

by the Illinois Department of Conservation. This method entails recording all birds seen or heard while slowly walking prescribed transects through the area being studied. The researcher using this method also pauses for five minutes at listening stops located along the transects and similarly records all birds seen or heard.

Pre-restoration censuses were conducted in 1985 while post-restoration censuses were conducted during 1990 and 1991. Figure 1 shows the locations of the post-restoration transects. Pre- and post-restoration transects were censused approximately once per week from the end of May to the middle of June for a total of four censuses per transect during each census year.

Additional efforts were made to determine the presence of

rails. Rails are secretive and may be missed by the listening stop - transect method described above. Taped recordings of King Rail, Virginia Rail, Yellow Rail, and Sora were played at the listening stops shown in Figure 1 when the surrounding habitat was appropriate.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No state endangered or threatened species were observed at the DPRWDP site before restoration. This is not surprising, given the highly disturbed, degraded quality of the site at that time. Restoration of wetlands has resulted in use of the site by several state endangered species (Fig. 2). Two state endangered species, Least Bittern and Yellow-headed Blackbird, nested on site

during both years of post-restoration censusing (Table 1). A single pair of Least Bitterns nested within Wetland #4 in 1990 and 1991. At least four pairs of Yellow-headed Blackbirds nested on site in 1990 (two in Wetland #3 and two in Wetland #4), and at least seven pairs nested within DPRWDP during 1991 (one in Wetland #3, four in Wetland #4, and one in Wetland #5).

Least Bittern and Yellow-headed Blackbird both seem to prefer deep-water marshes that contain sections of open water. In much of our state, agricultural erosion has accelerated the natural aging of marshes making them sufficiently shallow for cattails to replace what used to be open water. This results in a habitat that is less attractive to species such as the Least Bittern and Yellow-

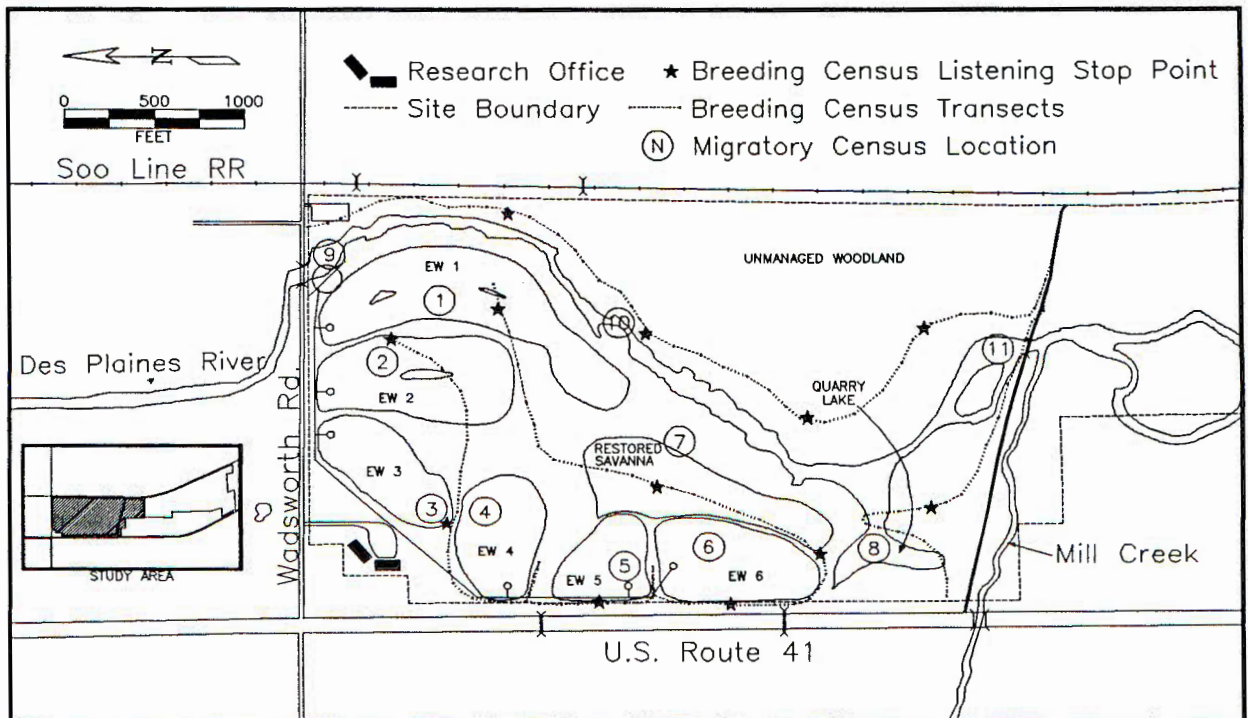


Figure 1. DesPlaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project Site, 1991. EW = experimental wetland.