

Report to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

RE: Creating an *Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas* range map database:

A public assessment tool

Agreement #09-026W; University of Illinois Grant Code D7764

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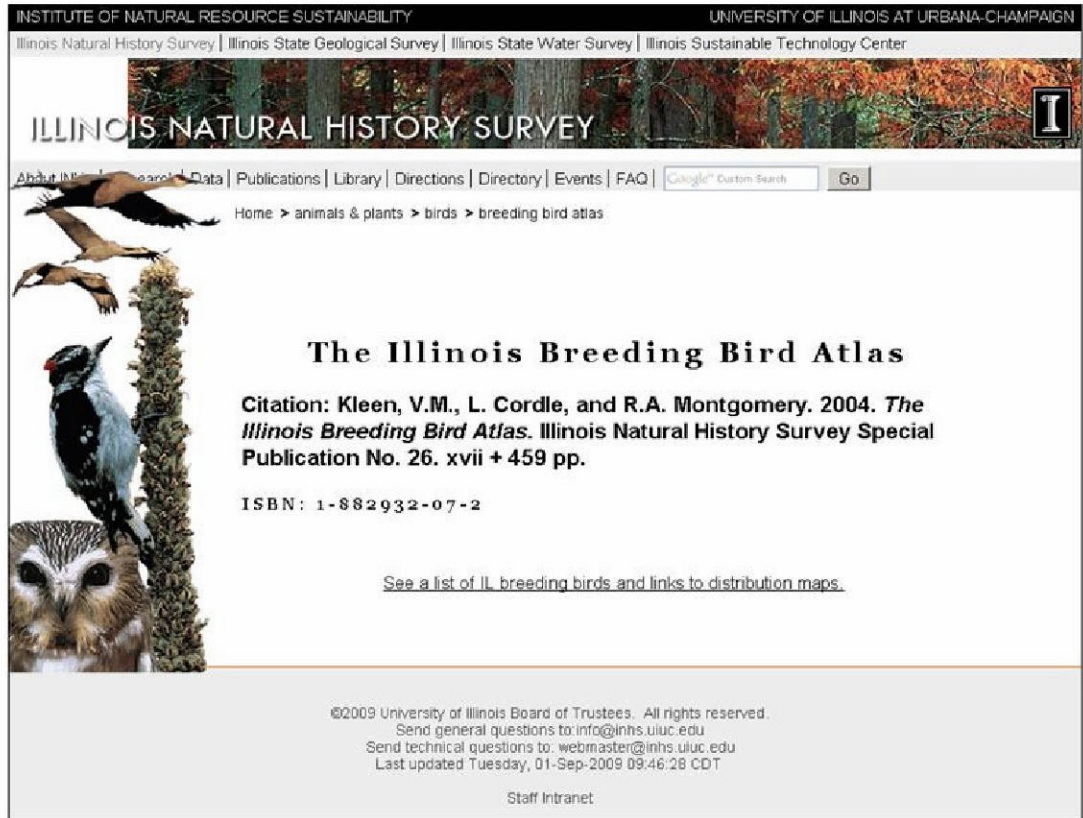
As proposed, we mounted figures for all bird species covered in *The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas* (Kleen et al. 2004) on the world-wide web in high resolution form (http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/animals_plants/birds/breeding.html), Figure 1. These data were collected for the Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas project and published in *The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas* (Kleen et al. 2004). The data had previously been available only in book form. The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas data collection phase involved hundreds of volunteers and professionals on the ground conducting standardized bird censuses which covered the entire state of Illinois with census blocks (usually 10 square miles). Atlas data have now been collected over most of the United States and parts of Canada. These data were collected to provide a measure of the geographical distribution of bird species in Illinois, and are an invaluable resource. Illinois now joins a handful of states that provide easy on-line access to their Breeding Bird Atlas distribution maps.

Each of the maps on the web site we created shows the state of Illinois with all of the Breeding Bird Atlas (BBA) census blocks. The color of the blocks indicates whether that species was found in the block, and whether it was common or uncommon. The maps (http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/animals_plants/birds/breeding.php, Figure 2) are linked to the home page for the site (above) and individual species maps are accessible by simply clicking on the phrase 'breeding distribution' by the name of each species. An example map is displayed below (Figure 3).

The newly created BBA website is linked to the Illinois Natural History Survey plant and animal web page, which is devoted to databases concerning the distribution and abundance of the flora and fauna of Illinois, and is maintained by the Illinois Natural History Survey. These data are now available on line to anyone and along with other databases concerning the birds of Illinois (e.g. the annual Illinois Spring Bird Count).

One of the great advantages of *The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas* is that coverage of the State during the census was very even. Through this website, data on the distributions of breeding populations of all Illinois birds in any part of the state are available. This is a tremendous resource for wildlife managers, both public and private, researchers (both in Illinois and those interested in continental distributions of species), developers, and educators. Information concerning census methods and individual species accounts are available in Kleen et al. (2004, available through the Illinois Natural

History Survey <http://www.inhs.uiuc.edu/resources/inhspublications.html>).



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The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas

Citation: Kleen, V.M., L. Cordle, and R.A. Montgomery. 2004. *The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas*. Illinois Natural History Survey Special Publication No. 26. xvii + 459 pp.

ISBN: 1-882932-07-2

[See a list of IL breeding birds and links to distribution maps.](#)

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Figure 1. Front Page for *The Illinois Breeding Bird Atlas* Website.

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INHS Breeding Bird Atlas

Scientific binomial	Common name
<i>Branta canadensis</i>	Canada Goose (breeding distribution)
<i>Cygnus olor</i>	Mute Swan (breeding distribution)
<i>Aix sponsa</i>	Wood Duck (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas strepera</i>	Gadwall (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas rubripes</i>	American Black Duck (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	Mallard (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas discors</i>	Blue-winged Teal (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas clypeata</i>	Northern Shoveler (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas acuta</i>	Northern Pintail (breeding distribution)
<i>Anas carolinensis</i>	Green-winged Teal (breeding distribution)
<i>Aythya collaris</i>	Ring-necked Duck (breeding distribution)
<i>Aythya affinis</i>	Lesser Scaup (breeding distribution)
<i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i>	Hooded Merganser (breeding distribution)
<i>Mergus merganser</i>	Common Merganser (breeding distribution)

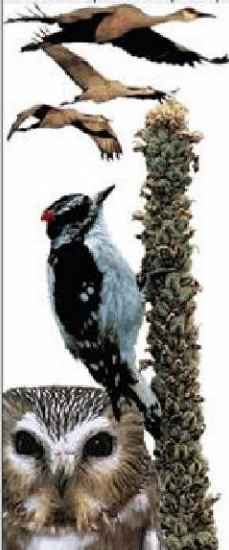


Figure 2. Species list. Organized by taxonomy with both scientific and common names. Click on "breeding distribution" for any species to see registrations for that species during the Breeding Bird Census.

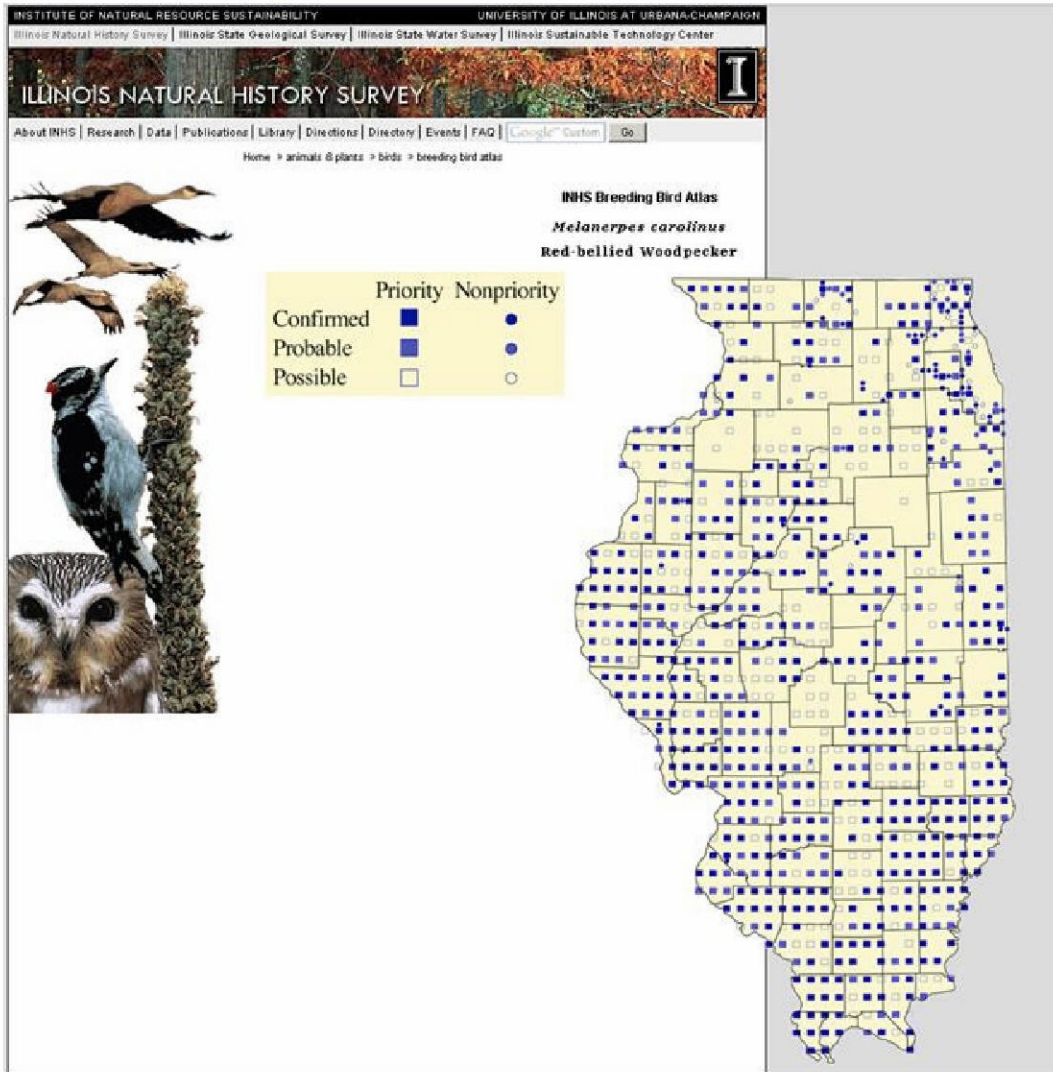


Figure 3. Species Range example. Distribution of the Red-bellied Woodpecker in Illinois.