Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #07-020W

An Island for the Birds

FINAL REPORT

submitted by:
Illinois Audubon Society
November 13, 2007

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Project Title: An Island for the Birds

Project Narrative

The breeding range of certain shorebird species has been reduced due to a lack of available quality nesting areas. It has become increasingly difficult for shorebird species that occur in grassland communities to find nesting areas that are not subject to rapid water level draw downs, conversion to agriculture or accessible to predators.

Recognizing that nesting island projects have proven to be successful in attracting shorebirds, terns, and gulls, the Illinois Audubon Society (IAS) constructed a site in 2003 on the Karl Bartels Wildlife Sanctuary Land and Water Reserve (part of the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area complex managed by PRSNA staff). However, it was discovered that the island was too small and would become covered with water during rain events. IAS proposed a solution to raise the elevation and install a combination of filter fabric and gravel to provide a long term nesting location that would require minimal maintenance over the long term.

Funds from this grant were used to construct a .25-acre nesting island located in the center of the existing wetland. It was shaped for level nesting areas, covered with a filter fabric and topped with 112 tons of CA-6 gravel 3-inches thick. This location will now provide a more secure nesting site for shorebird species including black-necked stilts, killdeer, spotted sandpipers, and possibly interior least terns. Native vegetation that has been established in the wetland will provide both foraging and migratory habitats for shorebirds and marsh birds.

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Budget Outcome

	Project Total	Funds Requested	Matching Funds	Actual Total
Personnel	$ 200.00		$ 200.00	$ 200.00
Travel				
Equipment				
Materials/Supplies	$2000.00	$2000.00		$2836.60
Contractual Services				
Other				
Total	$2200.00	$2000.00	$ 200.00	$3036.60

Source of Matching Funds: Volunteers - $10/hr x 20 hrs. To put down fabric and level rock on nesting island

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Final Report Certification

This certifies that the Grantee, Illinois Audubon Society, represented by Tom Clay acknowledges this report is a true and accurate account documenting the completion of the Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #07-020W, Project Title: An Island for the Birds.

The report, which is bound herein, contains eight pages beginning with this certification of condition. It includes a written narrative detailing the methods used to fulfill this grant in addition to a budget summary, expense receipts, press release and maps to document the completion of this project.

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Tom Clay
Executive Director
Illinois Audubon Society