



**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
M.L. 2011 Work Plan Main Document**

Date of Status Update: 12/05/2011
Date of Next Status Update: 04/15/2012
Date of Work Plan Approval:
Project Completion Date: 6/30/2014 **Is this an amendment request?** _____

Project Title: Species of Concern; Investigations – PART B \$250, 000 “Contract for Baseline Information on Statewide Bird Distribution and Reproductive Status”

Project Manager: Carrol Henderson

Affiliation: MN DNR

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Location:

Counties Impacted: Statewide

Ecological Section Impacted: Lake Agassiz Aspen Parklands (223N), Minnesota and Northeast Iowa Morainal (222M), North Central Glaciated Plains (251B), Northern Minnesota and Ontario Peatlands (212M), Northern Minnesota Drift and lake Plains (212N), Northern Superior Uplands (212L), Paleozoic Plateau (222L), Red River Valley (251A), Southern Superior Uplands (212J), Western Superior Uplands (212K)

Total ENRTF Project Budget:	ENRTF Appropriation \$:	250,000
	Amount Spent \$:	<u>0</u>
	Balance \$:	250,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2011, First Special Session, Chp. 2, Art.3, Sec. 2, Subd. 03p

Appropriation Language:

\$500,000 the first year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for investigating species of concern.

I. PROJECT TITLE: Subd. 3p. “Species of Concern; Investigations”

This workplan consists of two parts. Part A includes investigations on Minnesota Common Loons and American White Pelicans and details were previously submitted. Part B is for a contract between MNDNR and Audubon Minnesota to establish baseline information on statewide bird distribution and reproductive status relating to species of concern. This workplan is for Part B.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY:

This is the completion of a comprehensive, statewide survey, begun in 2008, documenting the breeding distribution of Minnesota’s birds which will result in a breeding bird atlas. Atlases are used throughout the world to document and map the distribution of breeding birds. This information is vital to scientists and conservationists, allowing focus of conservation investments in the most strategic and effective manner. To date, over 800 volunteers coordinated by Minnesota Audubon, have been deployed to obtain detailed information on the breeding status of Minnesota’s birds. Concurrently, surveyors coordinated by the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Minnesota – Duluth have been gathering systematic data from every township in the state. In combination, these two efforts will result in a powerful addition to understanding the distribution, relative abundance, and habitat use by Minnesota’s breeding birds. In addition to our data gathering, many of the contemporary data bases gathered by agencies, universities, and NGOs will be incorporated into the atlas. Final products will include a publication and on-line atlas, containing detailed distribution maps, data on species breeding status, and a summary of historical species information. Access to the information will be provided to the public as well as conservation agencies and organizations.

These funds will be used for the final 2-years of data collection, review, and organization, followed by a year of analysis and product preparation. ENRTF funds will be supplemented with an estimated \$222,570 provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon Minnesota, and the Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union. Data will be collected at the Township level by volunteers recruited and trained by project staff and by paid, specially trained observers conducting limited, standardized point counts and surveying underserved parts of the state. Combined, these methods will provide the most complete picture to date on the overall distribution of all bird species as well as relative abundance estimates and detailed breeding habitat analysis for a majority of the breeding bird species of Minnesota. By the end of this work period approximately 2,250 townships in the state (with the possible exception of a few hard-to-accesses Townships in the northern peatlands) will have been surveyed.

Data entry and access along with project updates and information will be handled through a website (mnbbba.org) and a data management system contracted through Audubon Minnesota.

III. PROJECT STATUS UPDATES:

Project Status as of April 15, 2012

Project Status as of September 15, 2012

Project Status as of April 15, 2013

Project Status as of September 15, 2013

Project Status as of April 15, 2014

Final Report as of August 1, 2014:

IV. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES:

ACTIVITY 1: Township data collection by volunteers and paid staff - training and support.

Description: Project strategies and advice will be overseen by a multi-partner steering committee which will include the MN DNR, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota Ornithologists’ Union and other members. A full-time project coordinator and additional part-time staff as needed will provide day-to-day oversight of the project. Volunteers and paid surveyors will be recruited and deployed statewide and provided with ongoing training and support. Data will be collected from late winter through mid-summer in 2012 and 2013 and entered into the online database. The northeast 3 X 3 mile quadrant of each township in the state are our target or “priority” blocks. While these 2,250 (approximately) blocks will be the focus of our efforts, data from any other location in the state will be accepted.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 1:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 135,542
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 135,542

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Conduct Breeding Bird Block Surveys in 2013	August 30, 2013	\$75,408
2. Train and support bird surveyors	August 30, 2013	\$60,134

Activity Status as of April 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2014

Final Report Summary as of August 1, 2014:

ACTIVITY 2: Data Management and Analysis

Description: Audubon Minnesota will (with ENTRF support) maintain and update the breeding bird website (mnbba.org) which will be the central source of information about the atlas for volunteers, partners, and the general public. The site will also provide volunteers with survey protocols, identification aids, and other information. Updated results and maps will be maintained and improved as necessary.

MNBBA.org will connect directly with a breeding bird database which is used for management and storage of data. This database provides on-line data entry capabilities, quality control, and editing functions and will house the data during the course of the project. Google maps provide views of survey sites and results can be reviewed by species or geographic region.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 2:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 4,500
Amount Spent: \$ 0

Balance: \$ 4,500

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Support and maintain mnbba.org website		\$2,000
2. Provide database through contract		\$2,500

Activity Status as of April 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2014

Final Report Summary as of August 1, 2014:

ACTIVITY 3: Point Count Data Collection

Description: Up to ten paid, seasonal field surveyors, primarily graduate and undergraduate students, will finish point counts in townships and the remote and hard-to-access areas of the state, including the BWCAW and the remote peatlands of Koochiching, Beltrami, and St. Louis Counties. This work will be done using a standard protocol which has been developed and tested for the gathering of these data. These systematic counts will provide uniform and standardized distribution and abundance data on bird species across the entire state. Some of these remote locations will require specialized travel such as the use of helicopters, boats, canoe, and extensive hiking in remote areas. These individuals will also gather data in the same fashion as the volunteers to supplement the data in all the townships, but especially in most of the remote, inaccessible townships where volunteers are unlikely to cover.

Summary Budget Information for Activity 3:

ENRTF Budget: \$ 109,958
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 109,958

Activity Completion Date:

Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Complete Point Count Surveys for 2,250 blocks	July 30, 2012	\$109,958

Activity Status as of April 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2014

Final Report Summary as of August 1, 2014:

V. DISSEMINATION:

Description: Survey results will be updated daily on mnbba.org. This includes distribution maps by species and block level lists of birds seen. Program updates through newsletters and general media will be produced. Final results will be compiled, analyzed and available through a website and printed publication.

Activity Status as of April 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2012:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of September 15, 2013:

Activity Status as of April 15, 2014

Final Report Summary as of August 1, 2014:

VI. PROJECT BUDGET SUMMARY:

A. ENRTF Budget:

Budget Category	\$ Amount	Explanation
Personnel:	\$ 144,990	Audubon MN & subcontractors, supervisor, support, surveyors
Professional/Technical Contracts:	\$ 4,500	Contracts for maintenance of mnbba.org
Service Contracts	\$5,500	Helicopter services, meeting and workshop expenses
Equipment/Tools/Supplies:	\$250	Misc. Data recording supplies
Postage and Mailing	\$100	Information and forms for volunteers
Travel Expenses in MN:	\$ 94,660	See Attachment A for details
TOTAL ENRTF BUDGET:	\$ 250,000	

Explanation of Use of Classified Staff: No DNR staff will be paid from this appropriation.

Explanation of Capital Expenditures Greater Than \$3,500: N/A

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) funded with this ENRTF appropriation: 0

Number of Full-time Equivalent (FTE) estimated to be funded at Audubon MN and through contracts with this ENRTF appropriation: 4.5

B. Other Funds:

Source of Funds	\$ Amount Proposed	\$ Amount Spent	Use of Other Funds
Non-state			
U.S. Fish and Wildlife	\$ 133,331	\$	Salaries, travel, supplies
Audubon Minnesota	\$ 69,239		Program support, office
MN Ornithologists' Union	\$ 20,000		Program support

TOTAL OTHER FUNDS:	\$ 222,570	\$	
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VII. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners: Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

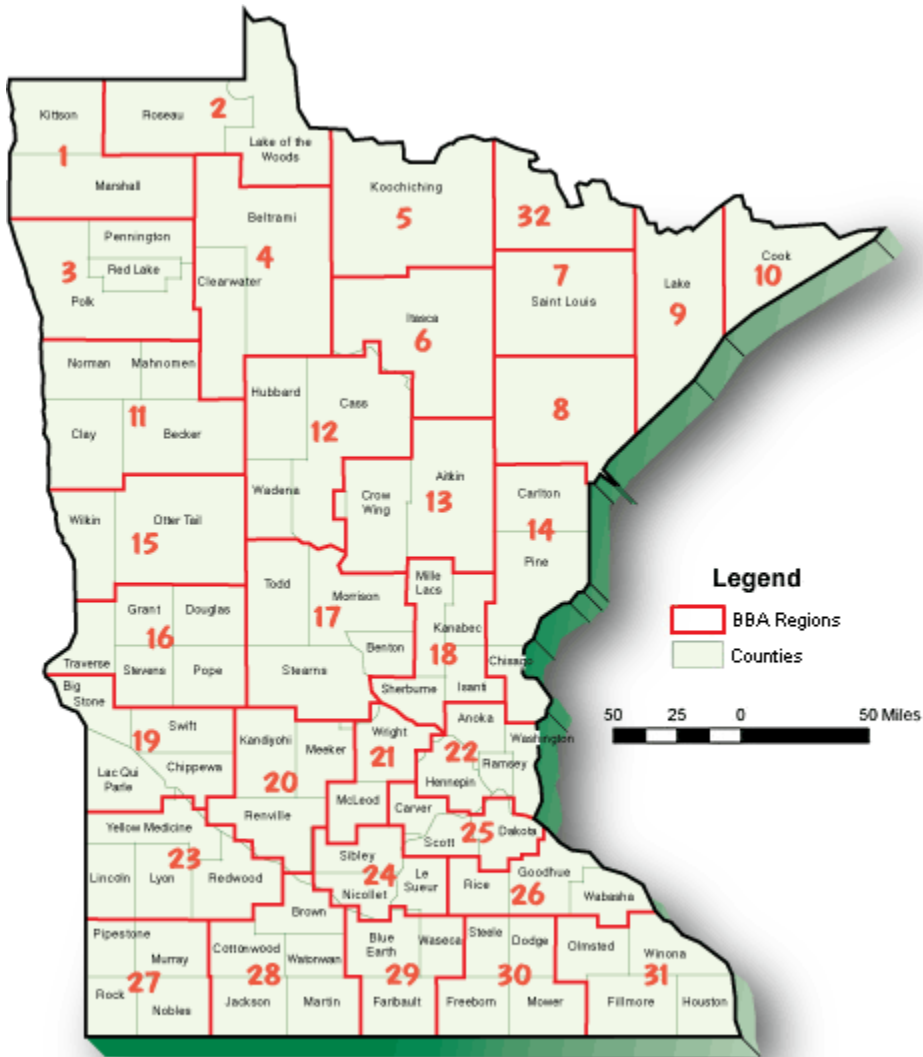
This five-year (2009-2013) pioneering effort will result in a comprehensive set of maps and data for the State of Minnesota that will provide a detailed picture of the distribution and breeding status of over 200 nesting bird species in the state. This information will be invaluable for wildlife biologists, conservationists, foresters, land use planners, private conservation organizations as they identify priority bird species and habitats that need to benefit from future conservation actions. This will help prevent bird species from becoming endangered and it will help direct future avian research to refine our expenditure of conservation funds to those species and habitats most in need of preservation and management.

C. Spending History:

Funding Source	M.L. 2005 or FY 2006-07	M.L. 2007 or FY 2008	M.L. 2008 or FY 2009	M.L. 2009 or FY 2010	M.L. 2010 or FY 2011
ENRTF			\$270,000	\$ 0	\$372,000
MNDNR			\$10,750	\$9,250	0
USFWS			\$2,347	\$3,007	\$7,127
Audubon/NRRI/Others			\$13,755	\$30,296	\$40,840

VIII. ACQUISITION/RESTORATION LIST: N/A

IX. MAP(S): See www.mnbba.com



X. RESEARCH ADDENDUM: N/A

XI. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

Periodic work plan status update reports will be submitted not later than April 15, 2012, September 15, 2012, and April 15, 2013, September 15, 2013 and April 15, 2014. A final report and associated products will be submitted by August 1, 2014 as requested by the LCCMR.

Attachment A: Budget Detail for M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Projects											
Project Title: Species of Concern: Investigations Part B											
Legal Citation: Laws of Minnesota 2011 1st Special Session Ch 2, Article 3, sec. 2, subd. 3 (p)											
Project Manager: Carrol Henderson											
M.L. 2011 (FY 2012-13) ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 250,000											
Project Length and Completion Date: June 30, 2014											
Date of Update: December 2, 2011											
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Activity 1 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 2 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	Activity 3 Budget	Amount Spent	Balance	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
BUDGET ITEM	<i>Township data collection by volunteers and</i>			<i>Data Management and Analysis</i>			<i>Point Count Data Collection</i>				
Professional/Technical Contracts											
Contracted Personnel- Audubon Minnesota (Wages and Benefits) or subcontractors (To be determined)	88,712		88,712				56,278		56,278	144,990	144,990
Project Coordinator (estimated \$36,123), 45% of salary and fringe in yr2-FY-13 (\$20,602 salary, \$7,416 fringe), and 12.5% of salary and fringe in yr 3-FY 14 (\$5,959 salary, \$2,145 fringe) total estimated											
Project Support (estimate \$4,481), partial salary and fringe in YR 2 - FY 13 (\$3,296 salary, \$1,185 fringe)											
Project Manager (estimate \$15,180), 18% of time in YR 2 - FY 13 (\$11,162 salary, \$4,018 fringe)											
Field Technicians (estimated \$32,928)- Block Survey, 7 temporary employees (8 weeks) in Yr 2, FY 13, \$29,400 salary, \$3,528 fringe											
Field Technicians - Point Count (estimated \$49,478), 10 Temporary employees (6 - 10 wks) in Yr 1 FY 12, \$44,177 salary, \$5,301 fringe											
GIS Support (estimated \$6,800) - partial support in Yr 1 - FY 12, \$6,071 salary, \$729 fringe											
Database and Web Entry Portal				2,500		2,500				2,500	2,500
MNBBA.org - website maintenance and updating - contractor to be selected by Audubon				2,000		2,000				2,000	2,000
Service contracts											
Helicopter Services - provide transportation to and from remote blocks on northern peatlands							5,000		5,000	5,000	5,000
Meeting room and workshop expenses	500		500							500	500
Equipment/Tools/Supplies Paper, misc data recording supplies	250		250							250	250
Travel expenses in Minnesota											
Travel - block counts, mileage, food, lodging in Yr 2, FY 13	45,980		45,980							45,980	45,980
Travel - point counts, mileage, food, lodging in Yr 1 - FY12							48,680		48,680	48,680	48,680
Other - postage and mailing cost for volunteer recruitment and training in Yr 2 - FY13	100		100							100	100
COLUMN TOTAL	\$135,542		\$135,542	\$4,500		\$4,500	\$109,958			\$250,000	\$250,000