

## Work Task C22: Yellow-Billed Cuckoo Surveys, Demographic Study, and Survey Protocol Evaluation

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$51,000	\$50,971	\$50,971	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

**Contact:** John Swett, (702) 293-8574

**Start Date:** FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY05

**Long-term Goal:** Species Research

**Conservation Measures:** AMM1, AMM2, AMM3, AMM5, AMM6, MRM1, MRM2, YBCU1, and YBCU2

**Location:** Cibola NWR, Imperial NWR, Picacho State Recreation Area, Mittry Lake WMA, Quigley Pond WMA, and other lands managed by BLM, AGFD, Reclamation, AZ, and CA.

**Purpose:** Conduct surveys to determine existing YBCU populations on lands managed by BLM, FWS, AGFD, California State Parks, and others near Yuma, Arizona; test the proposed survey protocol; and determine habitat requirements to guide riparian habitat creation efforts.

**Connections with Other Work Tasks (past and future):** This work task was previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Yellow Billed Cuckoo Surveys, Demographic Study, and Survey Protocol Evaluation (C7). Information obtained, in conjunction with C21, helped define the survey protocol being used in FY06 under D7. This Work Task also began system-wide surveys for YBCU in Reaches 4-7. In addition, data defining habitat requirements will be used to conduct cottonwood-willow habitat creation activities described in E1, E3, E4, and E5.

**Project Description:** Presence/absence surveys were conducted for YBCU in selected areas near Yuma, Arizona, to help determine breeding habitat selection and preference, identify requirements for breeding and migration stopover habitats, and evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed survey protocol. This study, in conjunction with information obtained in C21, provided a standardized survey protocol for YBCU for future system monitoring efforts. In addition, data collected will enable Reclamation to design habitat creation sites for YBCU and/or recommend future demographic studies necessary to further understand YBCU populations along the LCR.

**FY05 Accomplishments:** Surveys for YBCU were initiated in areas managed by BLM, Reclamation, USFWS, and AGFD. Twenty-eight sites were surveyed twice during the migration season, between 15 May and 11 June, and 42 sites were surveyed four times during the breeding season, between 16 June and 13 August. Across all sites and all visits, 27 YBCU detections were recorded. No YBCU were detected during the migration season and only four detections occurred during the first breeding season survey. The majority of detections occurred in July,

with the greatest number of detections occurring during the second breeding season survey (11 detections). Detections fell sharply during the fourth breeding season survey. The YBCU were detected in 12 of 42 sites (28.6 percent ). One individual detection occurred in a site dominated by exotic vegetation. Most detections were single individuals, with only one pair being recorded. Breeding was not confirmed. Information obtained during this study was used, in conjunction with data from Work Task C21, to develop YBCU monitoring protocol.

**FY06 Activities:** None. The information gathered during the 2005 work was used to initiate system-wide surveys and life history studies under Work Task D7.

**Proposed FY07 Activities:** This Work Task is closed.

**Pertinent Reports:** *Yellow-billed Cuckoo Distribution and Abundance, Habitat Use, and Breeding Ecology along the LCR (Yuma, AZ, United States/Mexico Border), Cibola NWR, Imperial NWR, Picacho State Recreation Area, CA, Mittry Lake WMA, Colorado/Gila River Confluence, Gila River and Quigley Pond WMA, 2005* will be posted on the LCR MSCP website.