

Work Task F7: Marsh Bird Monitoring at Conservation Areas

FY16 Estimate	FY16 Actual Obligations	Cumulative Expenditures Through FY16	FY17 Approved Estimate	FY18 Proposed Estimate	FY19 Proposed Estimate	FY20 Proposed Estimate
\$30,000	\$23,225.44	\$101,592.12	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$40,000

Contact: Joe Kahl, (702) 293-8568, jkahl@usbr.gov

Start Date: FY11

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: Post-development monitoring for California black rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), Yuma clapper rails (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis* [also known as Yuma Ridgway's rail = *R. obsoletus yumanensis*]), and western least bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis hesperis*)

Conservation Measures: BLRA1, CLRA1, LEBI1, MRM1, and MRM2 (BLRA, CLRA, and LEBI)

Location: Presence surveys will be conducted at newly developed marsh habitat sites, including Hart Mine Marsh on the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge (Cibola NWR); the Imperial Ponds Conservation Area (IPCA) on the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (Imperial NWR); the Beal Lake Conservation Area (BLCA) on the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge (Havasu NWR); the Big Bend Conservation Area (BBCA), Nevada; and Yuma East Wetlands and the Laguna Division Conservation Area (LDCA), Arizona.

Purpose: To monitor the use of created marsh habitat by covered marsh bird species

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): System-wide marsh bird surveys have been conducted by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) on existing marsh habitat since 1996 under Work Task D1.

Project Description: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted at LCR MSCP conservation areas. The National Marsh Bird Monitoring Program protocol will be used, which involves surveying for several species, including the LCR MSCP covered marsh species, using recordings of the species' calls.

Previous Activities: Hart Mine Marsh and the IPCA were surveyed for marsh birds prior to development. Marsh bird surveys were conducted at the BBCA,

Hart Mine Marsh, the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial ponds), the LDCA, and Yuma East Wetlands after inclusion into the LCR MSCP. From FY05 to FY16, Reclamation partnered with U.S. Fish and Wildlife to share the costs and labor needed to conduct the surveys.

FY16 Accomplishments: Marsh bird surveys were conducted during March, April, and May at the LDCA and Yuma East Wetlands. Surveys at the BBCA, the BLCA (Beal Lake and Willow Marsh), the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial ponds), and Hart Mine Marsh were conducted once in March and twice in April. One California black rail was detected at Field 18 during the April 21 survey. This was the only detection of a California black rail at a conservation area.

Western Least Bittern Detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	3	12	12
Willow Marsh	0	0	0
Big Bend Conservation Area			
Hart Mine Marsh	9	5	17
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	0	0	0
Imperial Ponds	0	0	1
Laguna Division Conservation Area			
Yuma East Wetlands	0	0	2

Yuma Clapper Rail Detections

Conservation Area	Survey 1 (March)	Survey 2 (April)	Survey 3 (April – May)
Beal Lake Conservation Area			
Beal Lake	0	4	3
Willow Marsh	0	2	0
Big Bend Conservation Area			
Hart Mine Marsh	12	12	10
Imperial Ponds Conservation Area			
Field 18	0	4	3
Imperial Ponds	0	0	0
Laguna Division Conservation Area			
Yuma East Wetlands	7	4	2

FY17 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted on conservation areas. These sites will include the BLCA (Beal Lake and Willow Marsh), Hart Mine Marsh on the Cibola NWR, the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial ponds), the BBCA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Surveys at Hart Mine Marsh and Field 18 and the Imperial ponds are conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed.

The budget increase starting in FY17 is due to the additional effort required to survey the expanded wetlands at the LDCA and to survey the BLCA (Beal Lake and Willow Marsh), Hart Mine Marsh on the Cibola NWR, and the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial ponds).

Proposed FY18 Activities: Marsh bird surveys will be conducted on conservation areas that have a marsh habitat component in sufficient acreage, vegetation type, and suitability. These sites will include the BLCA (Beal Lake and Willow Marsh), Hart Mine Marsh on the Cibola NWR, the IPCA (Field 18 and the Imperial ponds), the BBCA, Yuma East Wetlands, and the LDCA. Surveys at Hart Mine Marsh and Field 18 and the Imperial ponds are conducted in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Data will be entered into the LCR MSCP database and analyzed.

Pertinent Reports: The results of the surveys will be reported in the annual reports for each associated restoration site as well as one report for all conservation areas, and they will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.