

Final Report

BCN Census '01
Bird Conservation Network
Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund
Submitted September 30, 2001 by Judy Pollock

Support from the Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund allowed the BCN Census to accomplish our project objectives this year.

Objective 1: To recruit and train new participants for the BCN Census.

In March and April, we held 5 recruitment and training workshops in Lake, Cook, McHenry, and DuPage counties in IL, and one in Lake County, IN which many IL residents attended. A total of 46 new monitors attended. The workshops were well-publicized in local papers, bird club newsletters and birders' listserves. These workshops were planned and carried out in coordination with local Forest Preserve Districts, who identified priority sites for monitoring and in many cases hosted the workshops. Illinois Wildlife Preservation Funds were used to print brochures, mail letters, distribute press releases, and pay staff to organize and publicize the workshops.

Objective 2A – to use volunteers to gather data on regional bird distribution in a scientifically robust manner.

Using Illinois Wildlife Preservation Funds, we were able to mail a letter to all 116 of our our monitors, confirming sites and informing them of the dates of our nesting survey. A volunteer intern entered monitors' data in our office this summer. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology has built a web site for us that we are bringing on line this month; powerful analysis tools are available on that site to analyze BCN Census data.

Objective 2B – to gather data useful to land managers and collaborate with them on using the data to adjust management goals.

On an individual basis, monitors are collaborating with land managers to exchange data and adjust management goals. Reports from the field indicate that this process is going smoothly in a number of locations. We are currently arranging with Cornell to make regular transmissions of data aggregated by county to the various county land management agencies, and are consulting with the land managers about the form in which they would like this data.

Objective 2C – to attract researchers to use our data about the habitat needs of local birds.

This spring we collaborated with Field Museum researchers on a project to determine which trees are most used by foraging spring migrants; we have entered discussions regarding collaboration about another research project to characterize migratory stopover sites.