



NExUS Ongoing Projects and Activities Mon Feb 18 14:13:48 EST 2019

Name	Support for Status Assessment and Conservation Action Plan for the Eastern Black Rail across the Northeast Region
Description	<p>The eastern Black Rail (<i>Laterallus jamaicensis jamaicensis</i>) is the most endangered bird in the Northeast region of the U.S. and along the Atlantic Coast. Populations have declined by 85% in the Northeast since 1992 and have reached dangerously low levels. Black Rails now breed in only a dozen or fewer locations per state within its breeding range. It is unlikely that Black Rails will persist in the Northeast without timely and appropriate conservation actions. Funds from this grant will be used to partially support the creation of a Status Assessment and Conservation Action Plan for the Black Rail across the Northeast planning region. Specifically, the funds will partially support a project facilitator that will provide the value-added synthesis for information resources gathered, facilitate the collection of information from an established consortium of agencies, biologists, academic institutions, and land managers of the Eastern Black Rail Conservation and Management Working Group and to construct the action items needed for a successful conservation campaign. The funds will also support a workshop for members of the working group and other interested persons to take an active part in creating the documents. Final products include a Status Assessment report, Conservation Action Plan report, and associated geo-referenced databases on status, distribution, and spatially explicit conservation priorities. We feel that these products are the necessary steps to secure the future of a declining Black Rail population within the coastal portions New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.</p> <p>We envision the project work in two distinct phases. Phase 1 includes the completion of a Status Assessment document and associated geo-referenced databases used for support of the assessment. Phase 2 is the completion of a Conservation Action Plan that synthesizes information gathered from Phase 1 into meaningful conservation approaches to halt and reverse population declines of Black Rails. A workshop for each Phase is planned for Northeastern work group members and other interested persons. We envision this project will take two years from initiation to complete. Phase 1 is estimated to be finished in one year and Phase 2 one additional year. We are already undertaking this effort without a primary funding source so the initial framework for interagency communication, document outlines, and database structures are already being developed. We will orchestrate a Black Rail status assessment workshop within the first quarter of the Phase 1 funding cycle. The Conservation Action Plan of Phase 2 will be completed within one year and only begin after Phase 1 is completed.</p>
Category	- Climate-change Specific Projects

Sector	- Natural Ecosystems - Biota
Focus Area	- Coasts and Climate Resilience (including sea-level rise) - Conservation/ Restoration of Sensitive Species and Habitats
Region	- Regional Or State -- Mid-Atlantic
Status	- Ongoing
Lead Agencies	Center for Conservation Biology, College of William and Mary and Virginia; Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
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