

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
State Wildlife Grant**

Grant Number: T-21 **Segment Number: 1**
Project Number: 9.0
Project Title: Inventory and monitoring of birds (landbirds, shorebirds, seabirds, waterbirds) on state and partner lands.
Project Duration: 16 April 2011 – 30 June 2014
Report Period: July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
Report Due Date: 30 September 2013
Principle Investigator: David Tessler, ADF&G
Project Location: Regions II and IV - Various state managed lands including: Denali State Park, Chugach State Park, and lands along Petersville Road, Lake Louise Road, and McCarthy Road.

Potential Future Locations: State Refuges, State Critical Habitat Areas, State Sanctuaries, State Parks, State Recreational Areas, other state lands along existing or planned transportation corridors, intertidal state lands. Other non-state lands on a case by case basis when the individual effort addresses the objectives of this project and involves supporting important partnerships.

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON JOBS FOR LAST SEGMENT PERIOD ONLY

Objectives:

Conduct survey, inventory, and monitoring of landbirds on select Alaska state lands in an efficient and cost effective manner by participating in and/or developing cooperatively executed, statistically meaningful survey protocols.

Objective 1. *Inventory and monitor landbirds on Alaska select state lands subscribing to the established protocols for continental or regional cooperative monitoring programs.*

Job/Activity a.: *Conduct between two and six roadside NABBS surveys per year on state lands with available and long standing roadside routes using sight and sound survey techniques defined by USGS NABBS.*

Job/Activity b.: *Conduct at least two to six off-road bird surveys per year on select state lands using the distance based sight and sound survey techniques of the ALMS (Handel 2004).*

Accomplishments:

Objective 1. Job/Activity a.:

In June 2013 we repeated Breeding Bird Surveys on state lands adjacent to the Lake Louise Road and the Glenn Highway near Glenallen, AK, along the Petersville Road, near Trapper Creek, AK., and along the Glenn Highway near Sheep Mountain. We also initiated two new BBS routes along the Nancy Lakes Parkway and the Hatcher Pass Road near Willow, and along Burma Road near the Goose Bay State Game Refuge. The location of the Breeding Bird Surveys was determined by USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, but WDP staff selected the routes we survey.

Objective 1. Job/Activity a.:

A late spring with snowpack in the alpine lingering into the end of June caused us to cancel plans to repeat landbird surveys at sites in Chugach State Park following Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey (ALMS) protocols (Handel 2004). Inventory and monitoring sites were selected at random by the USGS Alaska Science Center.

We plan to resume these survey activities in 2014.

***Objective 2.** Conduct inventories to develop species occurrence lists where none presently exist, especially in areas where State Special Areas Planning efforts require it and in habitat is likely to be significantly altered by natural or anthropogenic change.*

***Job/Activity a.:** Work with ADF&G planners and refuge managers to determine if and where information on bird assemblages is substantially lacking on State Special Lands.*

***Job/Activity b.:** Develop appropriate inventory methods and conduct surveys on an as needed basis.*

Accomplishments:

Objective 2. Job/Activity a & b.:

No progress to report on this Job/Activity for this reporting period.

***Objective 3.** Develop and/or conduct and/or participate in statistically defensible bird survey, inventory, and monitoring projects which are capable of detecting changes in trend (or capable of supporting future change detection) for species of special conservation concern or for species dependant on habitats or locations of particular concern.*

***Job/Activity a.:** Work with partners and agency staff to identify and prioritize specific species and/or specific geographic areas that are not well served by existing monitoring broad-scale efforts such as NABBS or ALMS.*

***Job/Activity b.:** Work with partners to develop effective, cost efficient means of conducting monitoring for species or species assemblages identified as priorities.*

***Job/Activity c.:** Partner with other agencies to conduct survey, inventory, and monitoring projects with the appropriate levels of accuracy and precision on species or groups identified as shared high priorities.*

Accomplishments:

Objective 3, Job/Activity a - c:

We participated in multiple meetings and several teleconferences with Chugach National Forest, the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Management, and US Geologic Survey about the potential for conducting regular surveys of coastal intertidal areas in the general Gulf of Alaska vicinity. The surveys would ostensibly focus on shorebird use of the region. Topics of discussion included: were such surveys needed; what such survey data might indicate about the general state of the intertidal ecosystem; were surveys actually feasible to conduct and what sort and amount of effort would be required; what potential survey designs/sampling frameworks would be workable; which agencies might participate in such surveys and what roles might each play; and how data might be shared and analyzed. While no conclusions were reached about multi species surveys, they meetings did clarify the interests of the agencies in conducting black oystercatcher monitoring in the region, and led to further talks and arrangements for coordinating black oystercatcher surveys in the region.

II. PUBLICATIONS

III. ADDITIONAL FEDERAL AID-FUNDED WORK NOT DESCRIBED ABOVE THAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED ON THIS PROJECT DURING THIS SEGMENT PERIOD

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

Prepared by: David Tessler, ADF&G

Date: September 30, 2013