

Supporting Statement for Paperwork Reduction Act Submission
American Woodcock Singing Ground Survey
1018-0019

Section A. Justification

1. Explain why you need to collect this information. Identify any legal or administrative requirements that necessitate this information collection.

The Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is required under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 16 U.S.C. 701-718, to implement a viable and ongoing program for the protection and conservation of various migratory birds. Form 3-156, North American Woodcock Singing-Ground Survey, is an essential part of the migratory bird management program. This form is utilized in field surveys, conducted annually by State and Federal conservation agencies, to provide the necessary data to determine the population status of the woodcock. In addition, the information is vital in assessing the relative changes in the geographic distribution of the woodcock.

2. Explain how FWS will use the information. If this is not a new collection, explain how FWS has used the information received.

This information is useful for assessing the status of woodcock populations. The information is used primarily by FWS-DMBM to develop recommendations for hunting regulations. It is also used by FWS, State conservation agencies, University associates and other interested parties for various research and management projects. Without information on the population's status, the Service might promulgate hunting regulations that were too liberal thus causing harm to the woodcock population, or too conservative, thus unduly restricting recreational opportunities afforded by woodcock hunting. Another consequence is that the Service would be vulnerable to litigation charging mismanagement and failure to fulfill treaty and other obligations.

3. Does this information collection use automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological techniques? Provide the reasons for the decision to adopt this means of collection. Describe any consideration you gave to using information technology to reduce burden on the public.

The reporting procedure requires the respondent to use pen or pencil to fill out Form 3-156. The respondent can voluntarily submit data electronically to further assist FWS-DMBM personnel with keypunching. Methods used to analyze survey data will be evaluated. Some improvements in precision, accuracy, and general results are expected. However, it is unlikely that the improvements will be substantial enough to allow a reduction in survey coverage. Thus, the burden must be considered minimal at its present level.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication. Show why similar information already available cannot be used or modified.

No special efforts have been made to identify duplication. Within the Federal Government, DMBM is the sole organizational unit charged with monitoring the population status of migratory gamebirds. Also, the realm of migratory bird management is sufficiently small that if similar sources of information were available or even possible, DMBM would be aware of them.

5. If the collection will have a significant impact on small entities, such as small businesses, describe methods used to minimize burden on them.

The Service has no knowledge of the survey's impact on small businesses or other small entities. The Singing-Ground Survey is unique in the United States and Canada. The Canadian Wildlife Service, Provinces and States rely on the USFWS to administer and coordinate this survey.

6. Describe the consequences to Federal programs or policies if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

Migratory gamebird populations are dynamic. They can change annually in status and size and frequently do. For this reason, the promulgation of hunting regulations has traditionally been an annual activity, and, thus, annual assessments of the population status of the more important species, including woodcock, are desirable. The consequences of conducting the survey less frequently than annually are the same as given under item 2.

7. Explain any special circumstances that require the collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

No special circumstances exist that would require this collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with OMB guidelines.

8. Cite and provide a copy of the 60-day Federal Register notice that solicited public comments on the information collection prior to this submission. Summarize the public comments received on the 60-day notice, and describe actions taken by FWS in response to those comments. Specifically address comments received on cost and hour burden. Describe your efforts to consult with persons outside of FWS to obtain their views on the availability of data; frequency of collection; clarity of instructions, disclosure, or reporting format; and data elements to be recorded, disclosed, or reported. Consultation should include obtaining their views on the amount of burden to be imposed and ways to minimize the burden. If circumstances prevent this consultation, describe them.

The 60-day notice was submitted to the Federal Register on 5/7/2002. No comments were received.

9. Explain any decision to provide a gift or payment to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors and grantees.

No payments or gifts are provided to respondents.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or policy.

Names and addresses are the only personal information obtained from survey cooperators. Our compliance with the Privacy Act assures confidentiality. Cooperators are apprised of the Act.

11. Provide justification for any questions of a sensitive nature. Include the reasons why the questions are necessary, the specific uses for the information, the explanation given to respondents, and steps taken to obtain respondents' consent.

No sensitive questions are asked.

12. Provide estimates of the hour burden of the information collection. Include an estimate of the dollar value of the burden hours.

Conducting the survey itself is either required by the respondent's agency, or completely voluntary and done because the respondent desired to help. Approximately 750 cooperators submit forms each year. It takes 5 minutes to read the instructions and map, 30 minutes to run the route and an additional 5 minutes to complete the form and mail it for a total of 0.67 hours (40/60). We estimate 40% of cooperators will voluntarily choose to submit data electronically, which adds an additional 5 minutes for a total of 0.75 hours (45/60). The total estimated burden is 526.5 hours $[(750 \times .40)0.75 + (750 \times .60)0.67]$. The estimated total dollar value of hours is \$10,003.50.

Without electronic submission (~60% of cooperators)

Read instructions & map	05 minutes	
Run route	30 minutes	
Complete form & mail	05 minutes	
Individual	40 minutes	40/60=0.67 hrs
# of Cooperators		(750 x 0.60)
		<u>x 0.67</u>
Total hrs (60%)		301.5

With electronic submission (~40% of cooperators)

Read instructions & map	05 minutes	
Run route	30 minutes	
Complete form & mail	05 minutes	
electronic submission	05 minutes	
Individual	45 minutes	45/60=0.75 hrs
# of Cooperators		(750 x 0.40)
		x 0.75
Total hrs (40%)		225
Total hrs		(301.5 + 225) = 526.5
Total \$ value of hours		(526.5 x \$19.00/hr) = \$10,003.50

13. Provide an estimate for the total annual non-hour dollar cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers. Do not include the cost of burden hours described in items 12 and 14.

There are no estimated annualized non-hour dollar costs or burdens to the public.

14. Provide estimates of the annual cost to the Federal Government. Include a description of the method used to estimate cost, which should include quantification of hours, operational expenses, and any other expense that would not have been incurred without this collection of information.

Materials and forms	\$600
Postage	\$600
Salaries	\$23,000
Total	\$24,200

15. Provide the reasons for any program changes or adjustments reported in items 13 or 14 of OMB 83-1.

A new Internet based system was developed for the survey respondents to aid the USFWS with data entry (see item 12).

16. For collections whose results will be published, outline the plans for tabulation and publication.

Analytical techniques can be obtained from the annual American Woodcock Population Status Report (attached under tab 7).

Form 3-156 sent to cooperators	Early spring
Survey	April - May
Collection of forms	April - May
Data analysis	May
Report writing	May-June
Publication date	June
Service Regulations Committee Meeting (recommendations on hunting season)	late June

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

We are not seeking approval.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement identified in item 19 of OMB 83-1.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

Section B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

1. Provide a table with numerical estimates of the potential respondent universe and any sampling or other respondent selection methods to be used. Indicate expected response rates for the collection as a whole. If the collection had been conducted previously, include the actual response rate achieved during the last collection.

The respondent universe is the number of 10' blocks in the North-Eastern United States and South-Eastern Canada. From 1965-1970, these blocks were enumerated and a random sample was selected such that each route represents roughly 750 mi² of land area. The response rate is approximately 95% because some circumstances prevent all requested routes from being run each year. To improve efficiency, "constant-zero" routes are run once every five years instead of every year.

2. Describe the procedures for the collection of information. Include statistical methodology, estimation procedure, degree of accuracy needed for the purpose described in the justification, unusual problems requiring specialized sampling procedures, and use of periodic (less frequent than annual) data collection cycles to reduce burden.

See the attached status report, Kelley, J.R., Jr. 2002. American woodcock population status, 2002. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland. pp. 1-2. and Sauer, J.R., and J.B. Bortner. 1991. Population trends from the American woodcock singing ground survey, 1970-88. Journal of Wildlife Management 55:300-312. for descriptions of statistical methods.

3. Describe methods to maximize response rates and deal with issues of non-response.

Phone contacts and a system of state coordinators is used to maximize timely response.

4. Describe any tests of procedures or methods to be undertaken.

The Singing-Ground Survey methodology has been improved and refined over the last 34 years. Future improvements and modifications are likely to be minor as improvements have reached the point of diminishing returns.

5. Provide the names and telephone numbers of individuals consulted of the statistical aspects of the design and the names of the FWS unit, contractor(s), grantee(s), or other person(s) would will actually collect or analyze the information.

Statistical consultants:

John Sauer	(301) 497-5662
Bill Kendall	(301) 497-5868

Persons collecting and analyzing data:

Rebecca Rau	(301) 497-5862
Bill Kendall	(301) 497-5868