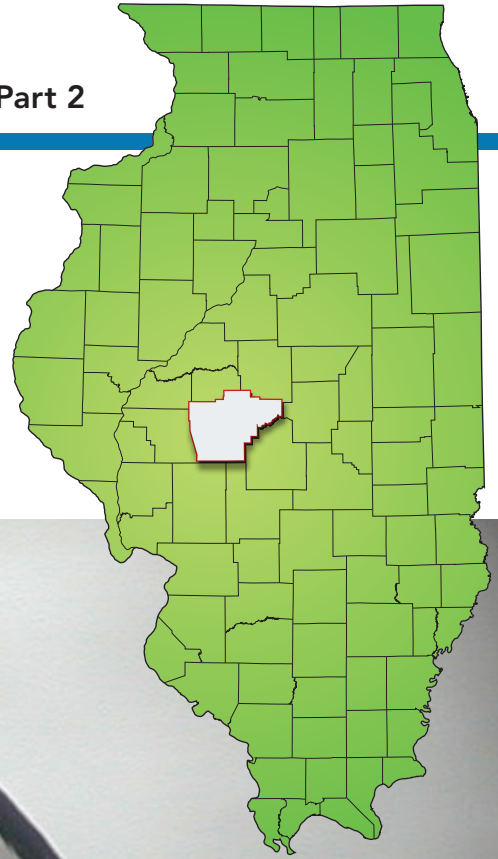


ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM | Research eSeries, No. 1, Part 2

# A Study of the Birds of Sangamon County, Illinois 1970–2010

H. David Bohlen



ILLINOIS STATE MUSEUM  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
2013

**On the cover:**  
Black-crowned Night-Heron  
July 24, 2001  
Lake Springfield  
Springfield, Illinois

A Study of the Birds  
of Sangamon County, Illinois  
1970–2010

H. David Bohlen  
Illinois State Museum

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2013 Illinois State Museum  
ISSN 2332-4910

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## INTRODUCTION

The photographs of birds taken in Sangamon County presented in Part 2 are a small number of the total on file at the Illinois State Museum. Most were taken by Dennis Oehmke and me to support identifications in the text. Originally, I had the use of a camera with a small lens, but it was stolen. Therefore, the *modus operandi* during my daily monitoring was that if I found an unusual or rare bird, then I would call Dennis and he would come out and photograph the bird. It was not until 2001 that I started to digiscope (shooting a digital camera through a telescope). This allowed me to document not only unusual birds, but odd plumages or sometimes behavior. Digiscoping did not always produce clear photographs especially with the pixels available then. As you can see some of the photographs (especially mine) are not that good, but they were taken for the record. Poor lighting and weather conditions, long distances, and the fact that many birds disappear very quickly leaves one wishing for better shots. Later (in late 2007) I was able to purchase a digital camera with a fairly large lens. It should be noted that not all unusual sightings were backed up with photographs; sometimes obtaining a photograph was not possible or I did not have the camera with me. It should also be pointed out that during most of this study, digital cameras were not yet available.

H. David Bohlen





Red-throated Loon- juvenile at Lake Springfield, November 22, 2001 (HDB)



Pacific Loon- juvenile at Lake Springfield, October 28, 2006 (HDB)



Red-necked Grebe-juvenile at Lake Springfield, November 14, 2006 (HDB)



Western Grebe at Sangchris, April 9, 2006 (HDB)



Neotropic Cormorant- subadult at Lake Springfield, September 2, 2005 (HDB)



American Bittern- south of Curran,  
April 11, 2009 (HDB)



Cattle Egret- adult northeast of  
Berry, June 21, 2008 (HDB)



Black-crowned Night-Heron- adult at Lake Springfield, July 24, 2001 (HDB)



Yellow-crowned Night-Heron- juvenile at Riverside Park, July 30, 2010 (HDB)



Glossy Ibis- adult north of New City, April 21, 2009 (HDB)



White-faced Ibis- adult Illinois Rt. 29 Bridge north, April 27, 2009 (HDB)



Cackling Geese- at Lake Springfield, January 26, 2008 (HDB)



Eurasian Wigeon- adult ♂ at Buckhart Bottoms, March 15, 1994 (DO)



Eurasian Wigeon- ♂ in eclipse plumage at Sangchris, November 15, 2006 (HDB)



American Wigeon X Gadwall Hybrid- ♂ east side sewer pond, December 31, 2009 (HDB)



Mottled Duck- ♂ at Lake Springfield, May 21, 2004 (HDB)





Blue-wing X Cinnamon Teal Hybrid- ♂ at Sangchris, April 5, 2010 (HDB)



Cinnamon Teal- ♀? Lake Springfield beach, September 7, 2007 (HDB)



Tufted Duck- ♀ at Buffalo sewer pond, March 17, 2004 (HDB)



Greater Scaup- ♀ at Cinder Flats, May 2, 2008 (HDB)



King Eider- immature ♂ at Lake Springfield, February 2, 1987 (DO)



King Eider- ♀ at Lake Springfield, December 7, 2000 (DO)



Harlequin Duck- pair at Lake Springfield, January 7, 1984 (DO)



Harlequin Duck- ♀ at Lake Springfield, January 16, 1994 (DO)



Ruddy Duck- diluted plumaged ♀? at Lake Springfield, March 23, 2009 (HDB)



Black Vulture- at Marine Pt., April 30, 2005 (HDB)

Mississippi Kite- adult at  
Washington Park, July 20, 2010  
(HDB)



Red-shouldered Hawk- adult near  
Marine Pt., December 12, 2008  
(HDB)





Red-tailed Hawk- leucistic adult near Beamington Corner, November 11, 2009 (HDB)



Red-tailed Hawk- immature Krider's form near Pleasant Plains, January 30, 2011 (HDB)



Merlin- ♂ at UIS soccer field, October 30, 2011 (HDB)



Sandhill Cranes- flock north of New City, March 14, 2008 (HDB)





Snowy Plover- adult at Southwind Park, June 4, 2007 (HDB)



Piping Plover- adult ♀? at Buckhart, May 1, 2007 (HDB)



Black-necked Stilt- adult ♀ at Cinder Flats, July 16, 2009 (HDB)



American Avocet- flock at Sangchris, April 25, 2010 (HDB)



Willet- adult Lake Springfield beach, June 27, 2008 (HDB)



Whimbrel- adult in the valley of the South Fork, May 19, 2009 (HDB)



Marbled Godwit- adult at Lake Springfield beach, June 18, 2011 (HDB)



Hudsonian Godwit adult at Cinder Flats, April 25, 2009 (HDB)



Western Sandpiper- juvenile at Cinder Flats, September 12, 2008 (HDB)



Sanderling- juvenile at Lake Springfield, September 4, 2008 (HDB)



Ruddy Turnstone- adult at Lake Springfield, May 18, 2007 (HDB)



Buff-breasted Sandpiper- juvenile at Cinder Flats, September 2, 2009 (HDB)



Short-billed Dowitcher- adult at Cinder Flats, May 20, 2007 (HDB)



Wilson's Phalarope- ♀ at Buckhart, May 10, 2008 (HDB)



Red-necked Phalarope- ♀ at Buckhart, May 10, 2008 (HDB)



Laughing Gull- adult at Lake Springfield beach, June 8, 2008 (HDB)





Franklin's Gull- first summer at Marine Pt., May 11, 2008 (HDB)



Bonaparte's Gull- juvenile at Buckhart, July 29, 2009 (HDB)



Little Gull- first winter at Buffalo sewer pond, November 21, 2010 (HDB)



Iceland Gull- (Kumlien's) adult at Lake Springfield, December 21, 2010 (HDB)



Lesser Black-backed Gull- adult at Lake Springfield, September 1, 2008 (HDB)



Glaucous-winged Gull- first summer at Cinder Flats, June 29, 2004 (HDB)



Great Black-backed Gull- first winter at Lake Springfield, January 26, 2009 (HDB)



Sabine's Gull- adult at Lake Springfield, September 29, 1992 (DO)



Pomarine Jaeger- immature at Lake Springfield, October 7, 1988 (DO)



Pomarine Jaeger- immature at Lake Springfield, November 16, 1996 (DO)



Least Tern- two adults at Cinder Flats, June 14, 2005 (HDB)



Black Tern- adult starting molt at Lake Springfield, July 7, 2005 (HDB)



Arctic Tern- adult at Cinder Flats, June 29, 1992 (DO)



Forster's Tern- immature at Lake Springfield, June 4, 2008 (HDB)



Black Skimmer- adult at Cinder Flats, July 23, 2004 (HDB)



Band-tailed Pigeon- adult at Lake Springfield, December 28, 1996 (DO)





Eurasian Collared-Dove- adult at Berry, November 18, 2009 (HDB)



White-winged Dove- adult on west side of Springfield, May 17, 2005 (HDB)



Ruby-throated Hummingbird- puncturing flower at Lincoln Gardens, August 16, 2008 (HDB)



Sapsucker with red nape possible hybrid- ♂ at Hazel Dell Lane, January 15, 2009 (HDB)



Western Wood-Pewee? Center Park, November 10, 2006 (HDB)



Say's Phoebe- adult on west side Sangchris, October 1, 2009 (HDB)



Vermilion Flycatcher- ♀ at Sangchris, September 18, 1992 (DO)



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher- adult in worn plumage at Auburn sewer pond, August 7, 2000 (DO)



Loggerhead Shrike- adult east of Springfield, December 7, 1985 (DO)



Northern Shrike- immature at Cinder Flats, November 3, 2007 (HDB)



Cassin's Vireo- adult ♀? at Washington Park, September 1, 2000 (DO)



Horned Lark- juvenile in the valley of the South Fork, May 20, 2009 (HDB)



Northern Rough-winged Swallow- melanistic adult Rochester sewer pond, July 5, 2005 (HDB)



Bewick's Wren- ♂ at Riverside Park, March 23, 2011 (HDB)



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher- ♀ at Lincoln Gardens, April 26, 2008 (HDB)



Varied Thrush- ♀ north of Andrew, December 30, 2003 (HDB)





Blue-wing X Golden-wing Hybrid- ♀ Lincoln Gardens, September 17, 2009 (HDB)



Blue-wing X Golden-wing Hybrid- ♂? east of Springfield, September 25, 2009 (HDB)



Blackburnian Warbler- ♂ at Oak Ridge Cemetery, May 16, 2009 (HDB)



Prairie Warbler- ♂ at Washington Park, April 26, 2008 (HDB)

Northern Cardinal- both  
♂ & ♀ (gynandromorph) Sangchris,  
June 12, 2006 (HDB)



Blue Grosbeak- second year ♂ at  
Marsh Road, May 24, 2009 (HDB)





Spotted Towhee- ♂ northwest of Springfield, February 9, 1995 (DO)



Clay-colored Sparrow- near Lake Springfield, November 23, 2007 (HDB)



Henslow's Sparrow- ♂ at Marsh Road, July 26, 2009 (HDB)



Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow- at Sangchris, May 11, 2010 (HDB)



Lincoln's Sparrow-  
at Buckhart Bridge,  
July 19, 2009 (HDB)



White-crowned Sparrow  
adult (*gambelii*) at Wahl  
Road, March 9, 2003 (HDB)



Gray-headed Junco- at Island Grove, December 12, 2000 (DO)



Smith's Longspur- ♂ at Sangchris, March 29, 2009 (HDB)

Snow Bunting- immature ♀  
at Marine Pt.,  
November 17, 2001 (HDB)



Western Meadowlark-  
near Clear Lake,  
February 14, 2010  
(HDB)





Brewer's Blackbird- ♀ at Berry, November 6, 2009 (HDB)



Great-tailed Grackle- ♂ north of Andrew, April 1, 2005 (HDB)



Pine Grosbeak- ♂ near airport, February 12, 1985 (DO)



White-winged Crossbill- ♀ at Oak Ridge Cemetery, January 24, 2009 (HDB)



Evening Grosbeak- ♂ south of Springfield, January 17, 1985 (DO)