NFWF | Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

TEXAS Cow Trap Lake Bird Nesting Island Improvements

This project enhanced and completed two critical colonial waterbird and coastal seabird nesting islands within the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. These two islands, recently constructed by Ducks Unlimited, support several coastal bird species including priority conservation species like the Reddish egret, Black skimmer, and the Gull-billed tern. Funding for this project allowed Ducks Unlimited to make improvements on the islands by placing 6 inch layers of crushed shell, oyster, limestone, or other similar materials on the island crowns, providing suitable nesting material and reducing the growth of undesirable vegetation. Monitoring of success will commence following placement of the material.

This project bolstered populations of Gulf Coast birds by protecting and restoring critical nesting habitat within the San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge. San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge consists of more than 24,000 acres of coastal prairies and salt marshes in southern Matagorda and Brazoria counties. The Refuge offers habitat to more than 400 species of wildlife, including some 250 bird species.



This project enhanced two bird nesting islands that support species such as the Reddish egret (left) and Black skimmer (right) pictured above.



AT A GLANCE

RECIPIENT: Ducks Unlimited

AWARD AMOUNT: \$605,409

PARTNERS: USFWS

LOCATION: Bernard National Wildlife Refuge

AWARD DATE: November 2015

STATUS: Closed

PROGRESS UPDATE: Project closed July 2020.