



# AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVING WILD BIRDS AND THEIR HABITATS THROUGHOUT THE AMERICAS

June 25, 2001

Colonel William J. Bayles, Commander  
U.S. Army Engineer District, Rock Island  
Clock Tower Building  
P.O. Box 2004  
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004

Dear Colonel Bayles:

Thank you for the nomination of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Mississippi River Project, Rock Island District for consideration as an Important Bird Area, as submitted by the Natural Resource Management Section of the Mississippi River Project, Operations Division. These Corps lands form an important part of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge Complex and the Mark Twain National Wildlife Refuge Complex. Hundreds of thousands of waterfowl use the lands and waters of the Mississippi River Project during migration, including a significant porportion of the world's population of Canvasback and significant numbers of Lesser Scaup, in addition to thousands of other ducks and geese. Thousands of shorebirds and herons are found there seasonally, and there are high densities of breeding songbirds in the floodplain forest with many thousands more during migration. Thousands of hawks also use the river as a corridor during fall migration and feed and rest on these lands during their passage. The U.S. Army Corps Mississippi River Project, Rock Island District therefore qualifies as a **Globally Important Bird Area** under the American Bird Conservancy's U.S. Important Bird Area program.

Thank you for your interest in the program. We congratulate the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its staff for their cooperative efforts with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to manage and maintain these critical lands for the benefit of migratory and breeding birds.

Yours sincerely,

Robert M. Chipley, Ph.D.  
Director, U.S. Important Bird Areas Program  
American Bird Conservancy

cc: Roger Bollman

