

vanna fragment at the Shoe Factory Road prairie has shown little bird life but did shelter three Eastern Bluebirds in January 1993.

WETLAND AREAS:

In the savanna, an irrigation pond was dug to water the livestock in the area while it was still being farmed. This pond is filled with goldfish and supports a resident Belted Kingfisher. This is a prime fishing site for the Great Blue Herons and Great Egrets that nest at nearby Baker's Lake in Barrington. The pond does not support much in the way of waterfowl, probably because it is

enclosed by oaks on all four sides and does not afford a great deal of takeoff space for them.

Poplar Creek itself attracts very little waterfowl. During spring migration, the current tends to run rather quickly and, by fall, the creek frequently contains a very low water level. The area does not support many bugs either so even passerines do not spend much time near it. An Eastern Phoebe does nest under one of the small bridges that crosses the creek. The most diverse area is a wetweather wetland just north of the concrete dam (see map) built a number of years ago to help prevent

flooding in the area. The water table here has dropped so much because of all the development in this area over the last few years. So the deepest the water gets is approximately 4 feet.

When we have had a wet winter, this area attracts Northern Shovelers, Ruddy Ducks, and Hooded Mergansers along with Greater and Lesser yellowlegs, Spotted Sandpipers and other shorebirds. We have confirmed nesting of the state-endangered Piedbilled Grebe in four of the last six years and American Coots have used this area in two different years. Tree Swallows and Cedar Waxwings along with Eastern Kingbirds feed