

PERFORMANCE REPORT

STATE: VIRGINIA

PROJECT TYPE: NONGAME AND ENDANGERED
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS

PROJECT NO.: W-77-R-5

PROJECT TITLE: RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER
INVESTIGATIONS.

STUDY NO.: XIV

STUDY TITLE: DEVELOPMENT OF A LAND MANAGE-
MENT STRATEGY FOR THE PRESER-
VATION OF THE RED-COCKADED
WOODPECKER IN VIRGINIA.

JOB NO.: XIV:A-C

PERIOD COVERED: JULY 1, 1987 - JUNE 30, 1988

JOB XIV-A Develop a management system from an economic
OBJECTIVE: view-point and compare the system with the management
plan recommended for the protection of this species.

JOB XIV-B Map and permanently label all cavity trees in active
OBJECTIVE: clan sites.

JOB XIV-C Define the essential habitat parameters for the
OBJECTIVE: Red-Cockaded Woodpecker in Virginia.

SUMMARY: Detailed study of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in
Virginia continues to show a decline in total numbers.
The present population now stands at 14 adults and 9
young.

Site #1 - At the ...
one adult since ...

Site #4 - At the ...
however, in 1987 ...
year.

Site #5 - The ...
1987 and 1988 ...
4.

Site #6 - No ...

JOB XIV-A Develop a management system from an economic view-point and compare the system with the management plan recommended for the protection of this species.

A proposed management plan for the five active red-cockaded woodpecker sites in Sussex County was drafted in March 1988 with Virginia Game Commission personnel. This plan has been reviewed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service endangered species personnel, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries wildlife and forestry personnel, and Game department contract personnel for Red-cockaded Woodpecker research.

JOB XIV-B Map and permanently label all cavity trees in active
OBJECTIVE: clan sites.

The permanent marking of cavity trees was scheduled for the January to March time period. However, after the cutting of 9 acres within the Manry Wakefield site [located at the colony 1 mile west of City of Wakefield on the south of U.S. Route 460], including two active cavity trees, no permanent marking was undertaken.

All known active colony trees in Virginia are marked only with temporary markers.

JOB XIV-C Define the essential habitat parameters for the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Virginia.

Monthly surveys at each active site were conducted during the year.

Detailed observations were made during the fall and winter months [August through February]. These studies were usually conducted the first week of each of month. The following specific items were noted and recorded:

- * Number of adults
- * The total number of young
- * Number of new starter cavities
- * Number of active cavity trees
- * Changes in habitat (logging, fires, etc.)
- * Foraging range

During the breeding season [March through June], all sites were surveyed multiple times. At each site the following information was gathered:

- * Number of active nest trees
- * Number of adults in clan
- * Beginning of nesting cycle
- * Number of eggs and/or young produced
- * Foraging range

On May 24, 1988 this contract cooperator was informed by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, that the landowner of the 5 active colonies in Sussex County would permit no further studies by her on their property. Therefore, No fledging data was collected at these five sites.

Table 1 contains the 1988 status and population of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Virginia. In brief, at the end of May 1988, there were 14 adults and 9 young (in nests) representing the total population. By comparison, at the end of the 1987 breeding season there were 24 birds; 18 adults and 6 fledged young. This represents a potential net loss of 10 birds from the end of the 1987 breeding season to the beginning of the 1988 season.

As of December 1, 1987, 16 adults were recorded at 5 different Red-cockaded Woodpecker sites. All these were in Sussex County. At the beginning of the breeding season in early April, 14 adults birds were present at these same 5 sites.

Site #1 - At the Wakefield U.S. Route 460 site, 2 birds were observed through late January. At this site, two active cavity trees were cut during the logging of 9 acres of pines in mid-December. Only a single bird has been observed at the beginning of the 1988 breeding season. A total of about 300 acres of foraging habitat has been logged at this site in the last two years.

Site #2 - The MANRY 604-606 site had three adults in 1987 and also three in the 1988 breeding season. Two young were produced in 1988 as was the case in 1987.

Site #3 - At the Sebrell 608 South site, there has been an increase of one adult since 1987. Two young were produced in both 1987 and 1988.

Site #4 - At the YALE Rt. 635 site, the number of adults remains at 2, however, in 1988 three young were produced as compared to zero last year.

Site #5 - The SUSSEX U.S. Route 40 site produced two young in both 1987 and 1988. The number of adults observed has increased from 3 to 4.

Sites #6-9 - No adults were observed at these sites in 1988.

Table 1. - Red-cockaded Woodpecker Status and Productivity in 1988
 [Ruth A. Beck, College of William and Mary, August, 1988]

SITE NUMBER	TOPOGRAPHIC QUADRANGLE	LOCATION	NUMBER BIRDS DEC.87	NUMBER ADULTS MAY 88	SUCCESSFUL NESTS MAY 88	NUMBER YOUNG PRODUCED
1	MANRY	Rt.460, 1 mile west of Wakefield	2	1	-	0
2	MANRY	0.5 mile E-NE of. intersection 604/606	4	3	X	2
3	SEBRELL	Rt.608 South	4	4	X	2
4	YALE	Rt.635, 1.25 miles south of Gray	1	2	X	3
5	SUSSEX	Rt.40, 2 miles west of West Hope	5	4	X	2
6	MANRY	W-SW Intersection Rt.622/620 1.5 miles	0	0	-	0
7	MANRY	1 mile N-NW Rt.620/622 intersection	0	0	-	0
8	BUCKHORN	Perry Lumber Track	0	0	-	0
9	YORKTOWN	Brandywine Development	0	0	-	0
1988 TOTALS			16	14	4	9
Change from 1987			-2	-4	+1	+3

TARGET DATE FOR COMPLETION: Project continuing

STATUS OF PROGRESS: The original schedule can not now be met as a consequence of events at the five Sussex County sites.

SIGNIFICANT DEVIATIONS IN PROGRESS: Land owner has prevented access to 5 active sites in Sussex Co.

RECOMMENDATIONS: Continue with this project until the necessary nesting and foraging areas required for the survival of this species are protected.

COST OF THIS SEGMENT: Total: \$23,922.00 State: \$5980.50
Federal: \$17941.50

PREPARED BY: RUTH A. BECK APPROVED BY: JACK W. RAYBOURNE
Chief, Division
of Game

James L. Remington
Executive Director

DATE: August, 1988