

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) 2010 Work Program

Date of Report: January 28, 2010
Date of Next Progress Report: January 30, 2011
Date of Work Program Approval:
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2012

I. PROJECT TITLE: **Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas**

Project Manager: Mark Martell
Affiliation: Audubon Minnesota
Mailing Address: 2357 Ventura Drive, Suite 106
City / State / Zip: St. Paul, MN 55125
Telephone Number: 651-739-9332
E-mail Address: mmartell@audubon.org
Fax Number: 651-731-1330
Web Site Address: http://mn.audubon.org

Location: Statewide

Total ENRTF Project Budget: ENRTF Appropriation \$ 372,000

The total appropriation for this project will be split between Audubon Minnesota and the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Minnesota Duluth (NRRI) as outlined below. NRRI will submit a separate work plan for their part of the project.

	To Audubon Minnesota	To NRRI – U of Minnesota Duluth	Total
Trust Fund Appropriation	\$211,000	\$161,000	\$372,000
Minus Amount Spent:	\$0	\$0	\$0
Equal Balance:	\$ 211,000	\$161,000	\$372,000

Legal Citation: M.L. 2010, Chp. 362, Sec. 2, Subd.3(c)

Appropriation Language:

\$372,000 is from the trust fund to continue development of a statewide survey of Minnesota breeding bird distribution and create related publications, including a book and online atlas with distribution maps and breeding status. Of this appropriation, \$211,000 is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with Audubon Minnesota and \$161,000 is to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota for the Natural Resources Research Institute. The atlas must be available for downloading on the Internet free of charge.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas is a comprehensive, statewide survey of the breeding distribution of Minnesota's birds. Final products will include a book 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.

Years 3 and 4 of this six-year project will focus on data collection, review, and organization. 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. Combined, these methods will provide the most complete picture to date of 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 we anticipate having some information from all Townships in the State including "hard-to-access" townships in the BWCA and the northern peatlands, and should have completed sampling in 75% of the Townships.

Data entry and access along with project updates and information will be handled through our website and the data management system we maintain with Cornell University. The appropriation will be split with \$211,000 going to Audubon Minnesota to oversee project results 1 – 3 and \$161,000 going to the Natural Resources Research Institute at the University of Minnesota – Duluth to oversee project result 4.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY AS OF

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

RESULT/ACTIVITY 1: Volunteer and Staff Training and Management to be done by Audubon

Description: The project will be overseen by a partner steering committee and various sub-committees which were established during the first 2 years of the project. These committees provide coordination among partners, work with technical experts, and broadly oversee staff and volunteers. The project is housed at Audubon Minnesota with a full-time project coordinator and additional part-time staff as needed. Project staff, volunteer coordinators and surveyors need to be recruited and trained in a variety of tasks. Most of the data will be collected and entered into the database by volunteers working around the state and overseen by 32 volunteer regional coordinators. These volunteers and coordinators need to be recruited statewide, and provided with ongoing training and support. We will produce recruitment materials for newspapers and newsletters, directly contacting various organizations around the state, and making personal appearances and contacts. Training materials will include on-line and hard copy versions of both detailed and summary instructions, protocols, and support materials. Recruitment and training workshops will be held around the state.

Summary Budget Information for Result Activity 1:	ENRTF Budget:	\$ 61,567
	Amount Spent:	\$ 0
	Balance:	\$ 61,567

Deliverable/Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Recruit and train project staff, volunteer coordinators and surveyors	April 2012	\$30,784
2. Produce survey materials	April 2012	\$30,783

Result Completion Date: April 2012

Result Status as of January 31, 2011:

Result Status as of July 31, 2011:

Result Status as of January 31, 2012:

Final Report Summary: August 1, 2012

RESULT/ACTIVITY 2: Data Collection to be done by Audubon

Description: Surveys for breeding birds will be conducted by volunteers, and as needed by paid staff, from January – August of each year. We have designated the northeast 3 X 3 mile quadrant of each township in the state as our priority blocks. These 2,250 (aprox.) blocks will be the focus of our efforts, although data from any other location in the state will be accepted. Blocks in hard to access areas (the northern peatlands and the BWCA) will be surveyed by paid staff. This leaves 2,120 blocks to be surveyed by volunteers. By the end of year 4 we expect to have completed surveys in 1,580 (74.5%) of these priority blocks.

Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 2: ENRTF Budget: \$ 90,867
Amount Spent: \$ 0
Balance: \$ 90,867

Deliverable/Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Breeding bird data gathered by volunteers in 1,040 of Minnesota townships.	Aug 30, 2011	\$45,434
2. Breeding bird data gathered by volunteers in 1,580 of Minnesota townships.	June 30, 2012	\$45,433

Result Status as of January 31, 2011:

Result Status as of July 31, 2011:

Result Status as of January 31, 2012:

Final Report Summary: August 1, 2012

RESULT/ACTIVITY 3: Data Management and Analysis to be done by Audubon

Description: We will continue to support, maintain, and update our Breeding Bird Atlas website. We will also continue our contract with Cornell for the use of their data

management system. The BBA website will be the central source of information about the atlas for volunteers, partners, and the general public. We will provide volunteers with survey protocols, identification aids, and other information. Updated results and maps will be maintained and improved as necessary.

The Cornell system for management and storage of data; which includes on-line data entry, quality control, and editing capabilities will continue to be operational. This system will house the data during the course of the project. We will have the ability to print aerial photos and topographic maps of survey sites and view BBA results by species or geographic region.

Summary Budget Information for Result/Activity 3: ENRTF Budget: \$ 58,588
 Amount Spent: \$ 0
 Balance: \$ 58,588

Deliverable/Outcome	Completion Date	Budget
1. Continuation of BBA data access and informational website	June 30, 2012	\$29,294
2. A web-based data entry, management, and reporting system	June 30, 2012	\$29,294

Result Completion Date:

Result Status as of January 31, 2011:
Result Status as of July 31, 2011:
Result Status as of January 31, 2012:
Final Report Summary: August 1, 2012

RESULT/ACTIVITY 4: Point Count Data Collection to be done by NRRI

Description: This work will be overseen by the Natural Resources Research Institutes at the University of Minnesota Duluth and is detailed in a separate work plan they have submitted.

V. TOTAL ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$372,000
AUDUBON MINNESOTA ENRTF PROJECT BUDGET: \$211,000 (REMAINING AMOUNT TO BE SPENT BY NRRI)

Personnel: \$ 148,700

Project Manager (Mark Martell) \$23,000 est., 16% FTE
 Program Coordinator (Bonnie Sample) \$117,000 est., 100%FTE
 Administrative Support (various) \$8,700 est., 8%FTE

Contracts: \$ 14,000

Website Maintenance – Updates on mnbb.org (continued work with Dave Cahlander)

Data Management System – Updates and maintenance on database contracted with Cornell Univ.

Printing/Mailing: \$3,500

Recruitment and communication with estimated 1,000 volunteer surveyors

Equipment/Tools/Supplies: \$ 2,800

Travel: \$ 42,000 (primarily mileage, some lodging and overnight where needed)

Staff - \$7,000

Volunteer - \$35,000

Capitol Expenditures greater than \$35,000 – none

VI. PROJECT STRATEGY:

A. Project Partners receiving funds from the Trust Fund (through this appropriation):

Audubon Minnesota – Mark Martell, Project Manager, \$211,000

Natural Resources Research Institute – Univ. of MN Duluth – Gerald J. Niemi, \$161,000

Other Partners – Not receiving Funds

Bell Museum of Natural History - Dr. Scott Lanyon

Minnesota DNR Division of Ecological Resources

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union

B. Project Impact and Long-term Strategy:

The Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas will provide the first time-specific survey of all the breeding birds in the state. This information will be available to land and resource managers, the public, and policy makers providing an invaluable resource as future events such as global warming require a response. Information can continue to be collected by partners and others providing a unique and robust view of Minnesota's birds.

C. Other Funds Proposed to be spent during the Project Period: \$80,000

Audubon Minnesota - \$20,000

Minnesota Ornithologists' Union - \$20,000

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - \$20,000

MN DNR - \$20,000

D. Spending History: LCCMR ML 2008 sub 5d - \$270,000, Audubon- \$30,000, USFWS- \$50,000, Minnesota Ornithologists' Union- \$20,000, MN DNR - \$20,000

VII. DISSEMINATION: Information will be available at: www.mnbba.org, at the end of the anticipated 6-year project we will publish a hardcover atlas.

VIII. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: Periodic work program progress reports will be submitted not later than: January 31, 2011, July 31, 2011, January 31, 2012. A final work program report and associated products will be submitted between June 30 and August 1, 2011 as requested by the LCCMR.

IX. RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Attachment A: Budget Detail for 2010 Projects - Summary and a Budget page for each partner (if applicable)											
Project Title: Minnesota Breeding Bird Atlas											
Project Manager Name: Mark Martell											
Trust Fund Appropriation: \$ 372,000											
1) See list of non-eligible expenses, do not include any of these items in your budget sheet											
2) Remove any budget item lines not applicable											
2010 Trust Fund Budget	Result 1 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 2 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	Result 3 Budget:	Amount Spent (date)	Balance (date)	TOTAL BUDGET	TOTAL BALANCE
	Volunteer and Staff Training and Management			Data Collection			Data Management and Analysis				
BUDGET ITEM											
PERSONNEL: wages and benefits	\$49,567	\$0	\$49,567	\$49,567	\$0	\$49,567	\$49,566	\$0	\$49,566	\$148,700	\$148,700
Project Manager (\$23,000 estimated) 16% FTE											
Program Coordinator (\$117,000 estimated), 100% FTE											
Administrative Support (\$8,700 estimated), 8% FTE											
Contracts											
Professional/technical											
Website Management and Update							\$4,000		\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000
Data Management System (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)							\$5,000		\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Other contracts											
Workshps/Meetings	\$5,000		\$5,000							\$5,000	\$5,000
Printing/Mailing	\$3,500		\$3,500							\$3,500	\$3,500
Supplies											
Field Supplies (maps, GPS units for volunteer surveyors)				\$2,800		\$2,800				\$2,800	\$2,800
Travel expenses in Minnesota	\$3,500		\$3,500	\$38,500		\$38,500				\$42,000	\$42,000
Staff Travel (\$7,000 est)										\$0	\$0
Volunteer Travel (\$35,000 est)										\$0	\$0
COLUMN TOTAL	\$61,567	\$0	\$61,567	\$90,867	\$0	\$90,867	\$58,566	\$0	\$58,566	\$211,000	\$211,000

