

2012 Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture Bird Habitat Conservation Accomplishments

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Introduction

Partners of the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture (JV) submit bird habitat accomplishments to the Joint Venture Science Office each year. Tracking partner conservation actions provides valuable information on the land area influenced by the partnership, as well as a measure of funding expended to accomplish established JV Implementation Plan objectives.

In 2009, the accomplishment reporting form was changed from the previous version. The 2007 - 2008 report form mirrored the level of cover type description in the 2007 JV Implementation Plan. Although this level of detail is ideal, several partner agencies struggled with reporting which resulted in inconsistent responses. To overcome this issue, partners were surveyed by JV staff to identify reporting impediments. A new form was then developed prior to the 2009 reporting period. Since then, reports have been completed more consistently and we continue to use this format. Estimates of JV partner influence on bird populations is a JV monitoring goal and our understanding of bird-habitat relationships will improve with consistent tracking and monitoring of landscape changes.

2012 Accomplishments

The JV partnership reported accomplishments on 347,783 acres, expending approximately \$144 million. Similar to previous years, bird habitat enhancement was the primary conservation action (49% of the reported area), followed by restoration (26%), and protection (25%).

Enhancement highlights

- 170,680 acres of wetlands enhanced across the region
- Majority of emergent marsh enhancement occurred in BCR 23
- Mudflat and shallow water enhancement was focused in BCR 22
- 128,280 acres of uplands enhanced across the region
- 72,090 acres of grassland enhanced, with 67,910 acres reported for BCR 22
- 36,190 acres of woodland enhanced, with 25,700 acres in BCR 12

Restoration highlights

- 16,900 acres of wetlands restored across the region
- Majority of acres were emergent marsh in BCR 22
- 71,730 acres of upland cover restored
- 89% of upland restoration was grasslands
- Greatest amount of grassland and woodland restored in BCR 22

Protection highlights

- 12,390 acres of wetlands protected across the region
- 3,270 acres of emergent marsh were protected in BCR 22 and 3,190 acres in BCR 24
- 73,530 acres of uplands protected
- Majority of upland acres were forest cover in BCR 12

JV cumulative accomplishments since Implementation Plan completion (2007 – 2011)

Cumulative accomplishments are compiled for two categories: protection and restoration / enhancement. Protection accomplishments represent existing bird habitats now under management by a conservation organization through acquisition or long-term agreements (easements). Restoration / enhancement accomplishments represent additional new area available for target bird species by increasing habitat quality through cover type manipulation. Since 2007, JV partners have restored or enhanced 1,250,800 acres across the region. Also during this time, 140,100 acres of bird habitat were protected. Comparing cumulative total accomplishments against 2007 JV Implementation Plan objectives, we can calculate the percent of JV Plan objectives achieved. These percentages were determined for restoration / enhancement objectives and are presented in Tables 1 (wetlands) and 2 (uplands). These percentages are not calculated for protection objectives because a complete assessment of protected area of various cover types before 2007 has not been completed. In addition, bird habitat losses during the assessment period were not determined but should be considered in the bird habitat accounting process. Current data is insufficient to estimate the “net change” in cover types (habitat) most important to JV focal species.

Acknowledgements

Joint Venture partners in the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes region are transitioning from largely opportunistic conservation to science-based and targeted actions following the 2007 JV Implementation Plan. Bird habitat objectives and decision-support maps were developed by the JV Science Team to increase JV efficiency and effectiveness. However, the engine for bird conservation in the JV region remains in habitat delivery, and partner accomplishments since 2007 have been impressive.

Table 1. Percent of wetland objectives accomplished (%) and cumulative acres (2007 - 2012) restored and enhanced by the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture compared to habitat objectives identified in the 2007 Joint Venture Implementation Plan. Cumulative totals for BCRs represent data from 2009 - 2012 partner accomplishment reports; data from 2007 - 2008 were reported by state and are included in the "unknown" category. Percent (%) = the cumulative total / objective * 100.

State	BCR	Marsh ^a			Mudflat / Shallows ^b			Open water / Beach ^c		
		Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%
Iowa	22	23,356	23,900	102.33	55,117	6,297	11.42	2,974	0	0.00
	23	2,471	1,180	47.75	3,184	399	12.53	796	0	0.00
	Unknown		5,279			410			0	
	Total	25,827	30,359	117.55	58,301	7,106	12.19	3,770	0	0.00
Illinois	22	22,542	1,138	5.05	63,163	1,444	2.29	3,584	655	18.28
	23	1,649	0	0.00	1,487	0	0.00	376	18	4.79
	24	1,995	2,011	100.80	2,484	0	0.00	230	0	0.00
	Unknown		174			212			22	
Total	26,186	3,323	12.69	67,134	1,656	2.47	4,190	695	16.59	
Indiana	22	14,781	1,664	11.26	22,852	1,441	6.31	1,242	126	10.14
	23	9,086	264	2.91	5,795	0	0.00	1,445	0	0.00
	24	4,337	420	9.68	4,612	65	1.41	388	0	0.00
	Unknown		1,371			80			40	
Total	28,204	3,719	13.19	33,259	1,586	4.77	3,075	166	5.40	
Kansas	22/Total	4,344	735	16.92	33,705	216	0.64	2,018	55	2.73
Michigan	12	66,795	3,510	5.25	4,945	1,477	29.87	8,882	0	0.00
	22	1,440	1,054	73.19	2,124	328	15.44	175	0	0.00
	23	56,881	8,694	15.28	25,869	626	2.42	7,289	36	0.49
	Unknown		4,817			0			0	
Total	125,116	18,075	14.45	32,938	2,431	7.38	16,346	36	0.22	
Minnesota	12	75,321	7,632	10.13	4,668	na	na	7,128	na	na
	22	5,412	na ^d	na	3,959	na	na	207	na	na
	23	86,643	97	0.11	11,473	na	na	2,835	na	na
	Unknown		822			0			0	
Total	167,376	8,551	5.11	20,100	0	0.00	10,170	0	0.00	
Missouri	22/Total	5,167	32,419	627.42	42,304	55,023	130.07	2,440	0	0.00
Nebraska	22/Total	5,985	149	2.49	11,323	220	1.94	649	0	0.00
Ohio ^e	13	8,784	362	4.12	7,057	21	0.30	7,457	0	0.00
	22 ^f	12,517	1,074	8.58	26,758	5	0.02	4,515	15	0.33
	24	170	0	0.00	4,895	0	0.00	524	0	0.00
	Unknown		479			274			0	
Total	21,471	1,915	8.92	38,710	300	0.77	12,496	15	0.12	
Wisconsin	12	31,652	1,337	4.22	2,617	0	0.00	12,503	94	0.75
	22	1,428	50	3.50	760	0	0.00	311	0	0.00
	23	159,326	7,272	4.56	42,882	659	1.54	28,543	82	0.29
	Unknown		5,032			20			99	
Total	192,406	13,691	7.12	46,259	679	1.47	41,357	275	0.66	
All states	12	173,768	12,479	7.18	12,230	1,477	12.08	28,513	94	0.33
	13	8,784	362	4.12	7,057	21	0.30	7,457	0	0.00
	22	96,972	62,183	64.12	262,065	64,974	24.79	18,115	851	4.70
	23 ^g	316,056	17,507	5.54	90,690	1,684	1.86	41,284	136	0.33
	24	6,502	2,431	37.39	11,991	65	0.54	1,142	0	0.00
	Unknown		17,974			996			161	
Total	602,082	112,936	18.76	384,033	69,217	18.02	96,511	1,242	1.29	

^aMarsh category includes wet meadow with open water, shallow semi-permanent marsh, hemi-marsh, deep-water marsh, and marsh with associated shrub / forest. The larger value for shallow semi-permanent marsh, hemi-marsh between breeding and non-breeding season objectives at the state/BCR level was used. Deep water marsh values for the breeding season were used because objectives were greater than the non-breeding season.

^bMudflat / shallows category includes dry mudflat / agriculture, wet mudflat / moist soil plants, shallow water, and moderate water. Dry mudflat / agriculture values for the breeding season were used because objectives were greater than the non-breeding season.

^cOpen water / beach category includes extensive open water and beach. The larger value for beach between breeding and non-breeding season objectives at the state/BCR level was used.

^dNot available.

^eOhio totals only from 2010 - 2012.

^fIncludes accomplishments reported in BCR 23, formerly designated BCR 22, for which no habitat objectives were established.

^gBCR 23 totals correspond to the 2007 JV boundary.

Table 2. Percent of upland objectives accomplished (%) and cumulative acres restored and enhanced (2007 - 2012) by the Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture compared to habitat objectives identified in the 2007 Joint Venture Implementation Plan. Percent (%) = the cumulative total / objective * 100.

State	BCR	Grassland ^a			Woodland ^b			Total Upland ^c		
		Objective	Cumulative total ^d	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%	Objective	Cumulative total	%
Iowa	22	4,250,376	408,851	9.62	2,717	17,461	642.66	4,253,093	426,312	10.02
	23	216,619	33,261	15.35	0	4,224	100.00	216,619	37,485	17.30
	Unknown								45,506	
	Total	4,466,995	442,112	9.90	2,717	21,685	798.12	4,469,712	509,303	11.39
Illinois	22	3,777,124	41,635	1.10	26,676	5,061	18.97	3,803,800	46,696	1.23
	23	86,944	68	0.08	4,940	3,044	61.62	91,884	3,112	3.39
	24	829,426	110	0.01	59,527	14,017	23.55	888,953	14,127	1.59
	Unknown								5,685	
Total	4,693,494	41,813	0.89	91,143	22,122	24.27	4,784,637	69,620	1.46	
Indiana	22	952,185	11,015	1.16	270,218	904	0.33	1,222,403	11,919	0.98
	23	223,535	4,866	2.18	75,829	392	0.52	299,364	5,258	1.76
	24	1,080,625	9,110	0.84	656,032	9,306	1.42	1,736,657	18,416	1.06
	Unknown								1,538	
Total	2,256,345	24,991	1.11	1,002,079	10,602	1.06	3,258,424	37,131	1.14	
Kansas	22/Total	2,782,949	14,016	0.50	6,422	751	11.69	2,789,371	14,767	0.53
Michigan	12	206,986	18,361	8.87	395,200	59,153	14.97	602,186	77,514	12.87
	22	69,901	586		34,580	22	0.06	104,481	608	0.58
	23	334,685	17,029	5.09	700,986	8,830	1.26	1,035,671	25,859	2.50
	Unknown		506						4,897	
Total	611,572	36,482	5.97	1,130,766	68,005	6.01	1,742,338	108,878	6.25	
Minnesota	12	242,060	9,749	4.03	800,280	54,274	6.78	1,042,340	64,023	6.14
	22	222,300	0	0.00	0	0	100.00	222,300	0	0.00
	23	736,060	0	0.00	191,919	127	0.07	927,979	127	0.01
	Unknown		0						0	
Total	1,200,420	9,749	0.81	992,199	54,401	5.48	2,192,619	64,150	2.93	
Missouri	22/Total	5,536,999	92,966	1.68	79,040	9,898	12.52	5,616,039	161,352	2.87
Nebraska	22/Total	1,247,597	2,646	0.21	0	0	100.00	1,247,597	3,533	0.28
Ohio ^e	13	277,875	253	0.09	244,283	24	0.01	522,158	277	0.05
	22 ^f	762,736	26	0.00	406,068	22	0.01	1,168,804	48	0.00
	24	6,422	0	0.00	8,892	0	0.00	15,314	0	0.00
	Unknown		0						0	
	Total	1,047,033	279	0.03	659,243	46	0.01	1,706,276	325	0.02
Wisconsin	12	69,901	505	0.72	518,700	32,466	6.26	588,601	32,971	5.60
	22	14,079	125	0.89	988	17	1.72	15,067	142	0.94
	23	1,831,999	3,476	0.19	716,300	1,536	0.21	2,548,299	5,012	0.20
	Unknown								1,803	
Total	1,915,979	4,106	0.21	1,235,988	34,019	2.75	3,151,967	39,928	1.27	
All states	12	518,947	28,615	5.51	1,714,180	145,893	8.51	2,233,127	174,508	7.81
	13	277,875	253	0.09	244,283	24	0.01	522,158	277	0.05
	22	19,616,246	571,866	2.92	826,709	34,136	4.13	20,442,955	665,377	3.25
	23 ^g	3,429,842	58,700	1.71	1,689,974	18,153	1.07	5,119,816	76,853	1.50
	24	1,916,473	9,220	0.48	724,451	23,323	3.22	2,640,924	32,543	1.23
	Unknown		506			0			59,429	
Total	25,759,383	669,160	2.60	5,199,597	228,071	4.39	30,958,980	1,008,987	3.26	

^aGrassland category includes grassland and mixed wooded openland.

^bWoodland category includes deciduous forest, evergreen forest, forested wetland, shrubland, and other forest.

^cTotal upland includes both grassland and woodland totals; reports from 2007 - 2008 grouped woodland and grassland objectives. These data were identified by states and are included in the "unknown" category.

^dCumulative totals for BCRs are separated out by woodland and grassland categories only represent data from 2009 partner accomplishment reports.

^eOhio totals only from 2010 - 2012.

^fIncludes accomplishments reported in BCR 23, formerly designated BCR 22, for which no habitat objectives were established.

^gBCR 23 totals correspond to the 2007 JV boundary for which habitat accomplishments were developed.