

and in an approximately 100 percent increase in nesting wetland species (Fig. 3).

Even though the wetlands of DPRWDP are man-made, the number of breeding species that they support compares favorably with roughly similarly-sized forest preserves in Lake County that contain naturally occurring marshes. DPRWDP supported 53 species during the breeding season. Grant Preserve contains approximately 52 breeding species and MacDonald Woods Forest Preserve contains approximately 51 breeding species.

It is noteworthy that these successes occurred virtually immediately upon completion of construction of DPRWDP wetlands and that the DPRWDP has supported a diversity of species equal to that of naturally-occurring habitats in the same region within the first year that construction of wetlands was completed.

While it certainly wouldn't be true for all species, it appears that a "field of dreams" effect exists for wetland birds. If we build wetlands, birds will come.

This study documents a significant post-restoration increase in the use of the Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project site by breeding birds, including several species that are state-endangered. It is clear that The Des Plaines River Wetlands Demonstration Project has greatly improved habitat quality for birds in general, and for wetland birds in particular.

The positive response of birds to DPRWDP indicates that in addition to diligently protecting Illinois' remaining natural wetlands, we should also sup-

**TABLE 1. BREEDING SEASON
AVIFAUNA OF DPRWDP,
1985, 1990 and 1991**

| SPECIES | TOTAL NUMBER OF BREEDING PAIRS | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|------|
| | 1985 | 1990 | 1991 |
| Pied-billed Grebe ** | 0 | 0 | V |
| Least Bittern ** | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Great Blue Heron + | 0 | 0 | V |
| Great Egret ** | 0 | V | V |
| Green-backed Heron + | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Black-crowned Night Heron ** | 0 | V | V |
| Canada Goose + | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| Mallard + | 0 | 4 | 5 |
| Blue-winged Teal + | 0 | 2 | 7 |
| Sora + | 0 | 3 | 6 |
| American Coot + | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Killdeer + | 0 | 4 | 4 |
| Spotted Sandpiper + | 0 | 13 | 15 |
| American Woodcock | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Mourning Dove | 1 | 1 | 5 |
| Belted Kingfisher + | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Flicker | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| Eastern Wood Pewee | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Willow Flycatcher + | 8 | 3 | 11 |
| Great-crested Flycatcher | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Eastern Kingbird | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Blue Jay | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| American Crow | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Black-capped Chickadee | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| House Wren | 8 | 3 | 5 |
| Sedge Wren + | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Marsh Wren + | 0 | 11 | 13 |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Wood Thrush | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| American Robin | 13 | 9 | 8 |
| Gray Catbird | 9 | 6 | 7 |
| Brown Thrasher | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Cedar Waxwing | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| European Starling | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| White-eyed Vireo | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Yellow-throated Vireo | 0 | 2 | 1 |
| Warbling Vireo | 2 | 0 | 1 |
| Red-eyed Vireo | 1 | 4 | 3 |
| Yellow Warbler + | 3 | 13 | 14 |
| Common Yellowthroat + | 19 | 25 | 22 |
| Scarlet Tanager | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Northern Cardinal | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| Rose-breasted Grosbeak | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Indigo Bunting | 7 | 3 | 6 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Savannah Sparrow | 0 | 5 | 2 |
| Song Sparrow | 16 | 49 | 49 |
| Swamp Sparrow + | 4 | 2 | 9 |
| Bobolink | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Red-winged Blackbird + | 25 | 93 | 79 |
| Eastern Meadowlark | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird ** | 0 | 4 | 7 |
| Common Grackle | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | 5 | 12 | 20 |
| Northern Oriole | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| American Goldfinch | 8 | 20 | 10 |
| House Sparrow | 0 | 1 | 1 |

* = State Endangered Species
V = Visitor
+ = Wetland Species