

# Final Report

**FY 13 Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant 13-033W**

**Let's Bring Back the Barn Owl**

**Illinois Audubon Society**



Deploying nest boxes in suitable habitat is the priority action from the Illinois Barn Owl Recovery Plan (2010). Since 2009 efforts by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and other partner organizations including The Illinois Audubon Society, the number of known barn owl nests has increased significantly in Illinois. The majority of these barn owl nests are located in nest boxes. In many places with otherwise suitable habitat, structures for

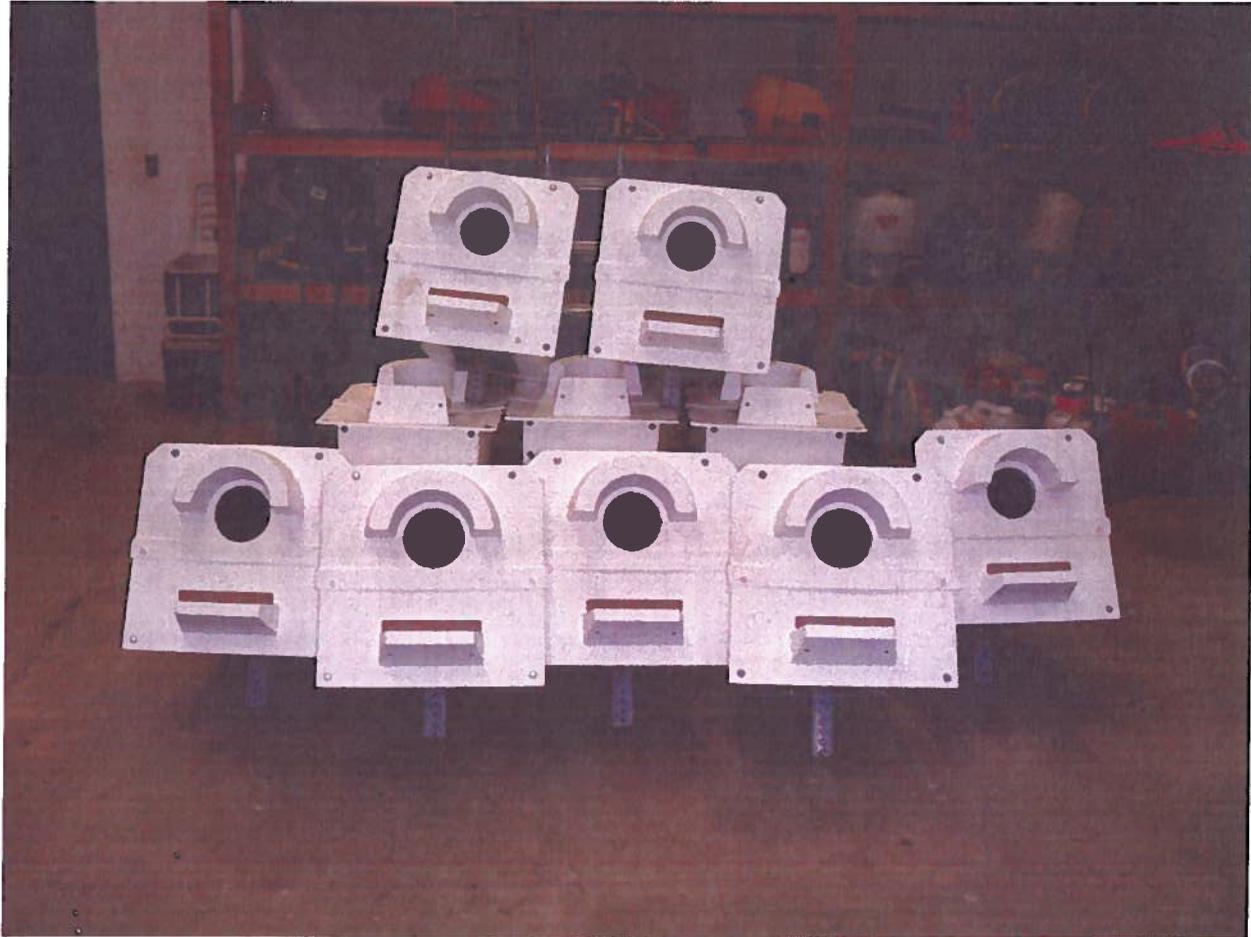
installing a nest box are either unavailable or unsafe. Free-standing, pole-mounted nest boxes are ideal for these situations, and are readily adopted by barn owls (at least 6 of 20 installed in 2010 in Illinois were used for nesting in 2011).

To assist with the recovery of the barn owl in Illinois, The Illinois Audubon Society wrote a Wildlife Preservation Fund small project proposal called Let's Bring Back the Barn Owl in the spring of 2012. This grant application proposed purchasing 10 additional barn owl nest boxes for use by IDNR staff and the Barn Owl Recovery Team. Placement of the nest boxes will be determined by criteria in the Barn Owl Recovery Plan, including surrounding habitats, available foraging areas and/or recent barn owl use or observations in the area. Installation and monitoring of the nest boxes will be done by IDNR Natural Heritage Biologists and the Barn Owl Recovery Team.

Our overall goal is to continue measurable progress towards the complete recovery of barn owls in Illinois. To date, Illinois Audubon Society has purchased 16 barn owl nest boxes for deployment and monitoring by IDNR Natural Heritage staff and the Barn Owl Recovery Team.

The Illinois Audubon Society purchased 10 pole-mounted nest boxes in 2012 from The Barn Owl Box Company ([www.barnowlbox.com](http://www.barnowlbox.com)), @ \$179 each (incl. shipping), for a total of \$1590.00 for use by IDNR Natural Heritage Biologists and the Barn Owl Recovery Team. Volunteers from the Illinois Audubon Society participated in assembling the 10 nest boxes. In addition, other materials needed to install and assemble the barn owl nest boxes were purchased from Menards in Effingham for a total of \$111.21. These additional materials included: Screte concrete mix, bolts, washers & nuts, PVC pipe for predator guards and mulch for nesting material.





**Ten barn owl nests boxes purchased from the Barn Owl Box Company**

Nest box sites were selected by the Barn Owl Recovery Team and Natural Heritage Biologists in various Counties in Illinois. The Barn Owl Recovery Plan includes scoring criteria for evaluating habitat potential of locations under consideration. Priority was given to locations on public lands and private lands in conservation ownership or where known active nests were located or nearby.

The 10 nest boxes were installed by the Barn Owl Recovery Team, Natural Heritage biologists in IDNR Regions II, IV and V, and other cooperators. Each plastic pole mounted nest box model was attached to a 10-12 foot long 2 inch X 2 inch metal post, these used metal sign posts were donated to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources by the Illinois Department of Transportation.



### **Installing a pole mounted barn owl nest box in Tazewell County, Illinois – January 2013**

The barn owl nest boxes were mounted to the pole with a mounting plate using bolts. The metal post with the nest box attached was placed in a 3 feet deep hole that was dug with a tractor mounted auger. Sacrete was put into the hole and mixed with water to hold the post in place. Mulch was placed in the nest box to provide a base layer for egg placement. All nest box openings face east to reduce any potential for overheating and weather impacts. GPS coordinates and other information was collected and entered in the IDNR nest box tracking system in use by the Barn Owl Recovery Team.

The Barn Owl Recovery Team, DNR staff and others will include these new nest boxes into annual monitoring of >100 other barn owl nest boxes. EORs of any nesting activity are reported within 30 days of discovery to the DNR's Natural Heritage database.

IAS in cooperation with IDNR field staff installed 08 pole mounted nest boxes on Public Lands and 02 pole mounted nest boxes on private lands. Public Lands Properties included: IDNR properties: Cypress Creek State Natural Area in Johnson County, Manito Pheasant Habitat Area in Tazewell County and Banner Marsh in Peoria County and United States Forest Service Tracts: Dixon Springs Agricultural Center in Pope County and the Walters Tract in Hardin County.

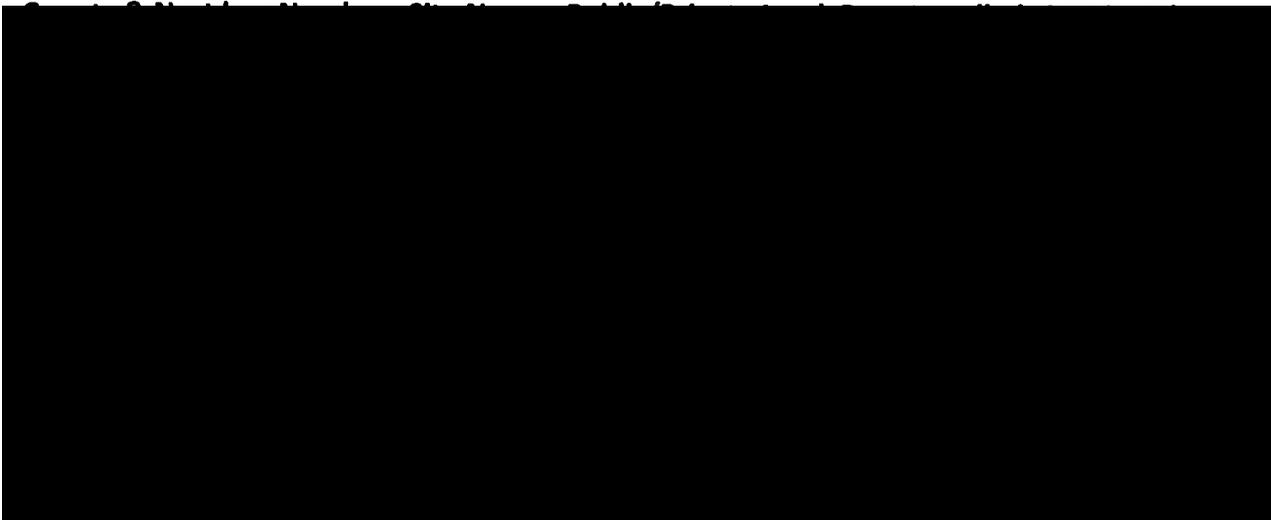
Nest boxes were placed in 07 counties during the course of this project including: Johnson – 1 box, Williamson – 1 box, Tazewell – 1 box, Peoria – 2 boxes, Pope – 2 boxes, Christian – 1 box, and Hardin – 2 boxes.



**Installing a pole mounted barn owl nest box in Pope County, Illinois – May 2013**

**Figure 1.**

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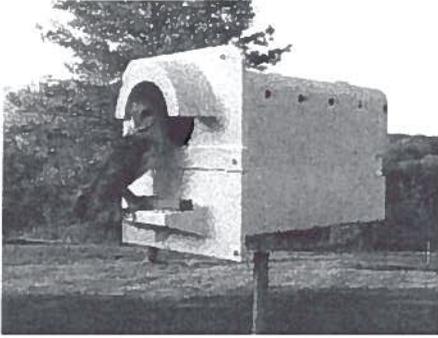




**Installed pole mounted barn owl nest box**

The Illinois Audubon Society would like to thank the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Wildlife Preservation Fund for supporting the Illinois Audubon Society and the Recovery of the Common Barn Owl in Illinois.

13-033W



**THE BARN OWL BOX COMPANY**

2544 Hobbs Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15212  
Phone: 412-874-9403  
Fax: 412-322-3134

Bill to:

Illinois Audubon Society  
PO Box 2547  
Springfield, IL 62708

Date: Sept 27, 2012

Item #	Quant.	Description	Price	Amount
BOB 101	10	Post Models	159 00	1590 00

Subtotal	1590	00
Tax	0	00
Shipping	0	00
Balance	\$ 1590	00

*paid 10/10/2012*  
*CHECK # 126963*

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\* GUEST COPY \*  
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GOV IL DEPT OF NATURAL RE  
1660 W POLK AVE

MENARDS - EFFINGHAM  
1100 Ave of MidAmerica  
Effingham, IL 62401

CHARLESTON  
FAX # (217)

IL 61920

INVOICE # 98193

ACCOUNT : 31760224

TRANSACTION DATE : 08/27/12  
TRANSACTION TIME : 110715  
REGISTER NUMBER : 8  
SIGNER : Roger Jansen

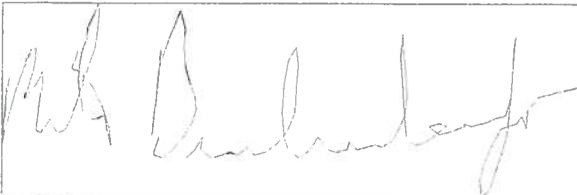
TRANSACTION # : 6188  
PURCHASE ORDER # : 0  
TYPE OF SALE : Charge Sale  
CLAIM # : 0

QUANTITY	SKU	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
5.00	1803046	CYPRESS MULCH	13.75
1.00	2322401	5/16 X 3" HEXBOLT -14PCS	1.44
1.00	2323426	5/16" HEX NUT 96PC	1.69
1.00	2323361	3/8" WASHER 76PC	1.69
1.00	2322443	5/16 X 6" HEXBOLT -8PC	1.44
1.00	2322443	5/16 X 6" HEXBOLT -8PC	1.44
10.00	1891111	FAST SET CONCRETE MIX	49.80
4.00	6899969	4"X10' CELL CORE PVC PIPE	39.96

SUB-TOTAL: 111.21  
TOTAL TAX: 0.00  
PAYMENTS : 0.00  
=====

TOTAL DUE: 111.21

Paid 9/11/12  
CHECK # 3979



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
FY13 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM

**PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION**

**Grantee Information**

Grantee Name: The Illinois Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 2547  
Springfield, IL 62708

Grant Agreement #: 13-033W

Amount of  
Reimbursement Requested: \$1701.21

RECEIVED  
JAN 0 2014  
Dept. of Natural Resources

I certify that the goods or services specified on this request for payment were for the use of this agency and that the expenditure for such goods or services was authorized and lawfully incurred, that such goods or services meet all the required standards set forth in the grant agreement to which this request for payment relates, and that the amount shown below on this request is correct and approved for payment.

By:  Date: 12/17/2013  
(Signature)

Name: Tom Clay Title: Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society

Grantee F.E.I.N./TIN: 36-6065870

Attach copies of vendor billings, proof of payment, and other necessary documentation and send the Request for Payment Certification to:

Terry L. Esker  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
4295 N. 1000th St. Telephone#: (618)783-2685  
Newton, IL 62448 E-Mail Address: Terry.Esker@Illinois.gov

**For DNR Use Only**

Approved  
for Payment:   
Signature

Name: TERRY ESKER

Date: 01/02/2014