July, resp. (KMc); 11, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 10, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF).

**Acadian Flycatcher**

Rockford (5), June/July (DW); McClaughry Springs F.P. (Cook Co), 6 June (CA) & 30 June (DSt); Redgate Woods F.P. (Cook Co), 8 July (DSt); Green L.F.P. (Cook Co), 16 June (DSt); LMSF (4), 14 June (JnM); Fieldon (Jersey Co) (10), 12 June (SB fide MW); Hoyleton (Washington Co) (7 males), 9 June (SB fide MW); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (12), early June (SB fide MW); Mermel L.C.A. (4), 16 July (KM).

**Alder Flycatcher**

N.B.S.O.: Barrington Hills (Cook Co) (male), 27 June (AA).

**Willow Flycatcher**

**Nesting:** IBSP (3 territories), 27 June (EW, JE); Chi (Wolf L) (pr. feeding 2 recent fledglings), 5 Aug. (DSt); PRSNA (1 nest), July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 18 (14 males), LCal, in June (WM); 14, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 13 (males), Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 6 June (WM);

6, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF); 6 (5 males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co), 14 June (WM); 6 (males), KCP, 20 June (RC); 5 (males), Chi (Wolf L), 20 June (WM); 5, Duffy F.P. (s.w. Cook Co), 8 June (CT); 5 (males), ICCA, 8 June (JH); 4 (males), Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos), 29 May-13 June (AH); 4, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 4, Spfld, 7 June (DB). **Others:** Laura (Peoria Co) (3 males), 22 July (SB fide MW); e. Scott County (2 pr.), 3 July (SB fide MW); Oakdale (Washington Co) (3 males), 5-10 June (SB fide MW); Frank Holton S.P. (St. Clair Co) (2), 29 July (KM). Good numbers in likely habitat in Winnebago County (DW), De Kalb, La Salle, Kane, Kendall and Lee counties (DS).

**Least Flycatcher**

LCal (male), 28 July (JL); ICCA (Male), 3 July (RC).

**Eastern Phoebe**

**Nesting:** Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (2 recently fledged yg.), 22 Aug. (EW). **M.C.:** 9, MNTP, 8 June (DSt).

**Great Crested Flycatcher**

**M.C.:** 21, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 19, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 July (KMc); 15 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 12, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 7, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF).

**Western Kingbird**

**Nesting:** Spfld (apparent nesting), August (DB); Granite City (Madison Co) (10 –

3 family groups), 29 July (KM, et al.). **Others:** MNTP (ad.), 4-12 July (\*CM, JMc, RC).

**Eastern Kingbird**

**Nesting:** PRSNA (4 nests), June/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 38 & 36, MNTP, 24 July & 8 June, resp. (DSt); 20 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 19, Spfld, 15 & 15 July (DB); 13, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM).

**Loggerhead Shrike**

**Nesting:** SAD (territory), 16 May (EW); MNTP (10 nests, 8 successful), May/July (BD); Arrowsmith (McLean Co – 1st county record since 1982) (3 ad. w/ yg.), 24-25 July (MR, MF); PRSNA and vicinity (13 nests, 20 territories), April/July (JW, EK et al.); Randolph/Monroe County line (ads. feeding yg.), 12 Aug. (RhM, CH). **M.C.:** 26, s.w. Jasper County, 23 July (JW, EK); 15 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 6, MNTP, 24 July (DSt). **Others:** SAD, 3 & 30 June (JH); Ayer's N.P. (Carroll Co) (2), June/July (KMc); Leland (De Kalb Co), 26 & 31 July (DS); Livingston County, 21 July (DSt); Laura (Peoria Co), 22 July (SB fide MW); Mason County (2 pr.), 18-21 July (SB fide MW); Cass County, 22 June (JH); Sangamon County (imm.), 15 July (DB); Louisville (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); Carl L. area (4-6 daily), June/July (DK).

**White-eyed Vireo**

**Nesting:** Sang.L. (yg.), 24 July (DB). **Others:** Rockford (1-3), June (DW); Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (male), June (MW); LCal (2 males), 17 June-8 July (WM); Chi (Wolf L) (male), 20 June (WM); DPCA (1-2 males), 14 June-3 July (AS); KCP (male), 20 June (RC); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (3 males), early June (SB fide MW).

**Bell's Vireo**

**Nesting:** MNTP (24 nests, mostly unsuccessful), May/July (CW fide BD); Sang.L. (ads. w/ food for yg.), 18 June (DB); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (female on nest), 13 June (RC); Urbana (fledglings present), 4 July (RC). **Others:** SAD (2), June/July (KMc); GRCA (2+ pr.), 29 July (SB fide MW); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (male), thru 26 June (AH); GLPSP (2 males), 10 July (SB fide MW); MNTP (5), 24 July (DSt); DPCA (6 males), 14 June (JnM) and (2 males), 3 July (AS); Braidwood, 19 June (DSt); ICCA (2), 8 June (JH); McCune Sand Prairie (Bureau Co), 19 July (CM, JMc);

Prairie City (Fulton Co) (3 males), 16 July (SB fide MW); KCP (4 males), 20 June (RC); s. Morgan County (2 pr.), June (MW); e. Scott County (5 males), 3 July (SB fide MW); Carl L. (4), 25 June (DK); Oakdale (Washington Co) (male), 5-10 June (SB fide MW); Frank Holton S.P. (St. Clair Co) (2), 19 July (KM).

#### Yellow-throated Vireo

**M.C.:** 11 & 7, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 29 June & 12 July, resp. (KMc); 7 (males), KCP, 20 June (RC); 6, Palos, 2 July (DSt). **Others:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (male singing atypical song), 17 July (SD, LK); Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (1-3), 12-23 June (SH); three s.w. Cook County locations (9), 2-8 June (WS).

#### Blue-headed Vireo

**N.B.S.O.:** SAD, 8 June (KMc).



*Northern Rough-winged Swallow near nest site at Wilmette's Gillson Park in Cook County. Photo taken 25 May 1998 by Eric Walters.*

#### Warbling Vireo

**M.C.:** 35 & 17 LCal (area), 27 May & 16 June, resp. (DSt); 17 (14 males & 1 fledgling), Chi (Wolf L), 20 June (WM); 11, Spfld, 27 June (DB); 10 (males), Chi (Eggers Woods), 7 June (WM); 9, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc); 9 (males), Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 27 June (WM).

#### Red-eyed Vireo

**M.C.:** 33, Palos (3 locations), 8 July (DSt); 24, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 15, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF); 10, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF).

#### Blue Jay

**M.C.:** 66, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 38, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 23 (+ ad, feeding 3 yg.), Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF); 22, Spfld, 22 July (DB); 17, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM).

#### American Crow

**M.C.:** 150 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 70, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc); 60, St. Clair County, 28 July (KM); 54, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 50, Spfld, 23 July (DB); 43, Pontiac B.B.S. (Livingston Co), 12 June (VK); 42, Beaverdam L.B.B.S. (Pope Co), 17 June (VK); 40, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 35, Camp Point B.B.S. (Adams Co), 9 June (VK); 33, Pulaski B.B.S. (Pulaski/Alexander Co), 3 June (VK); 33, Stillwell B.B.S. (Hancock Co), 10 June (VK); 32, Bartonville B.B.S. (Peoria Co), 24 June (VK).

#### Fish Crow

Chain-of-Rocks (Madison Co) (2), 17 July (KM); Evansville (Randolph Co) (5), 20 May (DN).

#### Horned Lark

**M.C.:** 210, Livingston County, 21 July (DSt); 184, Monticello B.B.S. (Piatt/McLean Cos), 10 June (RC); 180, Fairland B.B.S. (Champaign/Piatt Cos), 3 June (RC).

#### Purple Martin

**M.C.:** 515+, Jersey County, 20 July (KM).

#### Tree Swallow

**Nesting:** MFP (2 yg.), 20 June (RC); Homer (Vermilion Co) (7 successful broods on farm), May/June (JS); Sang.L (only 1 pr.), 26 June (DB); Cache River Wetlands (Union/Pulaski Cos) (5 nest boxes used), May/July (JHo fide MW). **M.C.:** 302, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 July (KMc); 52, Spfld, 21 July (DB).

#### Northern Rough-winged Swallow

**M.C.:** 157 (including many yg.), nest at Gillson Park, (Cook Co), 25 May (EW); MNTP, 9 July (DSt); 151, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 18 July (KMc).

#### Bank Swallow

**Nesting:** JP (active colony but no success data) (PC); LCal (190 holes), 12 July (WM); Lacon (Marshall Co) (22 holes), 10 June (VK); Dallas City (Henderson Co) (200 holes), 10 June (VK); e. Sangamon County (30 holes), June (DB). **Others:** GLNTC (110, many yg.), 3 July (EW); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (several), 27 June (AA); Pere Marquette S.P. (250), 20 July (KM).

#### Cliff Swallow

**Nesting:** Apple River Canyon S.P. (Jo Daviess Co) (64 nests), 30 July (DW); GLNTC (81 nests - largest known n.e. Ill. Colony), 31 May (EW); Sagawashkee Slough (Cook Co) (12 nests), 2 June (WS); Kankakee County (8+ nests), 3 July (RC); L. Bloomington (20 nests), 7 June (MF); Cheneyville (Vermilion Co) (pr. w/ nest -- 1<sup>st</sup> nest in county in decades), 5 July (SB fide MW); Spfld (yg.), 20 June (DB); Sang.L (+), June (DB); Evansville (Randolph Co) (@ 400 nests), 20 May (DN).

#### Barn Swallow

**M.C.:** 185, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 100, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 18 July (KMc); 92, LCal (area), 5 June (DSt); 81, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc). **Others:** "Albino", Carrollton (Greene Co), 26 July (SG).

#### Carolina Chickadee

**Nesting:** A male (a hatching-year bird color-banded in 1986, now 12+ years of age), successfully paired with the same color-banded female (banded in 1996) to raise a brood in the same box in Coles County for the 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive year (BH); Cache River Wetlands (Union/Pulaski Cos) (10 nest boxes used), May/July (JHo fide MW).

#### Black-capped Chickadee

**Nesting:** Spfld (fledged yg.), 28 Mar. (DB). **M.C.:** 49, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF); 43, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 27, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 22, Spfld, 13 June (DB).

#### Tufted Titmouse

**Nesting:** McClaughry Springs F.P. (Cook Co) (pr. w/3 yg.), 14 June (CT). **M.C.:** 38, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 25, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 16, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF); 13, Palos (2 locations), 2 July (DSt). **Others:** IBSP, 11 July (AS); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (7), during June (WM).

### Red-breasted Nuthatch

**N.B.S.O.:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (ad.), 12 June (MW); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (pr.), 16-23 June (CF et al.),

### White-breasted Nuthatch

**M.C.:** 24, Palos (3 locations), 30 June (DSt); 13, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF).

### Brown Creeper

**Nesting:** Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co) (nest building), 14 May (later abandoned), but (singing male), 4 June (DSt). **Others:** Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co) (4) 19 July (KMc); Brussels Ferry (Calhoun Co) (male), 11 June (SB fide MW). None located in Sangamon County this year (DB).

### Carolina Wren

**Nesting:** Cache River Wetlands (Union/Pulaski Cos) (55 nest boxes used), April/July (JHo fide MW). **M.C.:** 15, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 8, St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); 5, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC). **Others:** IBSP, 18 June (AS); LCal (2 males), 12 July (RC); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (3 -- 2 males), 25 July (WM).

### Bewick's Wren

Sanganois C.A. (male), 15 July (DBi, fide MF); Siloam Springs S.P. (Brown/Adams Co) (2 successful nests -- presumed by same pr.) 5 June-26 July (JFu, SB fide MW, DJ, m.ob.).

### House Wren

**Nesting:** Homer (Vermilion Co) (35 broods produced), April thru early August (JS). **M.C.:** 54, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 31, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 36, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 19 July (KMc); 29, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 27 (23 males), LCal, June/July (WM); 27, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 14 June (RC); 25, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc); 21, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 27 June (KMc); 20 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 15, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 13, St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); 12, Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC).

### Sedge Wren

**M.C.:** 250, PRSNA, 20 July (JW, EK); 60+ (males), ICCA, 3 July (RC), and (21), 8 June (JH); 35+, GLPSP, 10 July (SB fide MW); 28, MNTP, 28 May (JH); 20+, GRCA, 29 July (SB fide MW); 20, Rock Cut S.P. & Kieselburg F.P. (Winnebago Co), 19 July (DW). **Others:** Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (8 males), 5 July (AS); Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co) (6), 10 June (CF); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (male), 27 June (AA); Deer Grove E. F.P. (Cook Co) (several), 27 June (AA); Orlanda (Cook Co) (3), 26 July (CT); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (increasing to 16 males), 17 July (AH); Franklin Grove (Lee Co) (7), 30 July (SB fide MW); Shabbona L.S.P. (De Kalb Co) (8), 31 July (DS); GLPSP (13 & 10), 17 July (JH) & 4 Aug. (SB fide MW), resp.; Mathiessen S.P. (La Salle Co) (11 males), 18-26 July (CM, JMc); c. Hancock County (5 males), 26 June (SB fide MW); n.e. Hancock County (8 males), 9 July (SB fide MW); Laura (Peoria Co) (16 males), 22 July (SB fide MW); Saybrook (McLean Co) (18 males), 24 July (MR); Clin.L ("numerous" in prairie restoration area), 30 July (MD); Hoopston (3 males), 13 July (SB fide MW); Urbana (3), 11 July (RC); Decatur ("numerous"), 31 July (MD); Site M (Cass Co) (10), 1 July (JH); Charleston (+), July (BH); Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co) (2), 6 June (RC); Brighton (Jersey Co) (10), 18 July (DK); Chain-of-Rocks (Madison Co) (3), 17 July (KM).

### Marsh Wren

**Nesting:** Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (recently fledged yg.), 22 Aug. (EW). **M.C.:** 29 (males), LCal, June/July (WM); 13 (males), Chi (Eggers Woods), 1 July (WM); 12, Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 16 June (DSt); 11 (males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co), 14 June (WM); 10+ (males), LCal, 12 July (RC); 8, Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 6 June (WM); 6, GLPSP, 1 & 23 June (JH, BG) and 5 Aug. (SB fide MW), resp. **Others:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (3 males),

17 July (SD, LK); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (4+ males), 27 June (AA); Walnut (Bureau Co) (6 males), 29 July (SB fide MW); Decatur (3 males), 31 July (MD).

### Blue-gray Gnatcatcher

**Nesting:** Deer L. F.P. (Lake Co) (ad. feeding recent fledgling), 22 Aug. (EW); McCloughry Springs F.P. (Cook Co) (nest building), 30 May (CA); PRSNA (1 nest), May (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 7, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF). **Others:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (2 males), 17 July (SD, LK); Grainger Woods (Lake Co), 14-15 June (SH); Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co) (7), 14 June (CF); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), 25 July (WM); Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co) (4), 13 June (KM); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (10), early June (SB fide MW). In trouble in Sangamon County (DB).

### Eastern Bluebird

**Nesting:** Homer (Vermilion Co) (200 yg. produced in nest boxes), April thru August (JS). **M.C.:** 20+ pairs, KCP, 20 June (RC); 27, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 22, Spfld, 25 July (DB).

### Veery

Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (2), 14-23 June (SH); Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co) (2), 14 June (CF); Barrington Hills (Cook Co) (male), 27 June (AA); Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co) (13), 30 June (DSt); three s.w. Cook County (6), 2-15 June (WS, CT); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (3 males), 21 June (WM); w. Grundy County, 4 July (CM, JMc); Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF).

### Wood Thrush

**M.C.:** 15, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 14, Green L.F.P. (Cook Co), 16 June (DSt); 10, Grainger Woods (Lake Co), 14-23 June (SH). **Others:** Sand Ridge N.C. (Cook Co) (5), 15 July (WM); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (4), 21 June (WM); Mackinaw SF&WA (5), 7 June (MF); Mahomet (Champaign Co) (5 males), 13 June (RC).

### American Robin

**Nesting:** s.w. Jasper County (49 nests), April (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 163, Monticello B.B.S. (Piatt/McLean Cos), 10 June (RC); 157, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 129, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 118, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 105, LCal, 5 June (DSt); 95, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 93, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc).

### Gray Catbird

**M.C.:** 51 (36 males), LCal, June/July (WM); 30+ (males), ICCA, 3 July (RC); 28, Green L.F.P. (Cook Co), 16 June (DSt); 20, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 18, Spfld, 7 June (DB).

### Northern Mockingbird

**Nesting:** SAD (2 territories), 16 May (EW); Rockford (2 nestings), July (fide DW); PRSNA (19 nests), April-July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 27, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM); 25, Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 20 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 16, St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); 14, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 9, MNTP, 19 June (DSt). **Others:** IBSP, June/July (AS, m.ob.).

### Brown Thrasher

**Nesting:** PRSNA (62 nests), April-July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 30 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 20, MNTP, 19 June (DSt).

### European Starling

**M.C.:** 1300 (roost), LCal (Big Marsh), 13 June (WM); 680 (mostly yg.), MNTP, 8 June (DSt).

### Cedar Waxwing

**Nesting:** Cuba Marsh (Lake Co) (nest-building), 4 July and (incubating), 11 July (CF); St. Charles (Kane Co) (pr. building nest), 10 June (DS); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (nest), 13 June (WM); Sang, L (yg.), 15 July (DB); Homer (Vermilion Co) (nest-building), 30 July (JS). **M.C.:** 50, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 25, Heyworth

(McLean Co), 5 July (TBu, fide MF); 13, Spfld, 20 June (DB); 10, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF).

#### **Blue-winged Warbler**

Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (1-3), 12-23 June (SH); Lyon's Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (male), 27 June-3 July (EW); Duffy F.P. (s.w. Cook Co) (7), 8 June (CT); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (2 separate males), 13 & 21 June, resp. (WM).

#### **Golden-winged Warbler**

**N.B.S.O.:** Lyon's Woods F.P. (Lake Co) (male), 27 June (EW).

#### **Brewster's Warbler**

Duffy F.P. (s.w. Cook Co) (carrying food), 24 June (CT).



*Northern Mockingbird on 27 June 1998. This bird spent the summer at Illinois Beach State Park in Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.*

#### **Northern Parula**

**Nesting:** Pekin (ads, w/ yg.), 6 July (KR, LA). **Others:** Sandy Ford Preserve (La Salle Co) (male), 21 June (DS); Mackinaw SF&WA (4), 7 June (MF); St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co) (2), 25 June (KM).

#### **Yellow Warbler**

**M.C.:** 50 (males), Lcal, June/July (WM); 23 (males), Chi (Wolf L), 20 June (WM); 15 (males), Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 6 June (WM); 13, Duffy F.P. (s.w. Cook Co), 8 June (CT).

#### **Chestnut-sided Warbler**

Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (male), June/July (DW); LMSF (8), 6 June (JnM); Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 10 June (CF); Barrington Hills (Cook Co) (male), 27 June (AA), **N.B.S.O.:** IBS.P., (Lake Co), 27 June, (EW).

#### **Black-throated Green Warbler**

**N.B.S.O.:** Apple River Canyon S.P. (Jo Daviess Co) (male), June/July (DW); Rockford (male), June/July (DW); LMSF (3), 6 June (JnM); Four Lakes Village (Du Page Co) (male), 23 June (fide JF); Charleston (male), 17 June (EB fide BH).

#### **Yellow-throated Warbler**

Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (3 males), June/July (DW); LMSF (4), 6 June (JnM).

#### **Pine Warbler**

SRSF, 28 June (RC).

#### **Prairie Warbler**

**N.B.S.O.:** W.Chi (Du Page Co) (male), 5-11 July (EW).

#### **Cerulean Warbler**

Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co) (2), 29 June (KMc); Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (8 males), June/July (DW); Franklin Creek S.P. (Lee Co) (3), 14 June (DS); Matheisson S.P. (La Salle Co), 7 June (DS); SRSF (2 males), 28 June (RC); Fox Ridge S.P., 6 June (RC); Chauncey Marsh (Lawrence Co) (2 pr.), June (JW, EK).

#### **American Redstart**

**Nesting:** Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co) (nest w/ at least 1 yg.), 17 July (SD). **M.C.:** 20 & 16, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 27 & 29 June, resp. (KMc). **Others:** Barrington Hills (Cook Co) (3 - 2 males and a female), 27 June (AA); Chi (Wolf L) (1<sup>st</sup>-year male), 24 June (WM); St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co) (3), 25 June (KM); Fayetteville (St. Clair Co) (5 males), early June (SB fide MW).

#### **Prothonotary Warbler**

**Nesting:** Spfld (Riverside Park) (yg.), 16 July (DB); Cache River Wetlands (Union/Pulaski Cos) (563 nests, 551 in nest boxes), May/July (JHo fide MW). **M.C.:** 12 & 9, Milan Bottoms (Rock Island Co), 29 June & 12 July, resp. (KMc); 5 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 3, Spfld, 7 June & 19 July (DB); 3, Frank Holton S.P. (St. Clair Co), 22 June (KM). Few records this year.

#### **Worm-eating Warbler**

Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (15), 6 June (DK).

#### **Ovenbird**

**Nesting:** Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (nest w/ 1 host and 1 cowbird egg), 31 May (WM). **M.C.:** 33, Deer Grove W.F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CF); 15, Palos (2 locations), 30 June (DS); 10 (males), Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), 21 June (WM); 6-10, Grainger Woods (Lake Co), 12-23 June (SH). **Others:** SAD (5), 8 June (KMc); Mackinaw SF&WA (5), 7 June (MF); SRSF (4 males), 28 June (RC); c. Hancock County (12 males), 26 June (SB fide MW).

#### **Louisiana Waterthrush**

MPSP, 10 June (KMc); Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co), 4 June (DS); Mackinaw SF&WA (3), 7 June (MF).

#### **Kentucky Warbler**

SAD, 8 June (KMc); Paxton (Ford Co - perhaps first county record) (male), 20 June (RC); Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF).

#### **Mourning Warbler**

**N.B.S.O.:** LMSF (2), 6 June (JnM).

#### **Common Yellowthroat**

**Nesting:** PRSNA (5 nests), May/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 48 (males), LCal, June/July (WM); 28, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 26, Spfld, 27 June (DB); 24, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 22, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 21 (males), Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), during June (WM); 21 & 17, GLPSP, 5 Aug. & 10 July, resp. (SB fide MW); 20, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF).

#### **Hooded Warbler**

**Nesting:** Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co) (2 nests: 1 w/ 2 yg, cowbirds; 1 w/ warbler egg and 2 cowbird eggs), mid-June (DS). **Others:** Sugar River F.P. (Winnebago Co) (male), June/July (DW); LMSF (3 males), 6 June (JnM); Ryerson C.A. (Lake Co) (male), 6 July (EW); M.Arb. (male), 21 June (fide JF); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 17 June (JE et al.); Mackinaw SF&WA (2 - 1 male), 7 June (MF); Spfld (Carpenter Park) (male), 13 June (DB); Atwood Ridge (Union Co) (5), 6 June (DK).

#### **Yellow-breasted Chat**

**M.C.:** 6 (males), KCP, 20 June (RC). **Others:** Cherry Valley

(Winnebago Co) ( male), June/July (DW); Lakewood F.P. (Lake Co) (male), 16-25 June (CF); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (2), 27 June (AA); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (5 males), 21 June (AS); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (male), 28 June (WM); M. Arb., 21 June (fide JF); Nelson L Marsh (Kane Co), 9 June (fide JF); MNTP, 24 July (DSt); Braidwood (Will Co) (3 males), 20 June (AS); DPCA (2-3 males), 14 June-3 July (AS, m.ob.); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (male) thru 17 July (AH).

#### Summer Tanager

Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co) (2 males, 1 female) 6 June (CA); ICCA (pr.), 28 June (AS), and (male) 3 July (RC); SRSF (2 males), 28 June (RC); KCP (male), 20 June (RC); Hoyleton (Washington Co) (4 males), 9 June (SB fide MW).

#### Scarlet Tanager

**M.C.:** 11 (males), ICCA, 3 July (RC); 9, Swallow Cliff F.P. (Cook Co), 30 June (DSt); 8, McClaughray Springs F.P. (Cook Co), 14 June (CT). **Others:** Deer Grove W F.P. (Cook Co) (5), 14 June (CF); Deer Grove E F.P. (Cook Co) (3), 10 June (CF); Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (3-6), 12-23 June (SH); three s.w. Cook County locations (8), 2-8 June (WS); Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co) (5 males), during June (WM); Mackinaw SF&WA (4), 7 June (MF).

#### Eastern Towhee

**Nesting:** PRSNA (2 nests), April/June (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 30+ (males), SRSF, 28 June (RC); 10, Palos (4 locations), 2 July (DSt); 9 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 8 (4 males), Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), during June (WM); 8, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF).

#### Chipping Sparrow

**M.C.:** 100+, SRSF, 28 June (RC); 90 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 40, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 34, La Salle County, 21 June (DSt); 33, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 33, Monticello B.B.S. (Piatt/McLean Cos), 10 June (RC).

#### Clay-colored Sparrow

Did not return to their traditional Winnebago County location this year (DW). None reported by anyone, anywhere.

#### Field Sparrow

**Nesting:** PRSNA (44 nests), April/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 70+, ICCA, 3 July (RC); 64, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 30 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 17, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF); 16, Spfld, 20 June (DB).

#### Vesper Sparrow

**Nesting:** Sang, L. (yg.), 17 July (DB); PRSNA (2 nests), May (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 40, Fairland B.B.S. (Champaign/Piatt Cos), 3 June (RC); 32, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 30 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 21, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 18, Livingston County, 21 July (DSt); 12, La Salle County, 18 June (DSt). **Others:** Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (2), 12-14 June (SH); Chauncey Marsh (Lawrence Co) (+), June (JW, EK).

#### Lark Sparrow

**M.C.:** 85 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 20, Sand Prairie Scrub-Oak (Mason Co), 7 June (JH); 12 (max.), Ayer's N.P. (Carroll Co), June/July (KMc); 9 (3 prs. & 3 males), McCune Sand Prairie (Bureau Co), 22 May (DS). **Others:** Rockton/Durand (Winnebago Co) (4 males), June/July (DW); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (male), 19 June (AH); ICCA (6), 28 June (AS) and (3) 3 July (RC); s. Richland County, 26 June (LH); Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM). None observed in Sangamon County this year.

#### Savannah Sparrow

**M.C.:** 15, Palatine (Cook Co), 13 June (CF). **Others:** Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (6+ prs.), June (SH); Deer Grove E F.P. (Cook Co) (several), 27 June (AA); Bellflower (McLean Co) (5), 10 June (RC); Spfld (male), 27 June & 13 July (diff. locations) (DB).

#### Grasshopper Sparrow

**Nesting:** PRSNA (9 nests), May/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 500 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 50 (max.), Ayer's N.P. (Carroll Co), June/July (KMc); 23 (males), s. Tazewell/n. Mason Cos, 10 July (SBj); 19, MNTP, 19 June (DSt); 13, Fairland B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC). **Others:** Pecatonica (Winnebago Co) (11 males), June/July (DW); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (4 males), 17 June (JE et al.); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (increasing to 11 males), 19 June (AH); GLPSP (15), 23 June (JH).

#### Henslow's Sparrow

**Nesting:** PRSNA (40 territories, 10 fledglings), April/July (JW, EK et al.); s. Coles County (10 males + 4 successful nests), mid-June (EB fide JH). **M.C.:** 43, GLPSP, 18 June (JH); 40+ (see nesting account); 20, ICCA, 24 June (JH); 10+ MNTP, 20 June (JH). **Others:** Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (3-4 males), thru 26 July (AH); Deer Grove E F.P. (Cook Co) (1-3 males), 1 June-7 July (CF); Plum Creek F.P. (Cook Co) (5 males), 21 June (AS); DPCA (5+), 27 May (JH); Paxton (Ford Co) (2 males), 20 June (RC); Site M (Cass Co), 1 July (JH); Charleston (1-2 males), 31 May-16 June (BH); Oakdale (Washington Co) (4+), 5-10 June (SB fide MW); Pyramid S.P. (Perry Co) (3), 29 May (JH); Longreach Road (Pulaski Co), 6 June (DK). **Comment:** According to the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, "...Henslow's Sparrows are now even more common than they were two years ago...." (fide SL).

#### Song Sparrow

**Nesting:** PRSNA (25 nests), April/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 97 (males), LCal, June/July (WM); 73, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc); 63, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 49, Atkinson B.B.S. (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 43, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 41, Buda B.B.S. (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 39, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC); 38, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 35, St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); 35, Fairland B.B.S. (Champaign/Piatt Co), 3 June (RC).

#### Swamp Sparrow

**Nesting:** IBSP (7 territories), 27 June (EW, JE). **M.C.:** 14, Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 16 June (DSt); 12, Deer Grove E F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF); 7 (males), Chi (Powderhorn Marsh), 6 June (WM); 7 (males), ICCA, 3 July (RC); 6 (males), Burnham Prairie (Cook Co), 14 June (WM).

#### Northern Cardinal

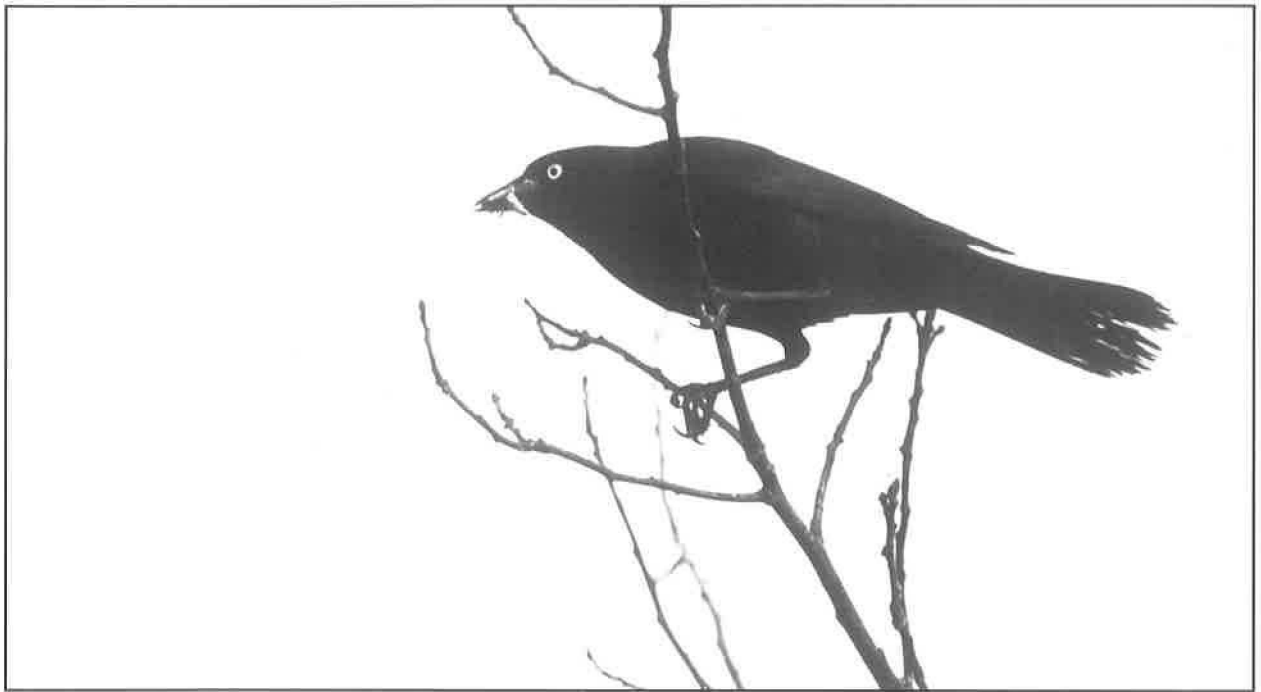
**M.C.:** 74, Flora B.B.S. (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 59, Pulaski B.B.S. (Pulaski/Alexander Cos), 3 June (VK); 55, Belknap B.B.S. (Johnson Co), 5 June (VK); 43, Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM).

#### Rose-breasted Grosbeak

**M.C.:** 17 (males), ICCA, 3 July (RC); 9, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 7 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 6, Spfld, 17 June (DB); 6, Yale B.B.S. (Jasper/Effingham Cos), 7 June (RC). **Others:** Jasper County (2 males), 2 June (LH); Carl L., 25 June (DK); St. Morgan B.B.S. (Madison Co), 25 June (KM); Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM).

#### Blue Grosbeak

**Nesting:** PRSNA (1 nest), 17 July (JW, EK); Dixon Springs S.P. (Pope Co) (4 nests), June/July (LM fide MW). **Others:** SAD (2), June/July (KMc); Ayer's N.P. (Carroll Co) (2), June/July (KMc); MNTP (male), 9 & 24 July (DSt); Grundy County (2 males), 10 Aug. (DSt); ICCA (subad. male), 28 June (AS) to 3 July (RC); Clin. L., 28 June (RC); Meredosia N.W.R. (Morgan Co) (3 males), May/June (MW); Yale (Jasper Co) (2 males), 7 June (RC); Bible Grove (Clay Co) (pr.), 6 June (RC); Granite City (Madison Co), 28 July (KM); Columbia B.B.S. (Monroe Co) (4), 13 June (KM); Burnt Prairie B.B.S. (White Co) (3), 2 June (VK); Belknap B.B.S. (Johnson Co) (7), 5 June (VK); Beaverdam L B.B.S. (Pope Co) (6), 17 June (VK).



*Brewer's Blackbird carrying insect to nest nearby. 27 June 1998. Illinois Beach State Park, Lake County. Photo by Eric Walters.*

### Indigo Bunting

**M.C.:** 69, Monroe County, 27 July (KM); 50, Beaverdam L.B.S., (Pope Co), 17 June (VK); 43, Spfld, 25 July (DB); 33, Sheffield B.B.S., (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 32, Buda B.B.S., (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 28, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 27, Flora B.B.S., (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 22, Mahomet (Champaign Co), 13 June (RC); 19, Mackinaw SF&WA, 7 June (MF).

### Dickcissel

**Nesting:** PRSNA (130 nests), May/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 62, Flora B.B.S., (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 59 (males), s. Tazewell/n. Mason Cos, 10 July (SBj); 57 (many in pairs), s.w. Franklin County, 24 June (LS); 42, Spfld, 7 June (DB); 40 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 40, Columbia B.B.S., (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM); 34, Atkinson B.B.S., (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 34, Camp Point B.B.S., (Adams Co), 9 June (VK); 33, MNTP, 19 June (DSt); 31, Buda B.B.S., (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 30, Livingston County, 21 July (DSt). **Others:** Glacial Park (McHenry Co) (12 males), 5 July (AS); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (increasing to 9 males), 19 June (AH); Fairmount (Vermilion Co) (17 males), 16 June (JS).

### Bobolink

**Nesting:** Woosung (Lee Co) (pr. w/ yg.), 30 July (SB fide MW); IBSP (pr. w/ nesting materials), 11 July (AS); s. Coles County (successful nest), mid-June (EB fide BH). **M.C.:** 100+, MNTP, 28 May (JH); 29, MNTP, 8 June (DSt). **Others:** IBSP, 18 July (SH); Grainger Woods (Lake Co) (3-15), 12-22 June (SH); Deer Grove E.F.P., (Cook Co) (7 males, 1 female), 10 June and (3-4 males feeding 12 fledged yg.), 11 July (CF); Nachusa Grasslands (Lee/Ogle Cos) (32), 10 July (AH); Shabbona L.S.P., (De Kalb Co) (15), 5 July (DS); GLPSP (11), 5 Aug. (SB fide MW); Fairmount (Vermilion Co), 16 June (JS); w. Sangamon County (male), 27 June (DB).

### Eastern Meadowlark

**Nesting:** PRSNA (124 nests), April/July (JW, EK). **M.C.:** 76, GLPSP, 1 June (JH, BG); 76, Buda B.B.S., (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc); 69, Flora B.B.S., (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 65, Livingston

County, 21 July (DSt); 54, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 50 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 42, Columbia B.B.S., (Monroe Co), 13 June (KM); 38, Sheffield B.B.S., (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 35, Spfld, 27 June (DB).

### Western Meadowlark

**M.C.:** 200 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 25, Atkinson B.B.S., (Henry Co), 24 June (KMc); 21, Buda B.B.S., (Bureau/Stark Cos), 23 June (KMc). **Others:** Plum Creek F.P., (Cook Co) (male), 17-28 June (JE, AS); Bellflower (McLean Co) (2), 10 June (RC).

### Yellow-headed Blackbird

**Nesting:** McHenry, Lake & Cook counties: 13 sites, 164 adult birds (132 color banded), 85 nests, May/July (MW); Whiteside Co, 12 adults, 24 June (MW). **M.C.:** 25 (males, females & yg.), Moraine Hills S.P. (McHenry Co), 27 June (JnM); Chi (Eggers Woods) (8+ = 6 males, 2 females and several juvenals heard), 7 June (WM); LCal (Hegewisch Marsh) (7 = 4 males, 1 female, 2 juvenals), 13 June (WM). **Others:** Redwing Slough (Lake Co) (5-4 males), 27 June (DW).

### Brewer's Blackbird

**Nesting:** IBSP (4 pr. - 2 nests for certain), 18 June (AS), last observed (3), 25 July (AS).

### Common Grackle

**Nesting:** Spfld (very successful year), June/July (DB). **M.C.:** 500, Spfld, 22 June (DB); 183, Fairland B.B.S., (Champaign/Piatt Cos), 3 June (RC); 138, Sheffield B.B.S. (Bureau Co), 17 June (KMc); 106, MNTP, 8 June (DSt).

### Brown-headed Cowbird

**M.C.:** 100, Spfld, 27 July (DB); 46, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 24, Monticello B.B.S., (Piatt/McLean Cos), 6 June (RC).

### Orchard Oriole

**Nesting:** Urbana (female feeding cowbird), 3 July (RC). **M.C.:** 25 (max.), SAD, June/July (KMc); 12, MNTP, 8 June (DSt); 11, Flora B.B.S., (Clay Co), 6 June (RC); 8, McCune Sand Prairie (Bureau

Co), 22 May (DS); 6, Spfld, 15 June (DB). **Others:** Grainger Woods (Lake Co), 12 June (SH); Hoffman Estates (Cook Co) (male), 27 June (AA); three s.w. Cook County locations (6), 2-8 June (WS); LCal (Burnham Prairie) (male), 16 June (DS); LRSNC (2 females), 2 July (DS); DPCA (2 1<sup>st</sup>-year males), 14 June (JnM), plus (2 ad. males), 3 July (AS); HL (5), 23 June (KM).

#### **Baltimore Oriole**

**M.C.:** 26, Palos (3 locations), 2-8 June (WS); 25, Spfld, 11 June (DB); 22, MNTP, 8 June (DS); 15, Geneseo B.B.S. (Henry/Whiteside Cos), 19 June (KMc); 15, Zander Woods F.P. (Cook Co), during June (WM).

#### **House Finch**

**M.C.:** 60 (at feeders), Homer (Vermilion Co), June/July (JS); 20 (max.), SA, June/July (KMc).

#### **Pine Siskin**

May have nested in April this year (esp. n.e. Illinois), but no details available (m.ob.).

#### **American Goldfinch**

**M.C.:** 147, LCal, June/July (WM); 109, MNTP, 24 July (DS); 28, Deer Grove E.F.P. (Cook Co), 10 June (CF).

#### **EXOTICS**

##### **Trumpeter Swan**

Naperville (Cook Co), 19 May (nest), later (1 yg. apparently fledged) (EW). **N.B.S.O.:** DPRWDP (2 ad.), 4 July (AS).

##### **Ringed Turtle-Dove**

Brookfield Zoo (not escaped birds; origin unknown; several nests – at least one successful), June/July (NB, RR – photos).

##### **Monk Parakeet**

Chi (Calumet Park) (nest w/ 2 ads.), 5 July (WM); Chi (Wolf L) (2 nests, 5 ads.), 15 July (WM). No other evidence of nesting or nest success reported.

-- Vernon M. Kleen

*Natural Heritage Division*

*Illinois Department of Natural Resources*

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Natural Heritage Division  
524 S. Second St.  
Springfield, IL 62701

### Fall Season Field Notes Due by 7 December

(1 August through 30 November)

**Send to:** Robert Chapel  
306 West California  
Urbana, IL 61801

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

Members of the Illinois Ornithological Society receive *Meadowlark*, the quarterly journal, plus *Wings Over The Prairie*, the IOS newsletter. Members are also invited to special field trips, the annual meeting, and other IOS functions.

To join or send a gift subscription, send your name or that of the gift recipient, address, and telephone number along with fee to:

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Back issues of Volume 2, 3, 4, and 5 are still available for \$5 each. Some back issues of Volume 1 are also available at \$6 each.

## SUBMISSION INFORMATION

✦ We welcome manuscripts, photographs, and illustrations for possible publication in *Meadowlark*.

✦ Article topics include unusual bird sightings and nesting accounts, technical papers on bird research, and other articles such as bird finding guides and field identification tips. Joy of birding articles will be considered.

✦ Manuscripts should be typewritten or computer-generated, double spaced and on only one side of numbered pages. Please send two copies of your manuscript and make sure you keep another for yourself.

✦ If you are able, submit a computer disc in ascii file or for Word Perfect.

✦ We prefer clear black and white or color print photographs. Color slides may also be acceptable.

✦ Include name, address, and day and night time phone numbers. Other pertinent information about your qualifications and background is also helpful.

✦ We reserve the right to review and edit articles according to style, grammar, accuracy, and readability.

✉ Send articles, photographs, and inquiries to:

Sheryl De Vore, Chief Editor  
967 Braeburn, Mundelein, IL 60060  
e-mail address: sdevore@ais.net

✉ Pen and ink drawings are also accepted  
Contact:

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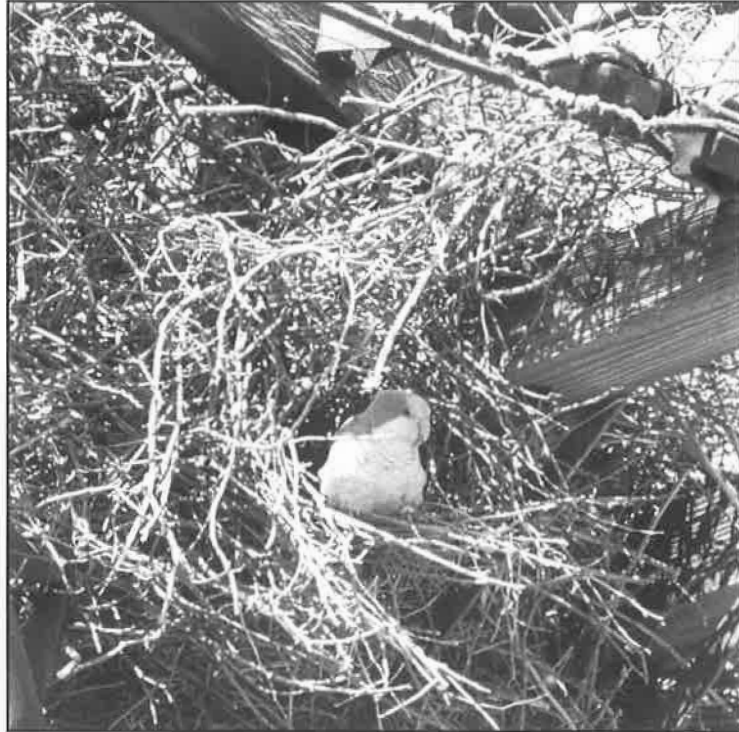
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*The Monk Parakeet (Myiopsitta monachus) is now an official member of the Illinois State Checklist. This photo, taken by Jason South, shows a Monk Parakeet sitting on a nest in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago the summer of 1998. For an article by South about the status of Monk Parakeets in Illinois, see pages 2-5 inside.*