Final Report for Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant #11-013W

Grant Agreement Number: 11-013W

Grantee Name: Illinois Ornithological Society
PO Box 931
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Time-frame of Report: December 3, 2010 – May 1, 2011

Grantee Representative: Brian Herriott (wrybill@sbcglobal.net)

Project Objective:

To support the launch of Illinois Young Birders Club (ILYB), the Illinois Ornithological Society requested Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund resources to (1) create welcome packages for the first 50 'Charter Members' of ILYB, including bird guides, checklists, member cards, and a welcome letter from Illinois Ornithological Society, and (2) purchase 7 pairs of birding binoculars to be kept and maintained by Illinois Ornithological Society for use by Illinois Young Birders members during events and field trips.

Project Description:

The Illinois Ornithological Society has formed the Illinois Young Birders Club to foster an interest in birding, generate further awareness of conservation issues affecting Illinois birds, and introduce members to career options related to birds and the natural sciences – all within the safest possible environment of scheduled field trips and other events. Based on the successful models of young birders' clubs in New York, Ohio, and other states, the ILYB will empower youth members to self-determine the activities, events, and field trips for the group. The Illinois Ornithological Society is supporting ILYB by providing liability insurance, website funding and access, and adult supervisors.

Summary of the Project Accomplishments:

ILYB started accepting members in March, 2010. To date, there are 26 youth members, 15 adult supporting members, and 4 partner organizations. The official website of ILYB is www.illinoisyoungbirders.org. The club also produces a quarterly newsletter called 'The Hoot', which features articles, photographs, and artwork submitted by members relating to birding.

Educational Materials: 50 copies of 'Birds of Illinois' by Steve Bailey and Sheryl DeVore were purchased on January 4, 2011 as welcome gifts for our first 50 charter members of ILYB. The total price for these books was $670.23 (receipt attached). The books were purchased from Lone Pine Publishing, 1808 B Street NW, Suite 140; Auburn,

WA 98001. These field guides have been handed out to youth members at field trips or mailed to their homes.

Equipment Use Report:

7 pairs of birding binoculars were purchased on January 27, 2011 from Eagle Optics, 2120 West Greenview Drive #4; Middleton, WI 53562 (receipt attached). A breakdown of each binocular is:

3 pairs of Eagle Optics Raven 8.5x32 binocular at $129.99 each for total of $389.97.

2 pairs of Eagle Optics Raven 6.5x32 binocular at $84.99 each for total of $169.98.

2 pairs of Vortex Diamondback 8x42 binocular at $164.99 each for total of $329.98.

Eagle Optics gave ILYB 3 pairs of Eagle Optics 8.5x32 binoculars free of charge as part of the order, giving ILYB a total of 10 pairs of binoculars.

The total price for the equipment purchased from Eagle Optics was $895.93.

Details on equipment:

The binoculars are all kept in a large plastic bin and stored at the home of Brian Herriott, the ILYB Adult Coordinator. The binoculars are brought to the monthly field trips for use by members and returned to the storage location thereafter.

Storage Location Address: Brian Herriott
9315 Lincolnwood Drive
Evanston, IL 60203
(847) 329-9005