

BOOK REVIEW #3

Havera, Stephen P. *Waterfowl of Illinois: An Abbreviated Field Guide*. 1999. Illinois Natural History Survey Manual 7, viii + 72 pages; maps; photographs; figures; suggested reading list. Illinois Natural History Survey, Champaign, Illinois. Paper. Price: US\$14.95. Available from Illinois Natural History Survey, Distribution Office, 607 East Peabody, Champaign, Illinois 61820.

This attractive guide should be on the bookshelf or in the field pack of any person with an interest in waterfowl or wetlands. It contains selected information from its companion volume, "Waterfowl of Illinois: Status and Management," and thus is not a comprehensive treatment of Illinois waterfowl. Rather, it provides an introduction to the concept and significance of wetlands, to habitat programs beneficial to wetlands and waterbirds, to aerial inventories and banding of waterfowl, and to important natural plant and animal foods of ducks in Illinois.

The 19 species of ducks and geese common to Illinois and the American Coot emphasized in part seven will be particularly useful in the field. Each species is presented in a succinct but informative manner, including a full color photograph together with highlights of its natural history in Illinois. The treatments of the species include graphic illustrations of peak fall migrations, further refined by listing the average date of regional peaks within the state. Comments on nesting are included for those species that nest regularly in Illinois. The full color photographs and graphic illustrations are excellent. My only criticism concerns page 13 of the plant food section where the photograph of American Wild Celery, *Vallisneria americana*, will not help neophytes recognize it in the field.

Historical Illinois waterfowl milestones and valuable tips on waterfowl observation and public hunting areas in Illinois complete the main text. A list of suggested readings and several sources of Internet information complete the guide. This valuable compendium will provide conservationists, birdwatchers, outdoor enthusiasts, and hunters with answers to many frequently asked questions about Illinois waterfowl. It will lead those with a more intense interest in waterfowl and their habitats to pursue its detailed and comprehensive companion volume.

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