



## ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY

Helping to Preserve the Flora and Fauna of Illinois since 1897

### FROM ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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#### **Illinois Audubon Urges Conservation Action**

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Today's National Audubon Society report reveals an alarming trend for some of Illinois' most common bird species. While not in imminent danger of extinction, the report should serve as a wake-up call to Illinois and the nation about the importance of habitat protection and stewardship. [www.audubon.org/news/press\\_releases/State\\_of\\_the\\_Birds\\_06\\_14\\_07](http://www.audubon.org/news/press_releases/State_of_the_Birds_06_14_07).

The Illinois Audubon Society, independent from National Audubon, has been working hard for over 110 years to keep common birds common in Illinois, for Illinois. Because of declining bird trends, we have focused our action on protecting and restoring wetlands (Black Crown Marsh and Plum Island Sanctuary), significant grassland parcels (Bartel, Ridgway and Graber Sanctuaries) and woodlands, exemplified by our most recent acquisition within the Shawnee National Forest's Lusk Creek Wilderness Area.

Over the past 40 years, the Illinois Audubon Society has protected over 2300 acres of wetland, grassland and woodland habitat that today is home to numerous plant and animal species. For over a century, we have been educating Illinoisans about the importance of habitat preservation as well as making citizens familiar with common birds so they too can take personal action toward land preservation and stewardship.

Illinois Audubon is an active conservation partner with state and federal natural resource organizations and others, achieving long-term goals by responding to short-term challenges and opportunities with the flexibility and speed that our resources and private status allows. As an Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Team Core Partner, Illinois Audubon realizes the importance of a collaborative, long-term approach to preserving and enhancing Illinois' precious and fragile natural resources.

With today's National Audubon Society report of common birds in decline, the Illinois Audubon Society urges everyone to become active stewards of our land. From large-parcel landowners to our own backyards, everyone can do their part to successfully meet the challenges posed to Illinois' declining bird populations and all wildlife that depend on us for continued survival.

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. Independent from National Audubon, the Illinois Audubon Society is a privately supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. It was founded in 1897 and is Illinois' oldest conservation organization with over 2300 members, 19 chapters and 13 affiliate groups. IAS currently manages 11 sanctuaries (1,041.5 acres) for wildlife, and as a land trust, IAS has helped purchase over 2000 additional acres which are now being protected and managed for habitat and biodiversity throughout Illinois.

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