

## Work Task D1: Marsh Bird Surveys

FY05 Estimate	FY05 Actual	Cumulative Accomplishment Through FY05	FY06 Approved Estimate	FY07 Proposed Estimate	FY08 Proposed Estimate	FY09 Proposed Estimate
\$50,000	\$34,920	\$34,920	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000

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

**Start Date:** FY05 **Expected Duration:** FY55

**Long-term Goal:** System monitoring for marsh birds.

**Conservation Measures:** AMM1, AMM3, AMM6, MRM1, CLRA2, and BLRA2

**Location:** Havasu National Wildlife Refuge, AZ, and CA.

**Purpose:** Monitor Yuma clapper rail (CLRA), California black rail (BLRA), and western least bittern (LEBI) along designated reach of the LCR, as part of the inter-agency system monitoring program.

**Connections with other Work Tasks (past and future):** This Work Task was previously included in the Draft FY05 Work Tasks as Marsh Bird Surveys (D2). Data obtained from Work Task F2 will also be used in the marsh bird system monitoring program described in Work Task D1. Protocol developed for Work Task D1 will also be used for Work Task F2.

**Project Description:** Yuma clapper rail surveys have been conducted annually along the LCR since the 1980s. Prior to implementation of the LCR MSCP, the U of A conducted a study to determine if CLRA surveys could be expanded to a multi-species protocol without compromising CLRA detection rates. Information obtained from this study has produced a new multi-species protocol for all marsh birds, including the LCR MSCP covered species (CLRA, BLRA, and LEBI). Reclamation tested the multi-species protocol in 2005. Marsh bird surveys will continue at designated survey points to track detections of covered species, utilizing the multi-species protocol.

**Previous Activities:** Reclamation has monitored CLRA within Topock Gorge since 1995.

**FY05 Accomplishments:** During March, April, and May of 2005, CLRA surveys and multi-species marsh bird surveys were completed along the LCR, between the I-40 Bridge near Needles, California, and Lake Havasu. Total CLRA detections ranged between 38-44 individuals when the single-species CLRA protocol was used. The multi-species protocol was tested during the April and May survey periods, with 24 and 32 CLRA detections recorded, respectively. Although fewer CLRA detections were recorded during the multi-species surveys, differences were not statistically significant. While using the single species CLRA protocol, nine LEBI were recorded during the April survey and 13 during the May survey. The LEBI

detections increased to 20 during the April survey and 33 during the May survey using the multi-species protocol. No BLRA were detected during these surveys.

**FY06 Activities:** A new multi-species protocol, expanded to include CLRA, BLRA, LEBI, Virginia rail has been implemented in 2006. Reclamation conducted surveys, using the new multi-species protocol, in March, April, and May 2006.

**Proposed FY07 Activities:** Conduct marsh bird surveys in Topock Gorge and the upper reaches of Lake Havasu, using the multi-species marsh bird survey protocol. Data will be submitted to the FWS. Information obtained through this Work Task may be used in planning future marsh habitat creation activities.

**Pertinent Reports:** *Yuma Clapper Rail Surveys along the LCR at Topock Gorge, 2005* will be posted on the LCR MSCP website.