

FINAL REPORT

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

SEP 21 2001

TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Program

PROJECT MANAGER: Carrol Henderson

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources

ADDRESS: Box 25, DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.dnr.state.mn.us

FUND: Nongame Wildlife Management Account

LEGAL CITATION: ML 1999, Chap. 231, Sec. 5, Subd. 7

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 1,950,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

It has been a productive biennium for the Nongame Wildlife Program: over 146 projects have been carried out. Statewide efforts were carried out in 2000 for a complete count of all 690 known bald eagle nests, and for the Loon Monitoring project (600 volunteers), frog and toad surveys (100 volunteers), and 22 Project WILD teacher workshops about wildlife ecology and conservation. Regional nongame specialists administer the statewide falconry permit and regulation program for licensed falconers (70 permittees) and for the regulation program for wildlife rehabilitator permittees (101 permittees).

Major efforts continue for management and recovery of rare and endangered piping plovers, common terns, bald eagles, Karner blue butterflies, timber rattlesnakes, Blanding's turtles, wood turtles, northern goshawks and Topeka shiners. Extensive effort has involved providing technical expertise to county, state and federal land managers on conservation of nongame wildlife.

Extensive effort has involved providing technical expertise to county, state and federal land managers on techniques for conservation of nongame wildlife, participation in the forest planning process, designation of old growth forests, environmental review of projects that could significantly impact on nongame wildlife and endangered species, coordination and management of the research and small grants program, data management of state-listed species' occurrence records, and cooperation and funding for portions of the animal surveys as part of the County Biological Survey Program.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The Nongame Wildlife Program staff provides over 100 public programs each year. In the past biennium, 22 Project WILD and Aquatic WILD workshops were held for 425 teacher participants. Publicity has included the production of 200,000 posters featuring lakescaping, loons and lead fishing sinkers. Over \$2,000,000 has been raised during the past two years on the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff. Twelve Venture North Stories have been done featuring Nongame Wildlife Program activities.

200-8

Date of Report: 13 September, 2001
LCMR Final Work Program Report
Date of Workprogram Approval: June 23, 1999
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2001

LCMR Work Program 1999

I. PROJECT TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Program Biennial Work Plan

Project Manager: Carrol Henderson

Affiliation: Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: DNR, Box 25; Division of Ecological Services, 500 Lafayette Road,
St. Paul, MN 55155

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Web Page Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Total Biennial Project Budget :

	Total Appropriation	Actual Budget	Expended	Balance
A. Nongame Wildlife Checkoff (Checkoff donations 185-600) M.L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 5, Subd. 7	1,950,000	1,860,000 <u>1,934,530</u>	1,680,498 <u>1,934,530</u>	179,502 <u>0</u>
B. Supplemental Appropriation (General fund 100-613) M. L. 1999, Chapt 231, Sec. 5, Subd. 7	504,005	504,005	<u>504,005</u>	<u>0</u>
C. Nongame Wildlife Management (Trust Fund 030-605) M. L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. <u>13(l)</u>	470,000	470,000	<u>449,305</u>	<u>20,695</u>
D. Reinvest in Minnesota, Critical Habitat Match (110-600) M. L. 1998, Chap. 401, Sec. 7, Subd. 14	250,000	176,626*	16,540	160,086
Second appropriation, Apr. 2001	<u>162,000</u>	<u>162,000</u>	0	<u>162,000</u>
(Accounts merged) Total:	412,000	338,626	125,645	212,981

**E. Fish and Wildlife Management
Checkoff promotion (100-616)**

M. L. 1999, Chapt. 231,
Sec. 5, Subd 7

25,000	25,000	25,000	0
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**F. MN Wild Bird Food
Conservation Program**

M. S. 17.085 Subd. 1
(DNR gift authority)
M. S. 17.03, Subd. 10
(Dept. of Ag gift authority)
(as of 5-14-99)

60,000	11,498	9,612	1886
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GRAND TOTAL

3,417,000	3,203,833	2,498,797	705,036
<u>3,417,000</u>	<u>3,283,159</u>	<u>3,047,597</u>	<u>235,562</u>

* Amount carried forward from
previous biennium.

A. Appropriation Language:

A. Nongame Wildlife Checkoff

M.L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13L

\$965,000 the first year and \$985,000 the second year are from the nongame wildlife management account in the natural resources fund for the purpose of nongame wildlife management. Any unencumbered balance remaining in the first year does not cancel but is available the second year.

B. Supplemental Appropriation

M. L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 5, Subd. 7

Summary by Fund

General	8,331,000	8,046,000
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Wording derived from M. L. 1998, Chap. 401, Sec. 4

(\$250,000 the first year and \$250,000 the second year are from the general fund to the commissioner of natural resources for population and habitat objectives of the nongame wildlife management program)

C. Nongame Wildlife Management \$470,000

M. L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13(l).

\$235,000 the first year and \$235,000 the second year are appropriated from the trust fund

to the commissioner of natural resources for the purpose of nongame wildlife management.

D. RIM Wildlife Management Areas, Critical Habitat, and North American Waterfowl Management Plan

M. L. 1998, Chapt. 401, Sec. 7, Subd. 14

\$5,500,000 is for the critical habitat private sector matching account under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.943; (The Section of Wildlife has allocated \$250,000 of this total as a match to donations to the Nongame Wildlife Checkoff for nongame wildlife management projects.)

This appropriation is from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources to accelerate the reinvest in Minnesota program activities authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.943. Projects must occur in both urban and rural areas. Retroactive reimbursement for the greening the great river park project is authorized.

E. Fish and Wildlife Management (checkoff promotion)

M. L. 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 5, Subd. 7

...and \$25,000 the second year is to publicize the tax donation checkoff to the nongame wildlife program.

F. Nongame Wildlife Checkoff--Enabling Legislation

290.431 [NONGAME WILDLIFE CHECKOFF]

Every individual who files an income tax return or property tax refund claim form may designate on their original return that \$1 or more shall be added to the tax or deducted from the refund that would otherwise be payable by or to that individual and paid into an account to be established for the management of nongame wildlife. The commissioner of revenue shall, on the income tax return and property tax refund claim form, notify filers of their right to designate that a portion of their tax or refund shall be paid into the nongame wildlife management account. The sum of the amounts so designated to be paid shall be credited to the nongame wildlife management account for use by the nongame program of the department of natural resources. All interest earned on money accrued, gifts to the program, contributions to the program, and reimbursements of expenditures in the nongame wildlife management account shall be credited to the account by the state treasurer. The commissioner of natural resources shall submit a work program for each fiscal year and semiannual progress reports to the legislative commission on Minnesota resources in the form determined by the commission. None of the money provided in this section may be expended unless the commission has approved the work program.

The state pledges and agrees with all contributors to the nongame wildlife management account to use the funds contributed solely for the management of nongame wildlife projects and further agrees that it will not impose additional conditions or restrictions that will limit or otherwise restrict the ability of the commissioner of natural resources to use the available funds for the most efficient and effective management of nongame wildlife.

290.432. [CORPORATE NONGAME WILDLIFE CHECKOFF.]

A corporation that files an income tax return may designate on its original return that \$1 or more shall be added to the tax or deducted from the refund that would otherwise be payable by or to that corporation and paid into the nongame wildlife management account established by section 290.431 for use by the section of wildlife in the department of natural resources for its nongame wildlife program. The commissioner of revenue shall, on the corporate tax form, notify filers of their right to designate that a portion of their tax return be paid into the nongame wildlife management account for the protection of endangered natural resources. All interest earned on money accrued, gifts to the program, contributions to the program, and reimbursements of expenditures in the nongame wildlife management account shall be credited to the account by the state treasurer. The commissioner of natural resources shall submit a work program for each fiscal year to the legislative commission on Minnesota resources in the form determined by the commission. None of the money provided in this section may be spent unless the commission has approved the work program. The state pledges and agrees with all corporate contributors to the nongame wildlife account to use the funds contributed solely for the nongame wildlife program and further agrees that it will not impose additional conditions or restrictions that will limit or otherwise restrict the ability of the commissioner of natural resources to use the available funds for the most efficient and effective management of those programs.

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

It has been a productive biennium for the Nongame Wildlife Program: over 146 projects have been carried out. Statewide efforts were carried out in 2000 for a complete count of all 690 known bald eagle nests, and for the Loon Monitoring project (600 volunteers), frog and toad surveys (100 volunteers), and 22 Project WILD teacher workshops about wildlife ecology and conservation. Regional nongame specialists administer the statewide falconry permit and regulation program for licensed falconers (70 permittees) and for the regulation program for wildlife rehabilitator permittees (101 permittees).

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IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

A. NONGAME REGIONAL PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH (Nongame Wildlife Checkoff Fund 185-600) Appropriation = \$1,950,000 (Amount budgeted = ~~\$1,860,000~~ \$1,934,530; ~~\$965,000~~ \$ 871,129 in FY 00 and ~~\$930,000~~ \$ 1,063,401 in FY 01. Balance as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001 = ~~\$179,502~~ \$ 0.

Result 1: Northwest Minnesota Conservation Programs (Region 1)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$212,078.~~ \$212,078. ~~\$107,357~~ \$107,357 for FY 00 and ~~\$104,721~~ \$104,721 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$219 0~~ of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

Activities have been carried out on 18 different major projects. 1. Volunteer loon surveys have been coordinated on two index areas in Becker and Ottertail Counties in both years. 2. Land acquisition has been underway/accomplished on Farm Island Aquatic Management Area in Big Turtle Lake, New Maine Wildlife Management Area, and Shell Lake Wildlife Management Area. Other acquisitions are being explored, including shoreland on Mule Lake. 3. A wildflower brochure has been published and assistance provided on publication of the Pine to Prairie Birding Trail booklet. 4. Nest surveys and nest management were carried out for the endangered piping plover on Pine and Curry Islands in Lake of the Woods. 5. Two lakescaping workshops were presented, five demonstration sites were evaluated and two lakescaping demonstration sites were presented. 6. Five wildlife tourism workshops were planned and presented. 7. A regionwide bald eagle survey revealed 130 nesting pairs in northwest MN. 8. Surveys were completed on colonial waterbirds, frogs and toads, and on three breeding bird survey routes. 9. Publicized the nongame wildlife checkoff. 10. Coordinated the region's falconry program. 11. Administered the region's program for coordination of wildlife rehabilitation with citizen volunteers, including site inspections and tests. 12. Habitat management was carried out in cooperation with DNR

Area Wildlife Managers. 13. Technical Guidance was provided on DNR Area Teams on the Grand Forks Greenway, Big Bog Recreation Area, County Road projects and on the expansion of the Waskish Airport facility. 14. Forest coordination was carried out for the Pine Moraine and Agassiz Lowland Old Growth delineations. 15. Bald eagle and northern goshawk management was coordinated with biologists on the Chippewa National Forest. 16. Controversial environmental review projects were analyzed for resolution of conflicts, including the Washish Airport, Clay County gravel mining, and Turtle Lake. 17. A total of 30 public programs were given, including topics of bluebirds, bird feeding, conservation, lakescaping and judging at science fairs. and 18. Coordination with the statewide nongame wildlife program.

Result 2: Northeast Minnesota Conservation Programs (Region 2)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$237,015~~ \$224,030. ~~\$127,015~~ \$116,664 for FY 00 and ~~\$110,000~~ \$107,365 for FY 01. Balance = \$ 21,330 \$ 0 as of 26 April 13 September 2001.

The regional nongame wildlife program has dealt with 13 major initiatives over the past year: 1. Coordination of the regionwide volunteer loon survey. 2. Helping coordinate donation of Bear Island on Deer Lake. 3. Habitat evaluation for black-throated blue warblers. 4. Boreal owl surveys and habitat assessment. 5. Protection and management of the common tern colony in Duluth Harbor. 6. Evaluation of hawk and owl survey techniques in St. Louis, Itasca and Carlton counties. 7. Field work and surveys on wood turtles on the St. Louis, Cloquet and Nett Rivers, including capture and marking of 73 turtles. 8. Field research on the natural history and habitat preferences for nesting northern goshawks. 9. Regionwide bald eagle surveys to determine the number of nesting pairs in the region. 10. Participation in forest planning for the Nashwalk Uplands old growth determination. 11. Forest planning for the Borders Lake subsection, including issue identification and fragmentation. 12. Environmental review regarding two golf courses, one wetland mitigation, one shore line development, one power line alignment, and one peat mining site. 13. Administration of the regional falconry program. 14. Administration of the regional wildlife rehabilitation program, including site inspections and test administration. 15. Interagency coordination involving the US Forest Service, Voyageurs National Park, Northeast Forest Resource Council, Lake Superior Wildlife Committee. And 16. Statewide coordination within the Nongame Wildlife Program.

Result 3: Central Minnesota Conservation Programs (Region 3)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$235,408~~ \$235,734; ~~\$121,031~~ for FY 00 and ~~\$110,000~~ \$114,703 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$48,715~~ \$ 0 as of 26 April 13 September 2001.

Seventeen major initiatives have been carried out as part of the Nongame Wildlife Program in Central Minnesota: 1. Coordinate the Central Minnesota Loonwatcher Survey which included participation by 151 volunteers. 2. Coordinate the volunteer activities of the Loon Monitoring Program which looks at loon status on 110 lakes in the Aitkin /Crow Wing Index Area. 3. Regionwide count of all 150 active bald eagle nests, including aerial surveys. 4. Grassland bird survey, including assessment of 518 grasslands and fields in Aitkin, Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Morrisson, Todd and Wadena counties for bobolinks and other grassland

birds. 5. Maintain and enhance two landscaping for wildlife habitat demonstration areas at the Uppgaard Wildlife Management Area and at the DNR Regional Headquarters in Brainerd. 6. Forest planning for old growth field assessment for 7 stands in the Anoka Sandplain subsection and one stand in the Mille Lacs Uplands. 7. Maintain a nongame wildlife audio-visual library of films and videotapes for use by teachers, conservation groups and the public. 8. Coordinate wildlife research and management with the Department of Defense on Camp Ripley, including projects on the red-shouldered hawk, Blanding's turtle, butterflies, dragonflies, jumping spiders, black bears, white-tailed deer, timber plants and rare plants. 9. Environmental review of the Little Falls dredging project, Highway 371 upgrading concerns, and bird mortality at communications towers. 10. Coordinate research by Elk River High School teacher Mike Niziolek on Blanding's turtles and road mortality. 11. Participated in 3 lakescaping for wildlife and water quality workshops and coordinated and assisted in planting two lakescaping demonstration sites. 12. Coordinated checking of 18 kestrel nest boxes with the MCC program on highway signs in Morrison, Benton and Sherburne Counties. 13. Administered the wildlife rehabilitation program for 22 rehabilitators in Central Minnesota, including site inspections and administration of tests. 14. Administered the regionwide falconry permit for 21 falconers in Central Minnesota. 15. Presented a wildlife tourism workshop at Manhatten Beach. 16. Educational efforts included 10 slide programs, a monthly radio program on KAXE in Grand Rapids, six radio programs, and two television programs. 17. And technical assistance and participation with the Big Island Joint Powers Board, Central Lakes College Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Worker Participation Committee, Uniform Committee, Midwest Fish and Wildlife Program Committee, Big Woods Team, Regional Old Growth Team, and Region 3 Environmental Assessment Team,

Result 4: Southwest Minnesota Conservation Programs (Region 4)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$220,000~~ 186,433. ~~\$110,000~~ \$103,645 for FY 00 and ~~\$110,000~~ \$82,788 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$ 14,781~~ \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

There have been 14 major nongame wildlife program initiatives in southwest Minnesota:

1. Shorebird conservation. This included planning and conducting a three-day workshop for wildlife managers, work on a US shorebird management plan and assistance to DNR staff regarding shorebird management.
2. Regionwide bald eagle nest surveys and mid-winter bald eagle counts.
3. Regionwide colonial waterbird nesting surveys.
4. Grassland management initiatives involving brush removal on Lac qui Parle WMA prairies and technical assistance to natural resource managers on prairie restoration.
5. Wildlife tourism workshop coordination for three workshops at Nicollet, Ortonville, and Lake Shetek.
6. Assistance with creation of the Minnesota River Valley Birding Trail in cooperation with the Minnesota Audubon Council.
7. Carried out the Minnesota Loon Monitoring survey for the Kandiyohi County index area, including volunteer coordination.
8. Coordination of the regionwide falconry program.
9. Coordination of the regionwide wildlife rehabilitation, including site inspections and testing of rehabilitators.
10. Field survey on Blanding's turtles in southwest Minnesota and solicitation of new records.
11. Provided environmental review services regarding kaolin mining and impacts of a new trail on a heron colony.
12. Regional coordination for management, protection and recovery of the federally listed

Topeka shiner. 13. Provided regional coordination involving release and nesting reports for trumpeter swans. 14. Becoming involved with major study of the effect of wind towers on migrating bats.

Result 5: Southeast Minnesota Conservation Programs (Region 5)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$209,242~~ \$184,583: ~~\$ 99,242.36~~ \$54,080 for FY 00 and ~~\$110,000~~ \$130,503 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$47,835~~ \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

The Region 5 position for Nongame Wildlife Specialist was refilled in the spring of 2000. Jaime Edwards was hired to replace Bonnie Erpelding. Jaime was the former nongame wildlife biologist for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Major project initiatives in southeast Minnesota include sixteen activities: 1. Coordination of research and surveys for the endangered Karner blue butterfly in the Whitewater WMA area. 2. Regionwide bald eagle nesting counts. 3. Coordination of timber rattlesnake management and protection activities. 4. Regionwide coordination of falconry permits. 5. Regionwide coordination of wildlife rehabilitation site inspections and testing. 6. Coordination of peregrine falcon information on nesting activities, including collaboration with State Parks on falcons nesting in state parks. 7. Collection and field checks for nesting loggerhead shrikes. 8. Coordination and cooperation on research and surveys regarding Blanding's turtles at the Weaver dunes. 9. Involvement with acquisition and management of the Mound Prairie WMA in Houston County. 10. Involvement with management of the Hovslef Wildlife Management Area for nongame wildlife. 11. Coordination of a project to translate and publish the Hovslef birding journals. 12. Coordinate and carry out a workshop on wildlife tourism at Lanesboro. 13. Participation in the statewide lakescaping for wildlife workshop initiative, including the workshop at Cabela's. 14. Coordination of regionwide frog and toad surveys. 15. Participation in the environmental review relating to serious impacts on threatened and endangered species. 16. Assistance with promotion of the national CARA legislation for the benefit of nongame wildlife.

Result 6: Metro/Twin Cities Conservation Programs (Region 6)

Total biennial budget: ~~\$227,881~~ \$204,897: ~~\$117,881~~ \$ 113,400 for FY 00 and ~~\$110,000~~ \$91,498 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$-8,499~~ \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

Major nongame wildlife program initiatives in the Twin Cities metropolitan region include: 1. Participation in a regionwide bald eagle nesting pair count, including aerial surveys. 2. Midwinter bald eagle counts along the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. 3. Statewide coordination of the trumpeter swan restoration project. 4. Statewide coordination of the falconry program, and administration of the regionwide falconry permit program. 5. Administration of the regionwide wildlife rehabilitation program, including site inspections and testing. 6. Regionwide coordination of LCMR wildlife tourism activities, including presenting workshops at Marine on St. Croix and Red Wing. 7. Collaboration and planning committee for the 2001 Watchable Wildlife Conference in St. Paul. 8. Monitoring endangered cricket frog populations on Nine Mile Creek. 9. Providing technical guidance on the Metro Greenways Committee, Conservation Partners Working Group, Urban Wildlands Interface Working Group, and Region 6 Public Affairs and Monitoring and Evaluation Working Groups. 10. Provided habitat management expertise for Conservation

Partners habitat restoration work at Eagle Creek, Lilydale Park, Wilder Forest, Battle Creek, and visited sites to evaluate potential for Greenway acquisition. 11. Provided environmental review services regarding impacts of a new golf course on Blanding's turtle habitat, wildlife impacts from the Highway 55 alignment, impacts of airport expansion on Mother Lake, potential hazards posed by nesting eagles at the international airport, and bat mortality at wind power facilities in SW Minnesota. 12. Facilitated at a lakescaping for wildlife and water quality workshop at Cleary Lake Park in Scott County. and 13. Regionwide surveys of colonial waterbirds and nesting loons, including exhaustive studies of why a heronry at Peltier Lake was abandoned in 2000.

Result 7: Statewide conservation initiatives, including program support for the lakescaping and wildlife tourism workshops. Total biennial budget: ~~\$260,768~~ \$296,631. ~~\$27,846~~ \$31,497 for FY 00 and ~~\$232,922~~ \$265,135 for FY 01. Balance = ~~\$ 403~~ \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001. This budget covers additional project costs for regional activities.

The statewide Nongame Wildlife Program is administered out the DNR Central Office in St. Paul, from within the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Its major activities include: 1. Statewide coordination and direction for the entire nongame wildlife program. 2. Statewide coordination and implementation of the Project WILD and Aquatic WILD programs. 3. Direction and coordination of all publicity for the nongame wildlife checkoff, including coordination with the Department of Revenue and the U of MN Extension Service. 4. Production of educational products to be used statewide, including posters, slide programs, CDs and videos, 5. Development and dissemination of informational materials and news releases, and coordination of wildlife information with the media, including radio, television, and newspapers. 6. Coordination with and co-supervision of the regional nongame wildlife specialists. 7. Development and management of the Nongame Wildlife Programs's budget. 8. Writing and publication of books on Minnesota wildlife, including periodical updates and revisions of Woodworking for Wildlife, Landscaping for Wildlife, Wild About Birds: the DNR Bird Feeding Guide, Traveler's Guide to Wildlife in Minnesota, and Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality. 9. Presentation of public programs on bird feeding, landscaping for wildlife, the nongame wildlife program, and lakescaping. 10. Administration and direction of the LCMR project on Wildlife Tourism, including carrying out 17 workshops and collaboration with the MN Office of Tourism. 11. Administration of the LCMR project on lakescaping, including carrying out 14 workshops and development of 14 lakeshore demonstration sites, including collaboration with the Divisions of Ecological Services and Fisheries. 12. Coordination and development of the program for the national Watchable Wildlife Conference in St. Paul in 2001. 13. Directing Division of Wildlife support for the national CARA legislation to pass in Washington in 2000, including maintaining contact with our 150 CARA endorsees from Minnesota. This includes meetings and frequent contact with the Minnesota Congressional Delegation. 14. Cooperating and coordinating wildlife conservation activities in Minnesota with nongame wildlife program supervisors in other states.

Result 8. Statewide research initiatives. Total biennial budget: ~~\$483,078~~ \$390,144. ~~\$246,000~~ \$223,455 in FY 00 and ~~\$237,078~~ \$ 166,688 in FY 01. Balance = ~~\$31,466~~ \$ 0 as

of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

Major initiatives included: 1. Coordinated with Katie Haws in Region I for piping plover management and protection on Pine and Curry Islands. 2. Supervise statewide LCMR mussel research and survey project. 3. Coordinated rattlesnake management issues related to issuance of permits. 4. Initiated revision of the state threatened and endangered species list. 5. Issued 50 takings permits for threatened and endangered species. 6. Coordinated with the Division of Fisheries on revising and updating the laws and rules relating to turtle harvest involving snapping turtles, western painted turtles, and smooth and spiny softshelled turtles. 7. Provided input to the US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding the status of the loggerhead shrike and proposed critical habitat recommendations to the USFWS for the endangered piping plover. 8. Provided input to the Division of Forestry subsection forest resource management planning process. 9. A total of 584 data requests associated with environmental review were processed in 2000, compared to 540 in 1999. Impacts of gravel mining on native prairie tracts in Clay County have become a major issue. 10. Coordinated conservation initiatives with the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. 11. Developed rare animal and rare plant fact sheets, including 20 for rare animals and 45 on plants of the forested region. These will help in guiding forest management activities. 12. Developed a fact sheet about the state wildflower law. 13. Welby Smith is writing a book on Minnesota's trees and shrubs. 14. Worked within the Division of Ecological Services for development of web site information. 15. Worked on efforts for better management of calcareous fens. 16. Coordinated and directed analysis of colonial waterbird data by contractor Joan McKearnan. 17. Coordinated and administered the statewide Natural Heritage database. 18. Coordinated program activities with the Nongame Wildlife Program Supervisor and with the County Biological Survey Supervisor.

Additional research and survey activities, coordinated by Richard Baker, include: 19. Participated in the Topeka Shiner Recovery Team. 20. Coordinated information on discovery of deformed dragonflies on the Rainy River. 21. Collaborated on management of timber rattlesnakes in SE MN. 22. Coordinated Karner blue butterfly research project in SE MN. 23. Coordinate the statewide Loon Monitoring program. 24. Coordinated with the Un. Of MN and the US Forest Service on the northern goshawk research project. 25. Coordinate efforts to survey for the Dakota skipper butterfly in western MN. 26. Participated in coordination of statewide management of the common tern. 27. Collaborated with Hamline University for frog and toad monitoring. 28. Administered the Nongame Small Grants Research Program.

Small Grant Projects funded for the 2000-2001 funding cycle. These projects included funding provided in collaboration with the Division of Parks, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. They include:

Field surveys for special concern jumping spiders in eastern Minnesota
Survey of European earthworms and native plant communities in

hardwood forests of Minnesota.
 Surveying ephemeral wetlands for plains spadefoot toads (*Spea bobsfrons*)
 and Woodhouse's Toads (*Bufo woodhousii*) in SW Minnesota
 Herpetofauna survey in a tract of maple basswood forest, Dorr Wildlife
 Management Area, Polk County
 Ecological surveys of rare wetland plant communities in eastern Anoka County, MN
 Timber rattlesnake reproduction at Great River Bluffs State Park
 Relationships between multi-scale habitat features and breeding biology of
 forest songbirds.
 Northern forest wetlands: Characteristics and influences of upland tree habitat
 Northwestern Minnesota terrestrial gastropod survey
 Evaluating and developing an effective survey method for northern goshawks
 in the western Great Lakes Region using broadcast conspecific calls
 Paddlefish (*Polyodon spathula*) surveys in the lower Mississippi and St. Croix
 Rivers of southeastern Minnesota.
 Status surveys for the special concern dragonfly *Ophiogomphus anomalus*, and
 Gomphid inventory on undersurveyed rivers of the Superior National Forest
 Ecological consequences of reintroducing fire into forests of Itasca State Park

Additional funding is provided to the County Biological Survey. This funding is used for
 doing animal surveys: 32. Surveys of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians in 12
 counties: Becker, Ottertail, Grant, Stevens, Swift, Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Benton, Mille
 Lacs, Kanabec, Pine, and Carlton.

**B. STATEWIDE NONGAME WILDLIFE (General Fund Supplemental Appropriation =
 \$500,000) Current balance as of September 13 April 26, 2001 = \$0 \$22,805. (Fund 100-
 613) Administered by Nongame Operations, Central Office.**

Result 1: Project WILD Wildlife Education Curriculum Development and Workshops: Total
 biennial budget: ~~\$110,368~~ ~~\$110,000~~ ~~\$55,000~~ \$53,267 for FY 00 and ~~\$55,000~~ \$57,101 for
 FY 01. Balance = \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001. This budget covers staffing for an
 educational specialist and workshop expenses. During FY 00, a total of 14 Project WILD
 workshops were held for 281 participants and 2 Aquatic WILD workshops were held for 40
 participants. In addition, 4 combined Project WILD/Aquatic WILD workshops were held for
 82 participants. In total, 20 workshops were held for 403 participants. Two additional
 "Facilitator Training" workshops were held for 22 teachers who will be presenting future
 Project WILD workshops,

Result 2: Central Office Initiatives including checkoff publicity: Total biennial budget: \$
~~344,750~~ \$302,742. ~~\$194,555~~ \$152,946 for FY 00 and ~~\$150,195~~ \$149,796 for FY 01.
 Balance = \$ 22,805 \$0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001. This budget covers coordination
 of the statewide nongame wildlife program, administration of LCMR projects for wildlife
 tourism and lakescaping for wildlife, educational efforts regarding landscaping for wildlife,

publicity for the nongame wildlife checkoff, production of promotional materials and coordination with other state nongame wildlife programs. Nancy Huonder, an Information Officer from the DNR Division of Enforcement was hired to conduct an intensified publicity campaign for the nongame wildlife checkoff last year. Checkoff donations for the 1999 tax year have increased by 8.7% for the 1998 tax year and have decreased by 1.6 % for the 2000 tax year. The donation rate has increased from 3.1 to 3.2 to 3.2% over the past three years and the average donation has increased from \$11.87 to \$12.46 to \$12.57 for the past three years. This generated an increase of \$68,950 between tax years 1998 and 1999 and a subsequent decrease of \$11,933 for 2000.

Result 3. DNR fixed costs. Administration billed to the Nongame Wildlife Program by the DNR and by the Division of Fish and Wildlife. \$ 42,894 45,250. \$20,716 \$18,658 in FY 00 and \$24,534 \$24,236 in FY 01. Balance = \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

Result 4. Nongame Research. Data management activities in Central Office. \$48,001. All expended in FY 01. Balance = \$0 as of 13 September 2001.

C. NONGAME WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT Trust fund appropriation = \$470,000. Balance = \$20,695 as of 13 September 2001, and includes open encumbrances for bills that have not yet been received. Operational Budget for the Nongame Wildlife Program (030-605). Details shown on separate report.

D. REINVEST IN MINNESOTA CRITICAL HABITAT MATCHING FUND (110-600)
Original balance: \$250,000. Balance carried forward from FY 99 = \$176,390; Balance as of 26 April 2001 = \$ 160,086. On April 17, 2001, the LCMR approved the additional expenditure of \$162,000 of RIM Critical Habitat Matching Funds from the Division of Wildlife for five additional projects that are listed in the following text. This funding must be expended by June 30, 2003. Current balance as of 13 September 2001 = \$157,952.

Result 1. Regional projects (all balances as of 26 April 2001): Survey and habitat management projects carried out by regional nongame staff. Balance: ~~\$128,642~~ \$144,056. Regional summaries: **Region 1:** Balance = \$ 27,508 ~~41,920~~; **Region 2:** Balance = 0; **Region 3:** Balance = \$61,289; **Region 4:** Balance = \$13,929. **Region 5:** Balance = \$26,083; and **Region 6:** Balance = \$ 15,247 ~~45,424~~. Projects involve research and surveys on dragonflies, northern goshawks, boreal owls, red-shouldered hawks, Blanding's turtles, rattlesnakes and cricket frogs. Other projects include data management of heritage data, tree removal in grassland habitats, and development of forest stewardship plans for landowners.

Result 2. Research projects: Support for County Biological Surveys and research grants. Balance = \$55,030 as of 13 September 2001. ~~\$ 0 as of 26 April 2001.~~ Projects involve County Biological Survey animal surveys, prairie butterfly monitoring, and development of

mussel educational materials.

Result 3. Statewide projects: Projects for nongame wildlife program education projects, web site development, Project WILD and coordination of the tax checkoff with tax preparers. Balance = ~~\$31,444~~ \$13,896 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

Result 4. Additional appropriation projects (approved 17 April, 2001):

Loons and watercraft: \$55,000; Project WILD: \$20,000; Turtle population study: \$50,000; Lead sinkers and loons: \$12,000; Endangered species fact sheets: \$25,000. (These subtotals are incorporated into the above three results and some expenditures have already occurred since 17 April 2001.)

E. PUBLICITY (Budget = \$25,000 for FY 01. Account 100-660)

Result 1. Checkoff publicity: Funding ~~will be~~ was used in the second year of the biennium for development of promotional materials for the nongame wildlife checkoff. Budget: \$25,000 for FY 01. Expended = \$ ~~22,420~~ \$25,000. Balance = ~~\$2,580~~ \$ 0 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001.

F. WILD BIRD FOOD CONSERVATION FUND; Coop Agreement Fund. (Balance forward for FY 00 = \$10,207; Balance = \$595 \$1,886 as of ~~26 April~~ 13 September 2001. Account 200-621.

Result 1. Wildlife surveys: Surveys were carried out on the northern goshawk and trumpeter swan.

Result 2. Loon survey data analysis: Data analysis was carried out for loon population surveys to assess and improve the accuracy of the survey. Completed.

Result 3. Curriculum development: Development of a Birds of Two Worlds curriculum that can be used by teachers and naturalists to teach about neotropical migrant songbirds. Curriculum in final stages of review and editing.

V. DISSEMINATION: The information developed for this project will be summarized as part of the nongame segment of the DNR web page in the fish and wildlife division and selected portions will be covered by Venture North television features.

VI. CONTEXT

A. Significance: The Nongame Wildlife Program is responsible for the conservation of over 700 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, butterflies, mussels, and other invertebrates. This responsibility includes ensuring that the DNR is adequately managing these species on state lands. It includes educational programs like Project WILD

and research and surveys to determine the status and management needs of rare, declining, or listed nongame species. Technical assistance is provided to other agencies regarding the management and protection of nongame and endangered wildlife and for environmental review of development projects. Recent efforts involve addressing the recreational needs and the perceptions of the public as they partake in activities like bird-watching, bird feeding, wildlife tourism, wildlife photography, and other forms of wildlife recreation. This includes coordination with the wildlife recreation industry like wild bird food manufacturers.

B. Time: This is an operational and ongoing program in the Department of Natural Resources. Many of the responsibilities like monitoring of threatened and endangered species, loons, and colonial waterbird nesting sites are long-term. Many habitat improvement, research, and small grants projects are short term and may last from one to four years.

C. Budget Context (in dollars)

	Jul93-Jun95	Jul95-Jun97	Jul97-Jun99	Jul99-Jun01
A. Nongame Checkoff donations	2,095,000	1,855,000	1,866,000	1,950,000
budgeted level				(1,860,000)
B. General Fund Program Base	0	0	250,000	500,000
C. LCMR Trust Fund (general)	0	0	0	470,000
D. RIM Critical Hab. Section Approp.	0	0	250,000	176,626*
Additional approp. (Apr. 2001)				162,000
E. Fish and Wildlife Management- Checkoff promotion in FY 01(general)	0	0	0	25,000
F. Wild Bird Food Conservation Fund	0	0	60,000	10,207*
G. LCMR Trust Fund, Wildlife Tourism (Covered in separate LCMR report)	0	0	0	250,000
H. LCMR Trust Fund, Lakescaping (Covered in separate LCMR report)	0	.0	0	140,000
I. RIM Critical Hab. Approp.	232,500	150,000	250,000	0
J. RIM Stewardship	35,000	70,000	25,000	0

Biennium Grand Total: 2,362,500 2,075,000 2,701,000 3,785,713

*Balance carried forward from previous biennium

VII. COOPERATION:

The Nongame Wildlife Program staff will cooperate with the staff of the Section of Wildlife, the County Biological Survey, the Minnesota Office of Tourism, the Section of Fisheries' Aquatic Plant Management Program, the Section of Ecological Services, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Minnesota, private conservation organizations, and other public and private natural resources and land management agencies in implementing the projects covered under this work plan.

VIII. LOCATION

The scope of this project is statewide. A map of project sites for some activities is shown on the nongame web site.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: This periodic workprogram will be routinely turned in as specified in the nongame wildlife program enabling legislation in M.L. 290.431. A final workprogram report will be submitted by September 15, 2001.

FINAL REPORT

SEP 21 2001

1999 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2001

TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Management

PROJECT MANAGER: Carrol Henderson

ORGANIZATION: Department of Natural Resources

ADDRESS: Box 25, DNR, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155

WEB SITE ADDRESS: www.dnr.state.mn.us

FUND: Environmental Trust Fund

LEGAL CITATION: ML 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13(l).

APPROPRIATION AMOUNT: \$ 470,000

Overall Project Outcome and Results

The Nongame Wildlife Program staff has carried out over 65 different wildlife conservation projects that included research, habitat management, information and education, and planning activities: planting of 6 lakescaping sites, development of 5 bald eagle management plans, common loon surveys on 600 lakes, hawk and owl surveys in northeast Minnesota, a wood turtle survey on the St. Louis River, a survey for northern Goshawks across northern Minnesota, habitat management of a common tern nesting colony on Interstate Island, coordinating efforts of 200 volunteers for the Loon Watcher program, radio-tracking of Blanding's turtles in Sherburne County, completing surveys on red-shouldered hawks and trumpeter swans, carrying out a shorebird management workshop for 30 natural resource professionals, surveying the Straight, Cedar, Zumbro and Cannon Rivers for wood turtles and monitored Blanding's turtle populations at the Weaver Dunes. Habitat was improved for endangered Karner Blue butterflies on the Whitewater WMA. Henslow's sparrow populations were monitored at Great River Bluff State Park, and two landowner workshops were held in southeast Minnesota to help landowners cope with timber rattlesnakes.

Educational efforts included preparation of bald eagle management plans for homeowners with nesting eagles, technical assistance to homeowners with wildlife problems (over 1200 inquiries), involving over 600 Minnesotans with loon surveys, and responding to over 200 requests for audio-visual educational materials.

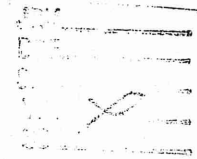
Results Use and Dissemination

Technical assistance was given to homeowners with wildlife problems (over 1200 inquiries); involving over 600 Minnesotans with loon surveys, and responding to over 200 requests for audio-visual materials. In summary, this initiative involved over 65 conservation projects and sponsorship of 35 workshops for a total of 831 participants. This information has been disseminated through final reports that have been filed with the Research Unit of the Nongame Wildlife Program, and documented with accounts on Venture North filming from WDSE-TV in Duluth.

FINAL REPORT

JAN 18 2002

Date of Report: 13 September 2001
Final Status Report: 13 September, 2001
Date of Workprogram Approval: 23 June 1999
Project Completion Date: June 30, 2001



LCMR Work Program 1999

I. PROJECT TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Management

Project Manager: Carrol Henderson

Affiliation: Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources

Mailing Address: DNR, Box 25, Division of Ecological Services, 500 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Telephone Number: 651-296-0700 **E-Mail:** carrol.henderson@dnr.state.mn.us

Fax: 651-297-4961

Web Page Address: www.dnr.state.mn.us

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$470,000

\$LCMR	\$470,000	\$ Match:	N/A
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-\$LCMR Amount	\$469,824	- \$ Match Amount
Spent	Spent:	- 0 -

= \$LCMR Balance:	\$ 176	= \$ Match Balance	- 0 -
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A. Legal Citation: ML 1999, Chapt. 231, Sec. 16, Subd. 13 (I).

Appropriation Language:

Nongame Wildlife Management \$470,000

\$235,000 the first year and \$235,000 the second year are appropriated from the trust fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the purpose of nongame wildlife management.

B. Status of Match Requirement: N/A

II. and III. FINAL PROJECT SUMMARY

The Nongame Wildlife Program staff has carried out over 65 different wildlife conservation projects that included research, habitat management, information and education, and planning activities: planting of 6 lakescaping sites, development of 5 bald eagle management plans, common loon surveys on 600 lakes, hawk and owl surveys in

northeast Minnesota, a wood turtle survey on the St. Louis River, a survey for northern Goshawks across northern Minnesota, habitat management of a common tern nesting colony on Interstate Island, coordinating efforts of 200 volunteers for the Loon Watcher program, radio-tracking of Blanding's turtles in Sherburne County, completing surveys on red-shouldered hawks and trumpeter swans, carrying out a shorebird management workshop for 30 natural resource professionals, surveying the Straight, Cedar, Zumbro and Cannon Rivers for wood turtles and monitored Blanding's turtle populations at the Weaver Dunes. Habitat was improved for endangered Karner Blue butterflies on the Whitewater WMA. Henslow's sparrow populations were monitored at Great River Bluff State Park, and two landowner workshops were held in southeast Minnesota to help landowners cope with timber rattlesnakes.

Educational efforts included preparation of bald eagle management plans for homeowners with nesting eagles, technical assistance to homeowners with wildlife problems (over 1200 inquiries), involving over 600 Minnesotans with loon surveys, and responding to over 200 requests for audio-visual educational materials.

Results Use and Dissemination

Technical assistance was given to homeowners with wildlife problems (over 1200 inquiries); involving over 600 Minnesotans with loon surveys, and responding to over 200 requests for audio-visual materials. In summary, this initiative involved over 65 conservation projects and sponsorship of 35 workshops for a total of 831 participants. This information has been disseminated through final reports that have been filed with the Research Unit of the Nongame Wildlife program, and documented with accounts on Venture North filming from WDSE-TV in Duluth.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1: Region 1 (Northwest Minnesota) Nongame Management
LCMR Budget: \$55,000
Amount expended: \$55,000
Balance: \$ 0
Completion date: June 30, 2001

Four Lakescaping for Wildlife Workshops and Two demonstration site developments: \$6500; Technical assistance to the public regarding problem wildlife: \$2500; Bald eagle management plans, data management, GIS data for nest site locations and aerial surveys: \$8500; Operational and strategic planning: \$2000; Common Loon surveys: \$5000; Bat information/ frog & toad monitoring/ goshawks/ trumpeter swans/ colonial waterbird surveys: \$2000; Piping plover surveys and habitat management: \$3000; Public information and education, talks and exhibits: \$5000; Environmental review (road and wetland projects): \$2500; Forestry coordination/ old growth stand evaluation: \$4000; Prairie and grassland management/ bluebirds: \$2000; Wildlife tourism LCMR workshops & field trips: \$4000; Common tern management/ coordination meetings: \$4000; Landscaping for Wildlife projects: \$2000; Geographic Information Systems work: \$2000

Result 2: Region 2 (Northeast Minnesota) Nongame Management
LCMR Budget \$55,000

Expenditures to date: \$55,000

Balance: 0.

Completion date: June 30, 2001

Hawk and Owl Surveys: ~~\$15,000~~ \$32,000. Initiated a volunteer-based survey of raptors.

Held a training meeting attended by 25 individuals. Contracted with the Natural Resources Research Institute at UMD to assist with the surveys and write the final report.

Contracted with Jim Church to set up routes and fill in for volunteers not able to carry out their surveys. Paid for equipment like training tapes and CD players for playing the raptor calls. Paid for volunteer mileage. In 2000, a training session for volunteers was set up.

Equipment was purchased (CD players and owl and hawk recordings). Four routes were set up, and two contracts were developed with NRRI to provide technical guidance and to write the final report. In 2001, 16 thirty mile routes were set up in different land type associations. Satellite imagery of routes were obtained. Five surveyors were contracted to provide guidance on expanded survey setup, maintain data quality, and give presentations for training volunteers. A training session for 40 volunteers was given. More CD players and hawk and owl recordings were obtained for volunteers to make surveys.

Wood turtle survey on St. Louis River: \$7,000. In 2000, wood turtle surveys were done on the Nemadji River and on the St. Louis River. In 2001, wood turtle surveys are underway on the Nemadji River and St. Louis River. Management guidelines were written for the St. Louis River. Data from the St. Louis River will be incorporated into a 10-year report. Expenses included mileage and equipment and writing of a management plan. Data will be incorporated into a 10-year report.

Northern goshawk study and coordination: \$8,000 plus \$5,000 to University of MN for cooperative goshawk study.. Nest searches and nest monitoring of known nests were conducted by technicians in Itasca and St. Louis Counties in 2000 and are ongoing in 2001. Cooperative goshawk study with the University of Minnesota (\$5000) and expenses for fleet and a coordination meeting of goshawk biologists and land managers.

Common tern management: \$2,500 Common tern management expenses on Interstate Island; Black-throated blue warbler and forest interior birds—preliminary; surveys: \$500.

Several locations of northern hardwood forest will be evaluated. This will include review of aerial photo imagery and informal ground surveys.

Result 3: Region 3 (Central Minnesota) Nongame Management

LCMR Budget \$55,000

Expenditures to date: \$55,000

Balance: \$0

Completion date: June 30, 2001

Lakescaping demonstration site on North Long Lake: \$4000. Coordinate and complete installation of a lakescaping demonstration site on North Long Lake north of Brainerd. Activities included recruitment of volunteers, ordering supplies and materials, providing labor for development of the site and coordinating activities of the landowner.

Minnesota Loon Watcher Program: \$6000. Coordinated more than 200 volunteer "Loon Watchers" on lakes throughout Minnesota. Activities included mailing information and survey forms, mailing volunteer awards, tabulating data, responding to additional information requests, paper and printing of survey forms, and travel costs for giving loon presentations.

Minnesota Loon Monitoring Program: \$3500. Coordinated completion of one index area of six in Minnesota for this long term statewide project. Expenses included the cost of mailing survey forms and maps to more than 70 volunteers, preparation of survey forms, paper and printing of survey forms and collection of forms.

Uppgaard Wildlife Management Area management and education: \$6000. Management and education efforts continue at this "Landscaping for Wildlife Demonstration Area" near Crosslake. Expenses were primarily related to equipment and supplies, travel to the site and coordination with 12 volunteers to assist with management.

Blanding's turtle research and management in Sherburne County: \$3500. A research project on Blanding's turtles was developed with Elk River High School Biology teacher Michael Niziolek using honor biology students to do the field tracking. Expenses included radio telemetry equipment for tracking the turtles and technical expertise to assist with capture, marking and attaching radios. Education activities have included newspaper and television stories that have raised the awareness of citizens of the Elk River area.

Loons and lead sinkers educational effort: \$1500. Reprint the "Get the lead out" brochure so copies could be distributed to interested citizens, anglers and lakeshore owners. This brochure was originally developed by the Office of Environmental Services and highlights the threat to wildlife that accidentally ingests lead fishing sinkers, like loons and trumpeter swans. Nontoxic sinkers are available as a non-toxic alternative.

Lakescaping and Wildlife Tourism Workshops: \$3000. Three lakescaping and two wildlife tourism workshops were held in the central Minnesota region. Expenses included mailing advertisements to recruit participant;s, preparation of slide programs, and travel to workshop sites to review facilities before the events.

Old Growth Forest evaluations: \$4000. Old growth forest evaluations were completed in the Mille Lacs Uplands and Anoka Sand Plain Subsections. Expenses included personnel time and travel. This information will be used for the old growth forest designation process and in forestry subsection planning.

Wildlife Audio-visual library: \$2,400. This library provides access to wildlife educational

materials for local groups, schools and professionals. Funds were used to purchase new videos and tapes, to cover mailing costs, brochure development and distribution and personnel time.

Landscaping for Wildlife Demonstration area, DNR Regional Headquarters at Brainerd. \$3,000. Native wildflower plantings were made at the entrance to the building and wildlife feeders were placed on the river side of the building to provide educational opportunities to the public and users of the regional headquarters. Expenses included bird feeders, interpretive signs for plants and upgrading some of the plantings.

Nongame Wildlife Surveys: \$12,000. Surveys were conducted on great blue herons, ospreys, red-shouldered hawks, bald eagles, Blanding's turtles, grassland birds, and trumpeter swans. Expenses included travel, personnel, equipment and field supplies. Cats Indoors Campaign: \$4,000. Educational materials (posters and brochures) were obtained from the American Birding Association and distributed to animal shelters, veterinarians, and nature centers about the value of keeping cats indoors. News releases and public service announcements were also developed based on these materials.

Birds of the Byway: \$2,100. Printing costs were covered for a reprinting of the popular "Birds of the Byway" brochure that assists visitors in the Pequot Lakes area with a self-guided tour and information on birds that can be found in the area.

Result 4: Region 4 (Southwest Minnesota) Nongame Management

LCMR Budget \$55,000

Expenditures to date: \$55,000

Balance: 0

Completion date: June 30, 2001

Shorebird Management Training Workshop: \$16,838. Sponsored and coordinated a 3.5 day shorebird ecology and wetland management workshop focused on management needs of shorebirds. This training was provided to wildlife managers and public land managers to stimulate a broader range of options in management of wetlands in the prairie pothole region. This cooperative event involved the Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Ducks Unlimited, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Minnesota Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Friends of the Prairie, and two universities.

Shorebird Training and Public Information Materials: \$836. Preparation of slides, duplication of the manual "Fundamentals of Shorebird Migration" and purchase of slide trays.

Prairie Restoration: \$16,716. Tree removal on the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area and on selected Wildlife Management Areas in the Marshall and Slayton areas.

Grassland Bird Habitat Conservation. \$10,000. Cooperative Agreement with the US Fish

and Wildlife Service. Delineation of GIS-based focus areas for grassland bird habitat conservation projects

Colonial waterbirds-survey and data compilation: \$3,286. Survey, data compilation, supplies and equipment. Contracted services for surveys of colonial waterbirds in the region. The contractor also helped compile the data and update the survey information. This augments the GIS database and can be used for long term monitoring of colonial waterbird populations. It also contributes towards site-specific and landscape-level conservation efforts.

Bat mortality study at wind towers: \$2,000. Contributed toward study of bat mortality associated with wind towers. Bald eagle mid-winter survey: \$501. Loon surveys: \$13. Landscaping for Wildlife: 104. Wildlife tourism/lakescaping coordination: \$243

Additional projects/equipment for training, survey, data entry and public education: \$5,299. Laptop computer, split coded with another funding source for field data entry and public information presentations on Power Point. Training software acquisition including Wildlife Counts Software, Frog Wizard and CD, and Bird Wizard. Projector for Power Point presentations (split coded).

Result 5: Region 5 (Southeast Minnesota) Nongame Management
LCMR Budget \$55,000
Amount expended: \$55,000
Balance: \$ 0
Completion date: June 30, 2001

Wood turtles and Blanding's turtles: \$15,200. Surveyed all or portions of the Straight, Cedar, Zumbro and Cannon Rivers for staging/ nesting turtles. Identified and monitored suitable nesting habitat for wood turtle nesting activity. Identified wood turtle habitat improvement needs on key nesting locations. Funded research in cooperation with The Nature Conservancy on Blanding's turtle use of highway culverts at the Weaver Dunes nesting area. And assisted with monitoring nesting Blanding's turtle movements at the Weaver Dunes.

Bald eagle monitoring and management: \$8,175. Conducted two aerial surveys to assess bald eagle productivity and identify new nests. Also includes survey and monitoring of the Wacouta winter roost survey.

Karner Blue butterfly research and management: \$10,900. Oak savanna restoration to enhance butterfly habitat. Split-coding for Trimble GPS to identify butterfly transect sites and habitat work. Chainsaw, girdling, and brush saw work to facilitate savanna restoration as well as prescribed burning and seeding.

Grassland and savanna habitat management: \$8000. Assisted with prescribed burning to improve nongame wildlife habitat. Population monitoring of Henslow's sparrows: \$4,000.

Co-funded a population monitoring project with DNR Division of Parks to assess the impacts of grassland habitat modifications on Henslow's sparrows at Great River Bluff State Park.

Timber rattlesnake management and education: \$18,900. Conducted two landowner workshops and one police department workshop on snake identification and proper handling techniques for rattlesnakes. Set up a rattlesnake call response system with volunteers and local police departments. Provided technical assistance and educational information to landowners on rattlesnake habitat management. Includes equipment and training for landowners to use to move snakes away from their property safely.

Additional wildlife surveys: wetland and prairie/savanna species and colonial waterbirds: \$4,000. Technical assistance to landowners on habitat guidelines: \$2,000. Bats: \$1670. Technical assistance to landowners on placement of bat boxes and construction of bat boxes for public and private land. Lakescaping. \$100. Headquarter operations: \$560. Tools and equipment for field projects.

Result 6: Region 6 (Metro/Twin Cities) Nongame Management
LCMR Budget \$55,000
Amount expended: \$ 54,824
Balance: \$ 176
Completion date: June 30, 2001

Metro Region Fish Surveys: \$6,900. This is a cooperatively funded partnership involving the PCA and the Division of Ecological Services. Konrad Schmidt is conducting surveys of nongame fishes in the streams and rivers of the Twin Cities. During the past two field seasons, 80 sites have been surveyed and a report is being prepared.

Bat Mortality at Wind Towers: \$3,000. (Plus \$2,000 from DNR Region 4). Monitoring of bat mortality at wind towers in SW Minnesota. This is an interim study to insure continuity of data collections until the tower companies implement a two year monitoring initiative in 2001 as required by their operating permit.

Sandhill Crane Natural Area Inventory: \$5,000. Wildlife survey of the 500 acre Sandhill Crane Natural Area in Anoka County. This site is jointly owned and managed by the MN DNR, Anoka County and the City of East Bethel. Survey by Jay Hamernick.

Blanding's turtle priority habitat area delineation: \$2000. GIS mapping of four important Blanding's turtle habitat areas in the metro region including Lino Lakes and the Twin Cities Army Ammunition Plant corridor, Hugo Township, Carlos Avery WMA, and Murphy Hanrahan Park Reserve.

Wildlife Educational materials: \$4000. Purchase of educational materials to distribute or loan to the public including printing of the Carlos Avery WMA and Boot Lake SNA Bird Checklist, reprint of the Carlos Avery WMA Auto Tour Route guide, Peltier Heronry

interpretive sign, American Bird Conservancy brochure on keeping cats indoors to protect songbirds, Howard Lake WMA heronry and eagle nest protection signs, and new bat videos for the Project WILD Bat Box educational kits.

Cricket Frog Survey at Nine Mile Creek: \$1000. Contract for monitoring of cricket frog presence and activity at Nine Mile Creek in Bloomington. This is the only site in the state where this endangered species is known to occur.

Peltier Heronry monitoring and management: \$2000. Monitor nesting activity of herons at Peltier Lake. Survey to determine mortality of young after the colony was deserted in 2000 from unknown causes.

Paul Hugo WMA and Hugo Township bird survey: \$2000. Conduct bird survey of the Paul Hugo WMA in Hugo Township and also survey Hugo Township for grassland bird habitat in Washington County.

Minnesota Frog and Toad Monitoring Program: \$2,000. Coordinate for survey of frogs and toads statewide through contract with the Center for Global Environmental Education at Hamline University.

Pine Bend Bluff surveys for reptiles and amphibians: \$2,000. French and Diamond Lakes area Minnesota Land Cover classification and waterbird monitoring: \$5,200. Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality CD production: \$3,000. Research on Bald Eagle nesting success and human disturbance: \$7,500. Crane Creek shorebird area acquisition/management plan: \$2,000. Cats Indoors educational campaign statewide (to help protect songbird populations): \$3,500. Other projects: \$3,900

Result 7: Nongame Research

LCMR Budget \$55,000

Amount expended: \$55,000

Balance: \$ 0

Completion date: June 30, 2001

Identification, distribution and habitat use of masked shrews, *Sorex cinereus* and *Sorex haydeni*, in Minnesota: \$300. Comparison of prairie sites and classification of their habitat attributes in relation to abundance of regal fritillary (*Speyeria idalia*): \$500. Molecular systematics and speciation of the gilt darter (*Percina evides*) in the St. Croix River drainage: \$250. Effects of standard management practices (burning, grazing, mowing) on selected tallgrass prairie arthropods: \$1500. Field surveys for special concern jumping spiders in eastern Minnesota: \$2400.

Relationships between multi-scale habitat features and breeding biology of forest songbirds: \$1000. Northwestern Minnesota terrestrial gastropod survey: \$2245. Karner blue butterfly monitoring, translocation and habitat management: \$27,000. Status surveys for the special concern dragonfly *Ophiogomphus anomalus*, and Gomphid inventory on

undersurveyed rivers of the Superior National Forest: \$2,918. Studies of the northern goshawk in Minnesota: \$10,425.

The distribution of the gravel chub (*Erimystax x-punctata*) slender madtom (*Noturus exilis*), and bluntnose darter (*Etheostoma chlorosomum*) in southeastern Minnesota: \$500. Frog and toad monitoring program: \$1,000. Survey of European earthworms and native plant communities in hardwood forests of Minnesota: \$4,962.

Result 8: Nongame Operations/Project WILD
LCMR Budget \$85,000
Amount expended: \$ 85,000
Balance: 0
Completion date: June 30, 2001

Landscaping for wildlife presentations, including equip: \$10,000. Venture North Sponsorship: \$10,000. Minn. Ornithologists' Union birding trunks: \$10,000. Lakescaping for wildlife and water quality initiative/ workshops: and staff support: \$15,000. Watchable Wildlife/ Wildlife tourism workshops/development of Watchable Wildlife conference materials: \$30,000. Wild Bird Recreation Initiative/ Bird feeding: \$2500. Richardson's merlin study in Minneapolis: \$2500. Trumpeter swan aerial surveys: \$2000. Loon brochure: \$2000. Frog and toad monitoring coordination with Hamline Univ. :\$1,000

V. DISSEMINATION: The information developed for this project will be summarized as part of the nongame segment of the DNR web page in the fish and wildlife division section.

VI. CONTEXT

A. Significance: The broader and increased funding base provided by this appropriation provides the operational component for doing projects in the nongame wildlife program. The projects accomplished will provide invaluable information regarding the status and distribution of nongame wildlife species, assist in the management of those species, and provide important information other public agencies and to the public on how to protect, manage and enjoy that wildlife.

B. Time: This appropriation is for a two-year period, but the original concept of this proposal, as advanced by the Minnesota Audubon Council, is for this to be a continuing appropriation that would match nongame wildlife checkoff donations on a 1-1 basis as provided for in ML 84.943 Minnesota Critical Habitat Private Sector Matching Account.

C. Budget Context: There are no former appropriations from the trust fund to the Nongame Wildlife Program.

1. A. BUDGET:

Personnel*: \$ 100,000

Equipment:	\$ 25,000
Acquisition: \$	-0-
Development:	\$ 150,000
Other:	\$ 195,000
Total:	\$ 470,000

*Salary money ~~will be~~ was used for seasonal wildlife technicians to carry out wildlife field surveys and management projects that are beyond their current 50-90% time appointment. Most of the total under "other" is for contract work by research specialists and for specialized costs like airplane and helicopter rental for wildlife surveys.

VII. COOPERATION:

The Nongame Wildlife Program Staff will cooperate with the staff of the County Biological Survey and the Forest Bird Study whenever possible to pool efforts for more effective projects.

VIII. LOCATION: The scope of this project will be statewide.

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: ~~This periodic work program will be routinely turned in as part of the semi-annual progress reports that are provided to the LCMR for the overall Nongame Wildlife Program budget.~~ A final work program report will be submitted by September 13, 2001.
