

PERFORMANCE REPORT
SECTION 6
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT



FEDERAL AID PROJECT E-21-9

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Picoides borealis) Recovery
on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area (MCWA)

APRIL 1, 2000 - MARCH 31, 2001

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT

State: Oklahoma

Project No: E-21-9

PROJECT TITLE: Red-cockaded woodpecker (RCW) (Picoides borealis)
recovery on the McCurtain County Wilderness Area
(MCWA)

I. PROGRAM NARRATIVE OBJECTIVE

Recover the RCW population on the MCWA to 45 active clusters by implementing procedures outlined in the MCWA Implementation Plan

II. JOB PROCEDURES

1. Monitoring

- a. Locate, tag, and map new cavity trees within 300 yards of active clusters.
- b. Determine the status of each cavity tree and cluster, especially during the nesting period.
- c. Band adult and nestlings to obtain data on production, dispersal, and mortality and to aid in identifying single bird clans that would benefit from augmentation.

2. Cluster Stand Management

- a. Reduce hardwood midstory and understory trees within 10 acre blocks adjacent to active clusters.
- b. Control the hardwood midstory within clusters by cutting and fire (controlled burns will be done under the Wildlife Restoration Act).

3. Recruitment Stand Management

Identify, mark, and control hardwoods within blocks of suitable habitat within 1/2 mile of active clusters.

4. Corridors

When needed and feasible, maintain or develop corridors among clusters and recruitment stands.

5. Restrictors and Predator Guards

- a. Place restrictors on RCW cavities to prevent enlargement by other woodpeckers and rehabilitate enlarged cavities.
- b. Install predator guards on all active cavity trees.
- c. Place squirrel guards on trees where flying squirrels have taken over cavities.

6. Artificial Cavities

Install cavity inserts in active clusters to provide at least 5 usable cavities at each site. Install 3 inserts at recruitment sites. When inserts at recruitment stands are activated, install 2 additional inserts.

7. Augmentation

Identify single bird clans and move subadults to the sites.

III. SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

1. Clusters

The number of active clusters fluctuated from 10 to 12 during the reporting period (Table 1.). Clusters 5 and 21 were sporadically active during the period. Other clusters remained active throughout the year.

2. Cavity Trees

Cavities at active clusters were checked at intervals of approximately 4 weeks throughout the year and cleaned and repaired as needed. Twenty-seven cavities at active clusters are natural and 71 are inserts (Table 1.). During the year, 3 cavity trees were destroyed by southern pine beetles, and 1 by wind breakage.

3. Restrictors and Predator Guards

All usable natural cavities at active and inactive clusters, except 1 at cluster 105, have been restricted. All active cavity trees have been fitted with a 3 or 5 foot section of aluminum flashing-predator guard. When a cavity tree at a recruitment stand or

inactive cluster showed RCW activity, a predator guard was installed.

4. Population

During the 2000 nesting season, 10 nests containing 35 eggs were monitored. All monitored nests contained nestlings at the banding date (approximately 1 week after hatching) and 15 birds were banded. However, only 9 nests successfully fledged young. The cause of the nestling loss at 112 is unknown. The 16 birds fledged this year is 7 more than the number fledged in 1999. Ten fledglings were recaptured and color banded (Table 3.).

5. Stand Management

An additional 11 ac were thinned adjacent to 3 active clusters. Approximately 4,000 ac in compartments 4, 5, and 7 were burned in April 2000. Another 1,580 ac of adjacent National Forest land was included in the burn.

Although 3 cavity trees were destroyed by southern pine beetles in 2000, overall beetle activity on the area remained low. Beetle spots were widely scattered and generally contained less than 1 acre. Cooperative monitoring of the southern pine beetle population with the Oklahoma Division of Forestry indicated that the beetle population remained relatively low and the predator population high. Beetle monitoring will continue in 2001.

6. Artificial Cavities

During the period, 5 inserts were installed at active clusters.

7. Corridors.

No additional corridors, to connect clusters and recruitment stands and improve foraging habitat, were developed .

8. Augmentation

No augmentation occurred during the reporting period. Four of the RCW's trapped at active clusters were birds captured in Texas and released in past years.

9. Other Activities

No road or trail construction occurred on the area. Approximately 8 miles of interior roads were graded. One controlled deer hunt and one controlled turkey hunt were conducted. Monitoring of the clusters in the hunt areas indicated no adverse effects to the RCW's.

IV CONCLUSIONS

Monitoring of clusters will continue through out the year. If a single bird cluster is found, attempts will be made to move a surplus RCW from a donor population to the site.

Although southern pine beetle activity at this time is low to moderate, monitoring of the beetle population on the area will continue.

V. DEVIATIONS

None.

VI. Prepared by: John Skeen, Senior Biologist

VII. Date: April 2, 2001

VIII. Approved by:

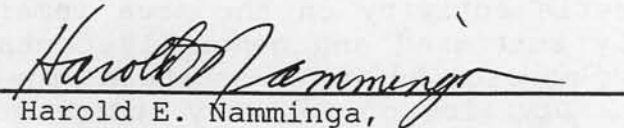

Harold E. Namminga,
Federal Aid/ Research Coordinator

TABLE 1. NUMBER AND STATUS OF CAVITIES AT ACTIVE CLUSTERS
ON MARCH 1, 2001

CLUSTER	NATURAL CAVITIES		INSERTS	
	NO.	A	NO.	A
2	0	0	6	3
12	5	3	5	0
16	1	1	6	2
31	5	2	5	0
32	2	1	6	2
105	2	1	7	3
107	5	3	4	0
109	2	1	5	2
111	4	2	6	0
112	1	1	7	2
21 *	0	0	5	1
5 *	0	0	6	1
TOTAL	27	15	68	16

NO.= NUMBER CAVITIES

A= NUMBER ACTIVE

* CLUSTER ACTIVE ONLY PART OF YEAR

TABLE 2. MCWA NESTING RESULTS FOR 2000

CLUSTER	INITIATION	NUMBER EGGS LAID	NUMBER HATCHED	NUMBER BANNED	* NUMBER IN NEST	NESTLINGS FLEDGED	JUVENILES BANNED
2	5/10	4	2	1	2	2	2
16	5/19	3	1	0	1	1	0
31	5/8	4	2	1	2	2	1
32	5/4	3	3	2	2	1	0
105	5/1	3	3	3	3	2	2
109	5/18	4	4	2	2	2	1
111	5/10	3	3	2	2	2	3
107	5/11	4	2	2	2	2	1
112	6/8	4	2	1	2	0	0
12	5/8	4	3	1	2	2	0
TOTAL		36	25	15	20	16	10

* NUMBER OF BIRDS IN THE NEST AT TIME OF BANDING.

TABLE 3. RCW'S TRAPPED ON THE MCWA IN 2000

CLUSTER TRAPPED	BAND NUMBER	BAND COLORS		SEX	AGE WHEN TRAPPED	SITE FIRST BANDIED	YEAR FIRST BANDIED
		LEFT	RIGHT				
2	8081-99857	LbP	DgA	M	J	2	2000
2	8081-99845	OA	LgW	F	J	2	2000
2	8081-99832	LbW	DgA	M	A	111	99
12	49277	PA	DgY	F	A	32	95
12	8081-99808	WLb	LbA	M	A	31	97
16	49280	OA	BkLg	F	A	31	95
16	8101-27064	A	Db	M	A	TX	98
32	8081-99803	YA	DgO	F	A	111	97
32	1681-76325	YM	DpA	M	A	TX	99
32	8081-99815	YW	OA	M	A	32	98
32	8081-99846	OA	LgDb	F	J	31	2000
105	49233	PO	LgA	M	A	105	93
105	8081-99843	OA	LgLg	F	J	105	2000
105	8081-84869	LbA	YW	F	A	TX	96
105	8081-99825	YP	OA	M	A	105	98
105	8081-99844	LbO	DgA	M	J	105	2000
107	8081-99848	OA	LgLb	F	J	111	2000
107	49214	YA	PLg	F	A	12	92
107	49268	DpDb	DpA	M	A	12	94
107	8081-99831	OA	LgDg	F	A	111	99
109	49288	PA	LbY	F	A	105	96
109	8081-99852	OA	LgP	F	J	109	2000
109	8081-99812	WY	LbA	M	A	109	97
111	8081-99847	OA	LgO	F	J	111	2000
111	8081-99858	LbPu	DgA	M	J	111	2000
111	49244	OA	BkLb	F	A	109	93
112	1631-80209	WA	LgDp	F	A	TX	98
112	8081-99837	YLp	WA	M	A	105	99
112	8081-99851	OA	LgPu	F	J	107	2000



