

Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 3 Final Report

Neal,

I have not done the final report on the Mottled Duck project but I will forward an email from Bill Stransky which gives a summary of the accomplishments. Most of the work was centered in the area around the junction of CR 227 and FM 2004. Some of the work involved building larger than normal levees around the refuge rice fields to hold water after the crop has been harvested and some work involved building levees below the rice fields to capture rice tailwater and rainfall. These areas will be managed as moist soil units (shallow wetlands with emergent vegetation).

One of the key components of this work is to be able to hold water in some of these areas throughout the late spring and summer to provide habitat for mottled duck broods.

Keep in mind that the bird use which you saw on the field trip was not on any of this particular project but on similar work done a couple of years earlier. Given another year or two and we will see similar results on these project units.

I will be glad to review your article and see if I can offer suggestions.

Ron 22Nov10

From: [Bill & Christine Stransky](#)

To: [Ron Bisbee](#)

Sent: Saturday, October 09, 2010 8:17 PM

Subject: GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan - Phase 3 Final Report

GCJV Mottled Duck Conservation Plan – Phase 3 Final Report

The Friends of the Brazoria NWR (Friends Group) has completed work on the NAWCA Small Grant. The Friends Group is pleased to report it has greatly surpassed the original goals and expectations for wetland development on the Brazoria NWR

The wetland/moist soil projects completed are as follows:

1. 145 acres created in the Ditches 6-7 Field
2. 55 acres created in Field 3
3. 25 acres created in Field 2
4. 44 acres created in Field 4
5. 83 acres created and restored in Mottled Duck Marsh
6. 100 acres restored in the lower segment of Otter Slough

An estimated 452 total wetland/moist soil acres created and/or restored versus the original 340 acre goal. This is 112 acres more than the original proposal or about 33% more

In addition we were able to complete substantially more work, which is as follows.

1. The restoration of 100 acres in Walker Pond by eliminating exotic species and invasive vegetation and by installing new boards for the water control structure
2. The restoration of 270 acres of the upper segment of Otter Slough by spraying exotic and invasive species
3. The elimination of Chinese Tallow from the 145 acres Ditches 6-7 project and by spraying the adjacent 255 acres of native prairie.
4. The bulldozing of 70 acres of Chinese Tallow from the area adjacent to Field 8 and removing Chinese Tallow from part of the irrigation canal system

This is a combined 370 acres of wetland restoration and 325 acres of upland restoration above and beyond the original proposal.

We also were able to complete the 3,500 acres of Chinese Tallow spraying that was considered part of the non match component.

This work is having a dramatic positive effect on the refuge, especially when combined with the substantial amount of additional Chinese Tallow spraying and wetland creation along with large scale rice farming returning.

During the summer an estimated 800-1,000 Mottled Duck were observed in the wetland/moist soil projects along with thousands of wading birds. Brazoria NWR management is very pleased with the work

We wish to thank the NAWCA Small Grant Program for their support and look forward to working with the program in the future.