

# ILLINOIS HISTORICAL JOURNAL

Volume 87 / Number 3 / Autumn 1994

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**Cover:** Naturalist-explorer Robert Kennicott pioneered the study of Illinois natural history. When Kennicott began his observations of animals in 1852, the development of the state's natural resources, particularly farmland, already threatened some species. Encouraged by his father, John Albert Kennicott, and established naturalists from around the country, Robert became a widely respected naturalist and a founder of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. Ronald S. Vasile's article on Kennicott's early career begins on page 150.