

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center

MISSISSIPPI - HOME TO USGS LOWER MISSISSIPPI VALLEY RESEARCH FIELD STATION

Vital Statistics:

- Established in 1980 and co-located in Vicksburg, Mississippi, with staff from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Research focus is providing scientific data to advance migratory bird conservation in the Lower Mississippi Valley
- Special facilities: Development and sharing of spatial and statistical databases for migratory bird management
- Appropriated budget: \$250,000 (1997); \$294,000 (1998); \$271,000 (1999)
- Patuxent personnel at Vicksburg: 2 research scientists and 2 research assistants



Benefits to States of the Lower Mississippi Valley

- Collaboration with regional universities
 - Funding and supervision of graduate students
 - Adjunct faculty status and graduate committee membership
 - Lectures on avian ecology and wildlife management
- Technical assistance to state wildlife resource management agencies

Examples of Current Research Projects in the Lower Mississippi Valley

Strategies for integrated migratory bird management

- Support for the North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Application of adaptive resource management strategies to the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

Waterfowl

- Extent and distribution of private lands managed to benefit waterfowl
- Natural flooding as a source of winter habitat for waterfowl
- Agronomic implications of flooding rice fields in winter to benefit waterfowl

Forest birds

- Establishing landscape level reforestation priorities to benefit forest birds
- Assessing placement of forest restoration on avian demography
- Evaluating early successional tree species for bottomland hardwood reforestation
- Assessing effects of edge habitat on breeding birds of bottomland forests
- Enhancing bird use of managed hardwood plantations through provision of artificial cavities



Regional Technical Support

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture
 - Adaptive Management and Assessment Team
- State wildlife agencies, especially Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana
- Partners In Flight, Southeastern Working Group
- The Nature Conservancy, Mississippi River Alluvial Plain Project
- Ducks Unlimited
 - Southern Regional Office
 - Institute for Wetlands and Waterfowl Research
- Industrial forest land managers