

# 2013 IOS grants program sets records

- A record 22 grant requests were received.
- A record 13 were funded.
- A record \$13,000 was contributed by a record 22 organizations and individuals.

Here's a brief synopsis of the 13 grants that were awarded:

- 1. Ben O'Neal:** Franklin College and Ill. Nat. Hist. Survey; Assess the nesting ecology of waterbirds and other marsh birds prior to the drawdown in the Emiquon preserve in spring/summer 2013.
- 2. Amber Wingert:** U of I -Champaign; Monitor the Barn Owl nest boxes in Southern Illinois to determine reproductive success, develop a model of nest box site selection and test the effectiveness of con-specific playback as a survey method.
- 3. Kevin Sierzega:** Southern Illinois U- Carbondale; Quantify the differences in bird community metrics, e.g., species richness, evenness and diversity during spring migration and in the breeding season across a gradient of oak-hickory and beech-maple dominance forests.
- 4. Scott Chiavacci:** U of I - Champaign; Determine factors affecting shrubland bird nest success and causes of nest failure in urban and rural marshlands in 8 test sites in northeastern Illinois and 3 sites in east-central Illinois.
- 5. Antonio Celis Murillo:** U. of I - Champaign; To foray or not to foray: Extraterritorial behavior in Field Sparrows and its behavioral, morphological and reproductive correlates.
- 6. Maria Stager:** U. of I - Champaign; Evaluate the effects of day length and temperature on seasonal variation in metabolic performance and correlated differences in underlying gene expression profiles in Dark-eyed Juncos.
- 7. Mark Swanson:** Field Museum and Ill. Wesleyan Univ.; Determine the interactions between morphologically similar, but genetically distinct Barred Owls of Illinois and the upper Midwest.
- 8. Henry Pollock:** U of I - Champaign; Investigate thermal tolerances and responses to heat stress in a suite of Illinois birds and compare the data with similar data collected in Panama to determine how birds will respond to climate change.
- 9. Justin J. Shew:** Southern Illinois U- Carbondale; Funds for year 3 of a 4 year study of the nesting success, species richness, species population, etc. of grassland birds in land set aside in the Conservation Reserve Program(CRP).
- 10. Valerie Buxton:** U of I Champaign; Making the most of what remains: Determining urban grassland quality in Illinois. Assess how grassland patch size and landscape context affect grassland bird occurrence, abundance and nest success. Funds for year 2.
- 11. Douglas R. McClain:** Cooperative Wildlife Research Lab - SIU-Carbondale; Year 2 of a study to research the response of breeding wood ducks to differences in productivity within the Cache River watershed. The Cache River watershed has undergone different modifications during its history.
- 12. Sarah Cleeton:** U. of I - Champaign; Explore the role of migratory songbirds in the spread of Lyme disease invasion (such as Lyme disease) in central Illinois.
- 13. Elsa Anderson:** DePaul Univ; Assess Red-headed Woodpecker nest-tree and habitat characteristics and evaluate nesting competition in relation to nest-site success in Cook County.

Watch for articles about some of these projects in the IOS quarterly journal, *Meadowlark*.

Thanks to all the individuals and organizations that made these awards possible.