

JOB PROGRESS REPORT

State: California
 Project Number: E-W-5 (+2) Project Title: Endangered, Threatened, and Rare Birds and Mammals
 Job Number: V-17.2 Job Title: Light-footed Clapper Rail Survey
 Period Covered: 1 October 1982 - 30 September 1983 Job Type: Survey and Inventory

SUMMARY:

A contract was developed in December 1982 with California State University, Long Beach, to provide for the 1983 breeding season study of the Light-footed Clapper Rail (Rallus longirostris levipes). This rail (LFCR) is classified as Endangered by the California Fish and Game Commission and by the Secretary of Interior. The principal investigators in the study were Barbara W. Massey and Richard Zembal. The study consisted of the following three parts: A vocalization census of the California breeding population, a telemetry study in Upper Newport Bay, and a banding program. The fourth annual census was begun on 25 March and was completed on 11 April. Thirty-one marshes were censused, and LFCR were detected in 18 of them. A four-year high 249 pairs were found, for a 12.7% increase in number of pairs from 1982. Concern was expressed about the situation at Anaheim Bay, at which only 20 males were heard, and most may have been unmated. In the telemetry study, three LFCR (2 males and 1 female) were trapped and equipped with radio harnesses. The rails were monitored for 38 and 42 days (males), and 34 days, respectively. The banding program in 1983 was limited to color-marking of 2 radio-harnessed birds.

OBJECTIVE:

Determine the current breeding population of LFCR and other information needed for management and recovery.

PROCEDURES:

The 1983 study was conducted by B. W. Massey and R. Zembal, with assistance from agency personnel. At known LFCR marshes, spontaneous vocalizations at dusk were recorded. At marshes with small or unknown populations of LFCR, a tape of the clapping call was played to elicit a response. In the telemetry part of the study, LFCR were trapped in drop-door traps and fitted with radio-harnesses.

FINDINGS:

Study findings are given in detail in the draft report of the investigators, which is being edited for eventual printing and distribution to the Region 1 office of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The report is cited as follows:

Massey, B. W., and R. Zembal. 1983. Light-footed Clapper Rail censusing, banding, and telemetry study, 1983. Calif. Dep. Fish and Game, Nongame Wildl. Investigations Final Rep., E-W-5 (+2), V-17.2. (draft)

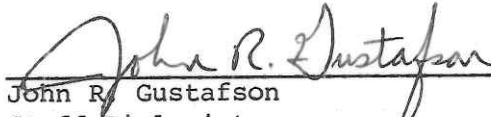
ANALYSIS:

The objective of the study was met in 1983. A similar study should be conducted annually, until recovery objectives as outlined in the recovery plan are achieved.

RECOMMENDATIONS:


1. Survey the LFCR breeding population in California annually.
2. Cooperate with the government of Mexico in censusing the Baja California population of LFCR.

Prepared by:



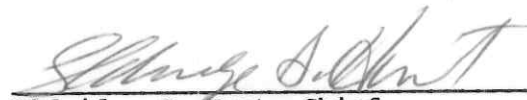
John R. Gustafson
Staff Biologist
Nongame Wildlife Investigations Section

Reviewed by:



Kent A. Smith
Nongame Wildlife Coordinator

Approved for DFG by:



Eldridge G. Hunt, Chief
Wildlife Management Branch
California Department of Fish and Game

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