

Final Report
Illinois Audubon Society
FY13 Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant 13-034W
Vernal Pond Development at the Loy Prairie Restoration

The overall decline of reptile and amphibian populations throughout Illinois is well documented. The tremendous loss of shallow water wetlands, ephemeral pools and vernal ponds as breeding sites has contributed significantly to the decline of these populations, especially in grassland habitats.

The Illinois Audubon Society applied for a small project Wildlife Preservation Fund grant in the spring of 2012 called Vernal Pond Development at the Loy Prairie Restoration. This project will fund the construction of 4 vernal ponds approximately 0.25 acres in size in upland prairie grassland habitats on the Loy Prairie Restoration Project in Marion County, Illinois. The construction of these vernal ponds will provide critical habitat for reptiles and amphibians, dragonflies, aquatic insects and other species that use vernal ponds for breeding, foraging or migration and met goals identified in the Comprehensive State Wildlife Plan for Illinois.

During November 2012, RB Enterprises was hired to construct the vernal ponds on the Loy Prairie Restoration Project. RB Enterprises has constructed a couple of hundred of vernal ponds for IDNR and other organizations in Southeast Illinois and was determined to be the best contractor for this project. Four vernal ponds were constructed with a small bulldozer by excavating soil from shallow depressions and constructing earthen berms to pond water in the basin (see map of vernal pond locations). An earthen overflow was also constructed on each berm to allow high water to flow over the berm without damaging the berm. All of the berms were seeded with wheat and redtop to provide permanent vegetation cover along with a wheat cover crop until the redtop is established (see copy of bill for \$177.00 for redtop and wheat). Limbs and logs were placed in all of the vernal ponds to provide breeding structures for amphibians and reptiles.

The four vernal ponds were constructed in accordance with guidance for habitat development described in publications including: Illinois Landowner's Guide to Amphibian Conservation, Habitat Management Guidelines for Amphibians and Reptiles of the Midwest, and A Guide to Creating Vernal Ponds. These wetland habitats are intended to be seasonal, drying up by mid-July to August as a means of eliminating undesirable species and facilitate development of desirable plant communities. Once filled with water, the four vernal ponds will provide critical habitat for reptiles and amphibians, dragonflies, aquatic insects and other species that use vernal ponds for breeding, foraging or migration.

One goal of the Loy Prairie Restoration project is to restore, enhance, or create examples of wetland communities typical of the Southern Till Plain Natural Division in east-central Illinois with the objective of developing an awareness and appreciation for native reptiles and amphibians, dragonflies and aquatic insects, the construction of these vernal ponds helps meet these objectives. Several Illinois species of concern are expected to benefit from these constructed wetlands, included crawfish frogs, foraging marsh birds including king rails, American bitterns and least bitterns. This restoration adjoins 12 Mile Prairie and is part of the Prairie Ridge State Natural Area complex in Marion County, Il. Species of conservation concern that have been documented on PRSNA will also benefit from any restoration efforts on Loy Tract.

Illinois Audubon staff in coordination with DNR Natural Heritage biologists worked with the contractor to ensure that the vernal ponds were constructed to provide optimum reptile and amphibian habitats. Later this year, wetland plants and seeds will be added to diversify the restoration, additional logs and limbs will be added to provide escape cover and places for eggs attachment. Annual monitoring will be done by IAS staff and/or volunteers to document colonization and use of the wetlands by reptiles and amphibians.

Vernal Pond #	Site Name	County	GPS Coordinates	Date Constructed
Loy # 01	Loy Prairie	Marion		November 2012
Loy # 02	Loy Prairie	Marion		November 2012
Loy # 03	Loy Prairie	Marion		November 2012
Loy #04	Loy Prairie	Marion		November 2012

Loy Prairie Restoration
Marion County
Vernal Ponds
Constructed 11/2012



Loy 1

Loy 2

Loy 3

Loy 4



Loy Prairie Restoration - Vernal Pond #1



Loy Prairie Restoration – Vernal Pond #2



Loy Prairie Restoration – Vernal Pond #3



Loy Prairie Restoration – Vernal Pond #4

**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
FY13 WILDLIFE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT PROGRAM**

PAYMENT REQUEST CERTIFICATION

Grantee Information

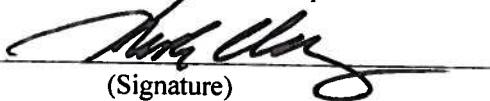
Grantee Name: The Illinois Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2547
Springfield, IL 62708

Grant Agreement #: 13-034W

Amount of
Reimbursement Requested: \$2,000

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:


(Signature)

Date: 10/16/2013

Name: Tom Clay

Title: Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society

Grantee FEIN/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.

Newton, IL 62448

Telephone#:

(618)783-2685

E-Mail Address:

Terry.Esker@Illinois.gov

For DNR Use Only

Approved
for Payment:


Signature

Name: TERRY ESKER

Date: 11/14/2013

Invoice

13-034W

PAGE 1

RB Enterprises
203 S. Maple
Watson, IL 62473
USA

(217)536-9279

Invoice No.
00000175

Invoice Date
12/03/12

Sold
To: ILLINOIS AUDUBON SOCIETY
PO BOX 2547
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62708

Purchase Order Number	Date Ordered 12/03/12	Date Shipped 12/03/12	Payment Due 12/03/12	Salesperson
Terms DUE ON RECEIPT	Notes			

Reference	Description	Amount
	CONSTRUCTION OF FOUR VERNALS PONDS ON THE LOY PRAIRIE RESTORATION	2,000.00

Message

SubTotal	
Sales Tax	
Shipping	
TOTAL	2,000.00

THIS CHECK IS PROTECTED WITH A VOID PANTOGRAPH - OTHER SECURITY FEATURES DETAILED ON BACK



Illinois National Bank
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62701

CASHIERS CHECK

127412

Remitter : Illinois Audubon Society

70-933
711

PAY ***2,000 DOLLARS AND 00 CENTS***

DATE

AMOUNT

December 13, 2012

\$2,000.00

The Sum of **2000 DOLS 00 CTS**

RB Enterprises

TO
THE
ORDER
OF

VOID AFTER 90 DAYS
[Signature]
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

⑈ 127412⑈ ⑆071109338⑆

200018⑈



Helping Preserve Illinois Flora and Fauna Since 1897

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2013

Contact: Tom Clay, Executive Director
Illinois Audubon Society
PO Box 2547, Springfield, Illinois 62708
217.544.2473
tclay@illinoisaudubon.org
www.illinoisaudubon.org

Wildlife Preservation Grant Vernal Pond Project Completed at Loy Prairie

SPRINGFIELD, IL . The Illinois Audubon Society today announced the completion of a Wildlife Preservation Fund (WPF) grant in Marion County. The 215-acre Loy Prairie is being restored to its pre-settlement Southern Till Plain prairie condition. Located near Farina, Illinois, Loy Prairie was purchased in 2010 from the Maxine Loy Estate.

The overall decline of reptile and amphibian populations throughout Illinois is well documented. The tremendous loss of shallow water wetlands, ephemeral pools and vernal ponds as breeding sites has contributed significantly to the decline of these populations, especially in grassland habitats.

Administered by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), the \$2,000 WPF Grant allowed for the construction of four vernal ponds approximately 0.25 acres in size in upland prairie grassland habitats on the Loy Prairie. The construction of these vernal ponds will provide critical habitat for reptiles and amphibians, dragonflies, aquatic insects and other species that use vernal ponds for breeding, foraging or migration and meet goals identified in the Comprehensive State Wildlife Plan for Illinois.

The Illinois Wildlife Preservation Fund Grant Program is designed to preserve, protect, perpetuate and enhance non-game wildlife and native plant resources of Illinois through preservation of a satisfactory environment and an ecological balance. Projects proposed for grant funding must focus on management, site inventories or education. The Fund is financed through a voluntary check-off designation on Illinois State income tax return forms. All donations to the fund must be used to assist non-game wildlife and native plants. The Illinois Audubon Society extends its thanks to all Illinois citizens who contribute so generously to the Wildlife Preservation Fund and the IDNR for its administration of the grant program.

The mission of the Illinois Audubon Society is to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native plants and animals and the habitats that support them. The Illinois Audubon Society is an independent, member supported, not-for-profit, statewide organization. Founded in 1897, the Society is Illinois' oldest private conservation organization with over 2300 members, 21 chapters and 15 affiliate groups. The Illinois Audubon Society has protected over 3000 acres by investing more than \$6 million to protect land and water throughout Illinois.

###