



Audubon CHICAGO REGION

1718 Sherman Avenue
Suite 210
Evanston, IL 60201
Tel: 847-328-1250
Fax: 847-328-4146
www.audubon.org

November 4, 2011

Bill Kleiman, Manager
The Nature Conservancy
8772 S. Lowden Road
Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Dear Bill,

The Illinois Important Bird Areas program identifies places that support significant populations of birds of conservation concern. For a site to qualify as an *Important Bird Area (IBA)*, it must meet standardized criteria developed by the IBA Technical Committee, a group of bird experts from throughout the state.

The IBA Technical Committee recently met and identified 26 new IBAs, as well as adding new information for 17 others. Nachusa Grasslands has been identified as an IBA. The site is important because it supports Henslow's Sparrow. Congratulations and thank you for your stewardship of the land, which helps to make it a place where birds can thrive.

Our program can support your stewardship efforts in several ways. We often work with IBA landowners to organize dedication ceremonies that meet your strategic goals. These provide you with an opportunity to highlight your work, and could focus on recognizing and/or educating elected officials, partners, funders and supporters and/or doing outreach to the local community and media. Also, we can assist in starting or supporting an IBA stewards group on site to support good habitat management, or work with your team to develop a thorough assessment of conservation concerns or opportunities for bird populations at your site.

The Important Bird Areas program is a program of the National Audubon Society and has no regulatory authority. Rather, we make landowners aware of the importance of their land to bird conservation and, if invited, provide ideas that are beneficial to the habitats, the birds and the landowner.

Please feel free to contact me with any ideas you may have about the IBA program and how it can support your conservation work. More information is available at www.habitatproject.org/birds/iba.html.

Sincerely,

Judy Pollock
Illinois IBA Coordinator