

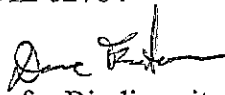


# ILLINOIS NATURAL HISTORY SURVEY



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Matt Sunderland  
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FROM: Dr. David A. Enstrom, Ornithologist   
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DATE: August 9, 2006

SUBJECT: IDOT North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) requested avian censuses of their *North Chicago Wetland Mitigation Site*, located west of US 41 and south of IL 137 (Figure 1).

I conducted point counts at a total of 12 census points on June 22 and July 1, 2006 (Table 1, Figure 1). I used a modified point-count / playback protocol designed to improve detection of secretive wetland bird species (Ralph et al. 1995, Conway 2005). At each point I listened in silence for five min. noting all individuals I detected. I then played the calls of seven secretive wetland bird species (Black Rail, Virginia Rail, King Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, Least Bittern, Pied-Billed Grebe) in succession and listened for responses. The call of each species was played for 30 sec. with a 30 sec. period of silence between species calls. All of these species are considered "primary species of concern" because of continued wetland loss throughout the U.S. (Conway 2005). The Black Rail is also considered a species of "Primary Conservation Concern" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (2002). The King Rail and Black Rail are listed as

Illinois Endangered, and the Least Bittern and Common Moorhen are listed as Illinois Threatened (IL Endangered Species Protection Board 2005).

I paid special attention to the area around point 11 (Figure 1) where Dr. A. Plocher of the Illinois Natural History Survey reported seeing an Illinois Endangered Black Rail during a visit to the site in the spring of this year. I played Rail calls (Black Rail, King Rail, Sora and Virginia Rail) at two additional points (11-a and 11-b, Table 1, Figure 1) near census point 11. I also carefully walked the area looking for Rails and Rail nests.

### Results

Census results for each census point are presented in Table 3. During my breeding season survey I encountered 502 individual birds of 58 species representing 30 families. A species list with the status of each species is presented in Table 2. One Illinois Threatened species was encountered during my survey, a Common Moorhen near census point 2 (Table 3; Figure 1). This individual was an adult and was seen on June 22, suggesting the species bred at the site. The only rail species I encountered was the Virginia Rail. Two Virginia Rails were seen near point 11 on both of my visits and one, a male, responded to my call playbacks on both occasions. I searched but did not find a nest; still I am confident the pair bred at the site.

### Literature Cited

- Conway, C. J. 2005. Standardized North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Protocols. Wildlife Research Report #205-04. U.S. Geological Survey, Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Tucson, AZ.
- Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. 2005. Checklist of Endangered and Threatened Animals and Plants of Illinois. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois. 16 pp.
- Ralph, C. J., G. R. Geupel, P. Pyle, T. E. Martin, and D. F. DeSante. 1993. Handbook of field methods for monitoring landbirds

**Table 1. Census point locations.**

<b>Census Point</b>	<b>UTM</b>	
	<b>Easting</b>	<b>Northing</b>
1	427238.11	4684227.31
2	427354.78	4684151.60
3	427250.52	4684056.03
4	427365.95	4683876.06
5	427215.77	4683704.77
6	427368.44	4683679.95
7	427290.24	4683504.32
8	427334.92	4683297.04
9	427120.20	4683309.45
10	427404.43	4683084.80
11	427137.37	4683050.67
11-a	427153.71	4683010.95
11-b	427156.19	4683096.59
12	427285.28	4682879.38

Table 2. Species list and status of birds seen at the IDOT North Chicago mitigation site, breeding season 2006.

Family/species	Breeding: Project Area	Breeding: Illinois	Migration Status	Habitat	Breeding Score: Regional	Action Priority Rec.	Regulatory Status
<i>Anseridae</i>							
Canada Goose	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Lake / River / Wetland	NA	-	-
Wood Duck	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Lake / River / Wetland	NA	-	-
Mallard	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Lake / River / Wetland	NA	-	-
Blue-winged Teal	no	Breeding	North American Migrant	Lake / River / Wetland	NA	-	-
<i>Phasianidae</i>							
Ring-necked Pheasant	probable	Breeding	Resident	Grassland / Shrub	13	-	-
<i>Ardeidae</i>							
Great Blue Heron	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland	NA	-	-
Great Egret	no	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland	NA	-	-
Green Heron	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland	NA	-	-
<i>Cathartidae</i>							
Turkey Vulture		Breeding	North American Migrant	Grassland	8	-	-
<i>Accipitridae</i>							
Cooper's Hawk	probable	Breeding	Resident	Forest / Shrub / Urban	11	-	-
Red-tailed Hawk	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Shrub / Grassland	10	-	-
<i>Falconidae</i>							
American Kestrel	probable	Non-breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Grassland	11	-	-
<i>Rallidae</i>							
Virginia Rail	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland	NA	-	-
Common Moorhen	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland	NA	-	IL Threatened
<i>Charadriidae</i>							
Killdeer	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Grasslands / Wetland	NA	-	-
<i>Scolopacidae</i>							
Solitary Sandpiper	no	Non-breeding	North American Migrant	Wetlands	-	-	-
Spotted Sandpiper	possible	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shores / Wetland	NA	-	-
American Woodcock	possible	Breeding	North American Migrant	Forest / Shrub	NA	-	-

Table 2. continued

<i>Family/species</i>	Breeding: Project Area	Breeding: Illinois	Migration Status	Habitat	Breeding Score: Regional	Action Priority Rec.	Regulatory Status
<i>Laridae</i>							
Ring-billed Gull	no	Non-breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Lake / River / Wetland / Urban	-	-	-
<i>Columbidae</i>							
Rock Pigeon	possible	Breeding	Resident	Shrub / Urban	11	-	Introduced
Mourning Dove	probable	Breeding	Resident	Forest / Shrub / Urban	10	-	-
<i>Cuculidae</i>							
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	possible	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest	15	MA	-
<i>Apodidae</i>							
Chimney Swift	unlikely	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest / Urban	15	MA	-
<i>Picidae</i>							
Red-bellied Woodpecker	probable	Breeding	Resident	Forest	10	-	-
Downy Woodpecker	probable	Breeding	Resident	Forest / Shrub	11	-	-
Yellow-shafted Flicker	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Forest / Shrub	16	IM	-
<i>Tyrannidae</i>							
Eastern Wood-Pewee	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest	13	-	-
Willow Flycatcher	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Shrub	13	PR	-
Great Crested Flycatcher	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest / Savanna	14	MA	-
Eastern Kingbird	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Grassland / Shrub	15	MA	-
<i>Vireonidae</i>							
White-eyed Vireo	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Shrub	11	-	-
Warbling Vireo	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Shrub	10	-	-
Red-eyed Vireo	possible	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest	10	-	-
<i>Corvidae</i>							
Blue Jay	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Forest / Shrub / Urban	12	-	-
American Crow	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub / Forest / Urban	10	-	-

Table 2. continued

<i>Family/species</i>	Breeding: Project Area	Breeding: Illinois	Migration Status	Habitat	Breeding Score: Regional	Action Priority Rec.	Regulatory Status
<b>Hirundinidae</b>							
Tree Swallow	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland / Grassland	8	-	-
Barn Swallow	unlikely	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Lake / Wetland / Grassland	11	-	-
<b>Paridae</b>							
Black-capped Chickadee	probable	Breeding	Resident	Forest / Shrub	11	-	-
<b>Troglodytidae</b>							
House Wren	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest / Shrub	10	-	-
<b>Turdidae</b>							
American Robin	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub / Forest / Urban	9	-	-
<b>Mimidae</b>							
Gray Catbird	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Shrub / Forest	12	-	-
Brown Thrasher	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub	16	MA	-
<b>Sturnidae</b>							
European Starling	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub / Forest / Urban	10	-	Introduced
<b>Bombycillidae</b>							
Cedar Waxwing	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Forest / Shrub	9	-	-
<b>Parulidae</b>							
Yellow Warbler	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Shrub	9	-	-
Common Yellowthroat	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Grassland / Wetland	13	-	-
<b>Emberizidae</b>							
Eastern Towhee	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub / Forest	12	-	-
Field Sparrow	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Shrub / Grassland / Urban	8	-	-
Song Sparrow	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant / Winter Resident	Shrub	10	-	-
<b>Cardinalidae</b>							
Northern Cardinal	probable	Breeding	Resident	Shrub / Forest / Urban	9	-	-
Indigo Bunting	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest / Shrub	11	-	-

Table 2. continued

<i>Family/species</i>	Breeding: Project Area	Breeding: Illinois	Migration Status	Habitat	Breeding Score: Regional	Action Priority Rec.	Regulatory Status
<b>Icteridae</b>							
Red-winged Blackbird	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Wetland / Grassland	13	-	-
Eastern Meadowlark	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Grassland	16	MA	-
Common Grackle	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Forest / Shrub	11	-	-
Brown-headed Cowbird	probable	Breeding	North American Migrant	Forest / Shrub / Grassland	10	-	-
Baltimore Oriole	probable	Breeding	Neotropical Migrant	Forest / Shrub	14	PR	-
<b>Fringillidae</b>							
House Finch	probable	Breeding	Resident	Shrub / Urban	7	-	-
American Goldfinch	probable	Breeding	Resident	Shrub	13	-	-
<b>Passeridae</b>							
House Sparrow	probable	Breeding	Resident	Shrub / Urban	-	-	-







Table 3. continued.

Family/species	Census Points												Total	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
<i>Vireonidae</i>														
White-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Warbling Vireo	1	0	2	3	3	2	0	2	0	2	1	1	1	17
Red-eyed Vireo	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Corvidae</i>														
Blue Jay	8	1	2	6	2	0	0	0	0	2	3	1	1	25
American Crow	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
<i>Hirundinidae</i>														
Tree Swallow	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	9
Barn Swallow	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	15
<i>Paridae</i>														
Black-capped Chickadee	0	0	2	2	4	2	0	0	0	2	3	4	4	19
<i>Troglodytidae</i>														
House Wren	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	5
<i>Turdidae</i>														
American Robin	5	1	0	3	6	1	8	3	4	4	5	6	6	46
<i>Mimidae</i>														
Gray Catbird	4	0	2	1	2	0	3	0	4	4	0	2	2	22
Brown Thrasher	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
<i>Sturnidae</i>														
European Starling	15	0	2	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	3	0	0	26
<i>Bombacillidae</i>														
Cedar Waxwing	0	0	0	3	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	11
<i>Parulidae</i>														
Yellow Warbler	6	0	1	8	3	1	3	0	0	2	2	3	3	29
Common Yellowthroat	3	2	2	2	1	2	0	1	2	2	3	2	2	22

