

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEED GRANT QUARTERLY REPORT

Grant Number: 2007-04

Grant Title: Development of avian indicators and measures for monitoring threats and effectiveness of conservation actions in the Northeast

Grant Recipient: American Bird Conservancy

Grant Contact Name: Dan Lambert

Report #- 1 (for Mar 5 to June 30, 2008)

Were planned goals/objectives achieved last quarter? Yes

Regional Conservation Need Addressed: Development of Regional Indicators and Measures

Progress Achieved: (For each Goal/Objective, list Planned and Actual Accomplishments)

The following activities were completed as planned:

Objective 1. To develop regionally coordinated survey designs and monitoring protocols for three indicator groups: mountain birds, grassland birds, and tidal marsh birds.

1. Drafted a sampling design, field protocol, and standard operating procedures for monitoring high-elevation songbirds in Bird Conservation Region 14, the Atlantic Northern Forest.
2. Obtained critical review of the mountain bird protocol from 8 cooperators and 4 independent reviewers.
3. Trained seasonal technicians and volunteer observers in the conduct of the mountain bird protocol.
4. Piloted the mountain bird protocol at 100 sites in New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.
5. Developed standardized field methods for monitoring grassland birds in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York with guidance on statistical design provided by the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Population and Habitat Assessment Branch.
6. Trained seasonal technicians and volunteer observers in the conduct of the mountain bird protocol.
7. Piloted the grassland bird protocol at 60 sites in New York, 120 sites in New Jersey, and an indeterminate number of sites in Connecticut.
8. Trained a seasonal technician to conduct the North American Marsh Bird Monitoring Protocol.
9. Piloted the protocol in accordance with the spatially balanced sampling design that has been

developed for tidal marshes in Bird Conservation Region 30, the New England / Mid-Atlantic Coast. Complete surveys at a minimum of 50 sites in Delaware and New Jersey.

Objective 2. To incorporate methods to investigate the region's most significant threats and the effectiveness of management and conservation actions.

1. Incorporated covariates that address potential sources of population limitation for mountain songbirds, such as climate change, red squirrel predation, forest management, and deposition of acidic compounds and mercury into high-elevation forests.
2. Designed and piloted a sampling approach that permits an assessment of the bird conservation value of Landowner's Incentive and Wildlife Habitat Incentive Programs (LIP and WHIP) by comparing grassland bird populations on LIP- and WHIP-enrolled properties with randomly selected control sites.

Difficulties Encountered:

Coordination among project partners has been hampered somewhat by delayed review of a sub-agreement with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and confusion on reporting deadlines. The delay in the original grant notification also resulted in a slow start to the tidal marsh sampling season because of consequences for hiring technicians. Otherwise, progress has been steady.

Activities Anticipated Next Quarter:

Objective 1. To develop regionally coordinated survey designs and monitoring protocols for three indicator groups: mountain birds, grassland birds, and tidal marsh birds.

Planned Accomplishments:

1. Synthesize comments on the mountain bird survey design and protocol from reviewers and field observers.
2. Carry out power / precision analysis to inform sample size requirements for the mountain bird program.
3. Complete the second round of pilot grassland bird surveys at 60 sites in New York.
4. Continue to pilot tidal marsh bird program at a minimum of 50 additional sites in New Jersey and Maryland. Complete a second round of surveys at 100 sites in Delaware, New Jersey, and Maryland.

Objective 2. To incorporate methods to investigate the region's most significant threats and the effectiveness of management and conservation actions

1. Pilot habitat sampling component of the mountain bird protocol and modify methods to accommodate time and resource constraints.

Objective 3. To identify, expand, and/or build data management systems for each of the indicator groups in order to facilitate aggregation and analysis of data at desired spatial scales

1. Build mountain bird monitoring database and project metadata in accordance with schema of the Avian Knowledge Network and the National Biological Information Infrastructure.

2. Identify common fields among New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut grassland bird databases.
3. Enter 2008 pilot data into existing and emerging databases.

Objective 4. To provide coordination services for implementing key elements of “A Framework for Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the Northeast” and “The Northeast Monitoring and Performance Reporting Framework”

1. To draft a step-by-step guide to monitoring for bird conservation for an audience of biologists and natural resource managers.
2. To participate in the on-going revision of “The Northeast Monitoring and Performance Reporting Framework”.
3. To prepare and submit funding proposals for integrating and implementing the aforementioned frameworks.
4. To report progress at the September meeting of the Northeast Wildlife Diversity Technical Committee.

Costs:

Are you within the approved budget plan? Yes
Are you within approved budget categories? Yes

Signature: _____

Date: _____

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT EXPENDITURE REPORTING FORM

Grant Number: 2007-04

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Reporting Period for Costs Claimed On This Voucher: March 5 to June 30, 2008

A. List Total Eligible Cost Summary For This Reporting Period Only:

NE RCN GRANT			
Time Period			
	RCN FUNDS	NON-FEDERAL MATCH	TOTAL
<u>Personal Service Cost</u>			
Salaries and/or Wages	\$7,899		\$7,899
Fringe Benefits	\$2,040		\$2,040
Indirect Cost Rate (17.2%)	\$ 706	\$1,006	\$1,712
<u>Non-personal Service Cost</u>			
Travel	\$524		\$524
Equipment			
Supplies & Materials			
Contractual Services			
Total	\$11,169	\$1,006	\$12,175

B. List Cumulative Total Eligible Costs Claimed From The Beginning of Agreement Up To And Including Those Listed Above:

Total Life-to-Date Expenses	\$11,169
Less Previous Payments Processed	\$0
Total Amount Due Grantee Now:	\$11,169

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT

PERSONAL SERVICES SUMMARY

GRANTEE AND 3RD PARTY MATCH

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NE RCN GRANT					
Date(s)	Name, Affiliation, Title	Hourly Rate	Task	Hours Claimed	Total Cost
March 5 – June 27	Julie Hart, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Mountain Birdwatch Coordinator	\$16.83	Developing protocols, coordinating and conducting pilot surveys, database design	86	\$1,450
June 15-21	Brendan Collins, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Field Technician	\$12.50	Field surveys	30	\$375
June 15-21	David Mallard, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Field Technician	\$11.25	Field surveys	20	\$225
March 5 – June 30	Nellie Tsipoura, New Jersey Audubon Society, Volunteer Coordinator	\$17.50	Volunteer coordination and map and protocol preparation	230	\$4,025
May 15 – June 30	Greg Shriver, Professor of Ecology, University of Delaware	\$12	Organization, hiring, training	32	\$384
June 9 - 30	Field Technician, University of Delaware	\$12	Training, field surveys	120	\$1,440

NOTE: If daily time and activity records for each individual employee, signed by the appropriate supervisor, which document the above summarized personal services performed in relation to the project, are not attached, the following certification must be signed prior to reimbursement of those costs.

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONSERVATION NEEDS GRANT CERTIFICATION OF GRANTEE AND 3RD PARTY MATCH

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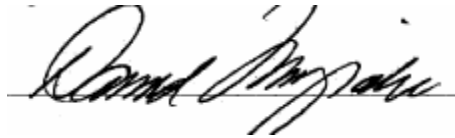
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I hereby certify that daily time and activity records for each individual detailing the specific hours devoted solely to this project which are distinguishable from work done on other projects during the same time frame, maintained in accordance with all applicable federal, state and general municipal accounting practices and procedures are available in our files for inspection.



Julie Hart for Vermont Center for Ecostudies



David Mizrahi for New Jersey Audubon Society

Signature pending

Greg Shriver for the University of Delaware is pending.