

## Work Task D6: System Monitoring for Riparian Obligate Avian Species

FY06 Estimates	FY06 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY06	FY07 Approved Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate	FY10 Proposed Estimate
\$100,000	\$158,961	\$158,961	\$100,000	\$135,000	\$135,000	\$135,000

**Contact:** Matthew Voisine, (702) 293-8123, mvoisine@lc.usbr.gov

**Start Date:** FY06

**Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-term Goal:** System monitoring for avian covered species

**Conservation Measures:** MRM1 and MRM2

**Location:** System-wide

**Purpose:** Monitor riparian obligate bird species covered under the LCR MSCP to document long-term population trend and habitat use.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** Sample transects, completed under C18, were used to design this monitoring program. Information obtained through this work task will be used in conjunction with data from D5 to conduct system monitoring for avian covered species. Data collected during post-development monitoring of habitat creation sites listed in Section E may also be used in this work task.

**Project Description:** The LCR MSCP includes conservation measures for 26 covered species and 5 evaluation species, including 9 neo-tropical migratory bird species. It is inefficient to monitor every covered species individually throughout the entire LCR MSCP planning area. Many bird populations can be monitored effectively using multi-species survey protocols.

Reclamation has worked with the GBBO, USGS, and other state and federal agencies to develop a point-count system monitoring design for the state of Nevada, through Partners-in-Flight. By utilizing the GBBO monitoring system, data from the LCR can be incorporated into a larger, regional database, which makes the data more powerful during analysis. Population trends can be derived over time, thus enabling Reclamation to monitor existing avian populations.

**Previous Activities:** In FY05, 18 point-count transects were conducted. Vegetation classification was characterized using the Anderson and Ohmart classification system.

**FY06 Accomplishments:** Twelve point-count transects were conducted in 2006. Five transects began in mixed saltcedar-mesquite stands, three transects began in monotypic saltcedar, and four

transects began in mixed cottonwood-willow-saltcedar stands. Transects crossed several vegetation classifications due to the small patch size typically found along the LCR. Sixty-three avian species, totalling 1,936 individuals were observed, including six LCR MSCP covered species. Data collected from these sample transects were used to create a draft monitoring plan.

Costs for FY06 included conducting sample transects in the field and developing the monitoring plan for this system monitoring activity; therefore, expenditures were higher than anticipated.

**FY07 Activities:** The monitoring plan will be finalized in the winter of 2006-2007.

Implementation of the system monitoring for avian species will begin in May 2007. Up to 600 individual points will be selected. Ten territories for each of the six breeding covered species (gilded flicker, Gila woodpecker, vermilion flycatcher, Arizona Bell's vireo, Sonoran yellow warbler, and summer tanager) will be delineated. Habitat measurements within covered species territories will be collected and analyzed.

**Proposed FY08 Activities:** Point counts, territory delineation of the six breeding covered species, and habitat measurements will be conducted. Data will be analyzed to assess the covered species breeding habitat requirements.

**Pertinent Reports:** The study design is available upon request from the LCR MSCP. The 2006 annual report will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site.