



## 2001 – 2005 BIRD OBSERVATIONS ON THE WEST CHICAGO PRAIRIE PRESERVE

Compiled by  
The West Chicago Prairie Stewardship Group

The attached table summarizes bird observations on the West Chicago Prairie Preserve for the 5-year period 2001-2005, along with the complete list of all recorded species since 1983. Total species recorded is 181. The purpose of this tabulation is to provide a guide for the likelihood of seeing a given species at any time of the year in appropriate habitat. Data are given for four periods each month, days 1-7, 8-15, 16-23, and 24-X. A "-" entry in the table indicates that the species has been observed one or two times in that period over the past five years; a "+" entry means the species was observed more often than that.

These data include observations made during general field trips, workdays and random visits as well as observations made during specific bird surveys. Accordingly, there are relatively fewer data available for the winter months than for the rest of the year, and relatively more data available for the more easily visited portions of the Preserve. Any species that was identified while the observer was in the Preserve or on the immediately adjacent Illinois Prairie Path are included. Thus, "fly-overs," such as cormorants, cranes, and some hawks, not actually seen "on" the Preserve are included.

The status symbols (ST) used in the table are:

P = Permanent resident  
M = migrant  
S = Summer resident/visitor  
W = Winter resident/visitor  
I = Irregular visitor

a = abundant, "can't miss"  
c = common, usually seen/heard in habitat  
o = occasional, not observed every year  
f = frequent, not regularly seen/hear  
r = rare, one to three observations

The capital letters indicate the time of year the species is present, and the lower case letters are a guide to the probability of seeing the species, and not necessarily a guide to the absolute numbers present. For species which are present throughout the year but which have periods of increased abundance, Canada Geese during spring migration and Song Sparrows during breeding season, for example, the symbols apply to the periods of increased abundance.