



Landbird Monitoring

Network parks where resource is being monitored:

All GULN parks (BITH, GUI5, JELA, NATR, PAAL, PAIS, SAAN, and VICK)

Importance

Both resident and migratory landbirds are highly ranked among all of the potential vital signs evaluated by the GULN. Key reasons for monitoring landbirds in network parks are that landbirds (1) come under the legal mandate related to the Endangered Species Act and Migratory Bird Treaty Act; (2) are specifically identified in the management objectives of some of the parks; (3) are potential indicators of the effects of local and regional changes in ecosystems because of their rapid metabolism and high ecological position in most food webs; and (4) comparable regional and national datasets exist for landbird monitoring adjacent to several GULN parks. The Gulf Coast is widely held to be a major flyway, breeding, and over-wintering area for many migratory species. Ecologically, birds are an important and diverse component of park ecosystems.



Ovenbird in Vicksburg National Military Park (VICK)

Monitoring Objectives

- Contribute to established programs looking at regional trends (Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS), Christmas Bird Counts.)
- Estimate relative abundance and population densities for commonly detected species.
- Estimate the geographic distribution of detected species within park boundaries.
- Investigate bird – habitat relationships and how they relate to vegetation structural changes due to either natural or human-induced processes (directly spatially linked to the GULN vegetation structure monitoring protocol at VICK).

Basic Approach

The GULN Landbird Protocol will be developed in the same conceptual and format model as we have used for the GULN Vegetation and GULN Amphibians protocols; that is, we will develop a single unified protocol which will include multiple park-specific sampling projects and applications using a common methodologies and with a common data management schemes. Implementation of this protocol will be delegated to the parks, with a limited network role of supporting data management and analysis.

Data will be collected in standard formats that can be included in extant national databases (Breeding Bird Survey (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/BBS/>); national bird point count database (<http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/point/main/mainPage.cfm?formName=88>)); Christmas bird count (<http://www.audubon.org/Bird/cbc/>); and/or ebird (<http://ebird.org/content/ebird>).

Contact

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