

## **Project Summary**

### **Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit**

**Project Title:** Enhancement of the Understanding and Appreciation of the Bird Fauna of the Grant-Kohrs Ranch Complex

**Discipline:** Natural Resources

**Type of Project:** Technical Assistance and Education

**Funding Agency:** National Park Service

**Other Partners/Cooperators:** Utah State University

**Effective Dates:** 5/1/2005 - 3/30/2006

**Funding Amount:** \$2,938

**Investigators and Agency Representative:**

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#### **Project Abstract:**

Grant-Kohrs Ranch NHS is working with a professional ornithologist to complete a survey of the ranch in the winter/spring of 2005. This list will be available in the typical taxonomic form that field guides typically use. Grant-Kohrs Ranch contains a total of 148 species. To date, the survey has documented over 100 species. This work, along with the records of local birders, document the number of species on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch as 125.

Although taxonomic structure is appropriate for those with a scientific background, it may not be the best tool for birders 'at large.' Utah State University will hire the local ornithologist to develop a birding guide that will use a habitat approach and color of the bird. This guide will describe the major habitat types on the ranch, where they are located, and what birds you could expect to see in that habitat or niche. Sixty birds, common to the ranch will be described.

The guide will also provide breeding, migration and over wintering data, and will give facts about the birds and illustrate some with photographs and drawings. A section of the guide will describe what is unique about each habitat and what students and the public might do to increase bird habitats in their own yards and communities. An appendix will house a list of other resources that would aid in the identification of birds. These would include contemporary books, CD's, videos, web sites, and organizations.

After the guide has been produced, it would be available to the visitors to the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. The guide will contain a map of the self-guided tours that one can walk. Each habitat will be described so that the user understands that different bird species require specific habitats to prosper. The park will print and distribute 1000 copies of the guide, using other funds from the RM-CESU. The ornithologist will assist with the Tehabi class in May 2005 as part of this USU funding.

The guide will also be used with school groups in which trained knowledgeable birders will accompany students at the ranch. These birding tours would be designed to introduce students to one habitat type per field trip. These guided field trips will be conducted in the fall, winter and spring so that students can understand the seasonal variations in bird species that takes place on the Grant-Kohrs Ranch. The NPS (RM-CESU) will fund this task agreement, and will provide additional funds to GRKO to publish the guides

#### **Outcomes with Completion Dates:**

Summer 2005: Production and printing of 1,000 guides

Fall 2005: Guided school field trips for students in fifth through eighth grades. (A lesson plan for teachers has been developed for this activity and a meeting is scheduled with local teachers so that they can understand the project.)

Summer 2006: Guides will be available at the visitor's center for the general public's use.

**Keywords:** bird fauna, taxonomic guide, teacher education, Grant Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Utah State University, outreach, Tehabi

#### **For Administrative Use Only:**

Date Annual Report Received:

Date Final Report Received:

Publications, etc. on file: