

This is especially true in the central part of the state where loss of high quality wetlands has been severe.

Sand Lake is worthy of preservation because, as a high quality wetland, it can serve as a model for the restoration of other breeding habitats for endangered and threatened bird species within the Illinois sand prairies and elsewhere. Unfortunately, there still remains the potentiality of drainage (= destruction) of the wetland. When another flood occurs (and that is only a matter of time), it is likely that local citizens will exert strong political pressure to initiate relief action which may well involve the drainage of Sand Lake. Hopefully, energetic activism by ornithologists and birders as well as other environmentalists will prevent this destruction from occurring.

Acknowledgments

We thank F. Bellrose, D. Birkenholz, R. Bjorklund, J. Cima, H. Gasdorf, D. Glosser, and J. Herkert for providing information on the birds of Sand Lake; J. Herkert, W. Ingram, and W. McClain for discussion; J. Cima for field assistance; A. Capparella for bibliographic assistance; J. Thomas for preparing Fig. 1; and D. Birkenholz, J. Brown, J. Herkert, and E. Mockford for critically reading the manuscript.

Editor's Note: The Illinois Audubon Society has been working to purchase 90 acres of the Sand Lake wetland area (65 acres of ephemeral wetland and 25 acres of adjacent sand upland). Please contact IAS for more information at (217) 446-5085 in Danville, IL.

Literature Cited

- Bohlen, H. D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Brown, L. E. 1986. Field survey for the Illinois chorus frog in the study area for the IL 97/Pecan Creek Bridge (FAP 34), Mason County, Illinois. Unpublished Report Prepared for the Illinois Department of Transportation. Normal, Illinois.
- Brown, L. E. and J. E. Cima. In press. The Illinois chorus frog and the Sand Lake dilemma. In M. J. Lannoo (ed.), The status and conservation of midwestern amphibians. University of Iowa Press, Iowa City, Iowa.
- Clark, G. R. 1995. Mouth of the Mahomet regional groundwater model, Imperial Valley region of Mason, Tazewell and Logan counties, Illinois. Division of Water Resources, Illinois Department of Transportation, Springfield, Illinois.
- Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. 1993a. Mason County/City of Havana flood control report 1993. Unpublished Report Prepared for the Mason County Board of County Commissioners and City of Havana. Peoria, Illinois.
- Environmental Science and Engineering, Inc. 1993b. Sand Lake watershed flood control feasibility study. Unpublished Report Prepared for the Mason County Board of County Commissioners and City of Havana. Peoria, Illinois.
- Herkert, J. R., ed. 1991. Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: Status and distribution, Volume 1—Plants. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.
- Herkert, J. R., ed. 1992. Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: Status and distribution, Volume 2—Animals. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.
- Herkert, J. R. 1994. Endangered and threatened species of Illinois: Status and distribution, Volume 3: 1994 changes to the Illinois list of endangered and threatened species. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.
- Herkert, J. R. 1995. Endangered and threatened birds of Illinois: An overview of the species and their habitats. Meadowlark 4:42-47.
- Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board. 1994. Checklist of endangered and threatened animals and plants of Illinois. Illinois Endangered Species Protection Board, Springfield, Illinois.
- Labotka, T. C. and N. C. Hester. 1971. Sand and gravel resources of Mason County, Illinois. Circular 464, Illinois State Geological Survey, State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education, Urbana, Illinois.
- Newman, D. S. 1996. The Sand Lake story. Illinois Audubon 255:4-6.
- Rodgers, C. S. 1978. The presettlement vegetation of McLean and Mason counties, Illinois. Master of Science Thesis, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.
- Schwegman, J. E. 1996. Species news. Illinoensis. Newsletter of the Illinois Native Plant Conservation Program. Illinois Department of Natural Resources 12(1).
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Endangered Species. 1993. Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants. Title 50—Wildlife and Fisheries, Part 17, Subpart B—Lists, 17.11 Endangered and threatened wildlife. Special Reprint of 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12, Washington, D.C.
- Walker, W. H., R. E. Bergstrom, and W. C. Walton. 1965. Preliminary report on the ground-water resources of the Havana region in west-central Illinois. Cooperative Ground-Water Report 3, State Water Survey and State Geological Survey, State of Illinois Department of Registration and Education, Urbana, Illinois.
- Williams, D. 1993. Ditch proposed to slow flooding. Firm suggests that county drain Sand Lake into Illinois River. Journal Star, 2 December, Page B9, Peoria, Illinois.

—Lauren E. Brown
Department of Biological Sciences
Illinois State University
Campus Box 4120
Normal, IL 61790-4120

—Angella K. Moorehouse
Department of Biology
Western Illinois University
Macomb, IL 61455