

The 1999 Annual Report

Introduction to the 1999 report, by Stuart L. Pimm

In 1992, the [National Park Service](#) asked that I look at the status of the Federally listed Cape Sable seaside-sparrow, which is found only in [Everglades National Park](#). They had just completed their second range-wide survey, the first being 11 years earlier. Both surveys estimated approximately 6500 birds distributed in several sub-populations west and east of Shark River Slough. The first report was a few pages long.

In 1993, it became clear that the western population had nearly disappeared. First, we thought Hurricane Andrew was the cause, later we realized it was unnaturally high water levels. The 1994 report was thicker and had a few color figures. In the subsequent years, ever growing concerns about the fate of the sparrow and the Everglades ecosystem on which it depends, led to more research and progressively larger reports. That for 1997 occupied a 10 cm binder, the 20 copies we distributed were both expensive and inadequate for the number of people who wanted them. Given the outstanding computational skills of the talented men and women who work with me on this project, a web page was long overdue. Last year was our first web page annual report. This year's is our second.

First time readers

The report contains a series of chapters, some of which are being modified. The basic story about the sparrow, its decline, and the causes of these changes are outlined in the first three chapters of last year's report.

All other material is in draft form. It should not be read, quoted, or otherwise assimilated except with that express understanding.

The remaining chapters of last year's report, plus the material in this year's report are additional material intended for those already familiar with the project.

Advanced readers

This year's report has several additions to last year.

Chapter 1 is an account of the range-wide helicopter surveys undertaken in 1999.

Chapter 2 is a paper submitted to an edited volume on the viability of small populations. It has not yet been accepted for publication and so is (like everything else not yet published) subject to change.

Chapter 3 contains an extensive set of documents involving the AOU review of the sparrow work and responses to some of the entertaining suggestions about sparrow ecology (such as near-immortal sparrows) made by our critics.

Chapter 4 contains an update on the satellite image based models of sparrow ranges. This work was well underway by late August 1999 but not yet ready to include.

Chapter 5 contains the information on sparrow breeding success and year to year survival of sparrows assembled by Dr. Julie Lockwood and her team and Mr. David Okines and his.

Chapter 6 contains information on the vegetation characteristics associated with sparrow breeding locations.

Technical details

Most chapters are available entire as a file in .pdf format, which can be downloaded for viewing or printing. To do so, you will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader, which you will probably already have if you are using Netscape Navigator 3 or greater, or Internet Explorer 3 or greater. If you don't have the reader, you can [get it from Adobe](#).

Each chapter has a summary paragraph or (in the case of published papers) an abstract, and for some of the chapters various key figures have been extracted and placed separately.

I thank Dr. Gareth Russell for his leading role in assembling this web page.

Stuart L. Pimm, August 25th., 1999.

The Chapters

Chapter 1: The 1999 extensive survey

This is a report on the 1999 extensive survey, a rangewide survey of the Cape Sable seaside-sparrow population conducted by helicopter.

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Chapter 2: Risks in large populations: the Cape Sable sparrow as a case history.

To be published as: Pimm, S. L. and O. L. Bass (in prep) Risks in large populations: the Cape Sable sparrow as a case history.

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Chapter 3: The AOU's review of Cape Sable seaside-sparrow research

The Science Coordination Team, which is part of the South Florida Ecosystem Resoration Task Force, commissioned the American Ornithological Union to conduct an external, independent review of the science surrounding the Cape Sable Seaside-sparrow. That review, and the Pimm research group question-answer session that formed part of the input for the review team, are posted here. Both can also be downloaded from the [SCT's site](#), but this is the only place where they can be read online. Also on the SCT site (for download only) are question-answer sessions from three other parties. Their home page is

<http://www.sfrestore.org/teams/sct/Intropge.html>

Questions and Answers: The Pimm et al.
white paper

[Introduction to the Web Version](#)

[Cover Letter](#)

[The Questions and Our Answers](#)

Our answers, as well as those of three other parties, can also be downloaded in various formats from the SCT's own site [here](#).

[The External Peer Review](#)

The text here is exactly as distributed by Ronnie Best, except that the Greek symbol alpha has been changed to the Roman letter *a* (to facilitate internet viewing). You can download the original in .rtf format [from here](#).

[Our Response to the External Peer Review](#)

Chapter 4. The 1999 Breeding Season Report for the Cape Sable Seaside-sparrow

Julie L. Lockwood, Robin Hirsch-Jacobson, Jeffery M. Caudill and Kristine Paxson

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Chapter 5: Demography of the Cape Sable Seaside-sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus mirabilis*)

Julie L. Lockwood, Katherine H. Fenn, Jeffery M. Caudill, David Okines and Jeffery R. Duncan

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No abstract available at this time

Chapter 6: Defining nest site microhabitats and preferences to aid in the recovery of the Cape Sable Seaside-sparrow

Julie L. Lockwood, Katherine H. Fenn, Tara L. Warren, Robin Hirsch-Jacobson, Arnaud Van Holt and Agnes Fargue.

This paper has been submitted for publication. Until it is accepted, it should (like all the chapters above) be considered a draft.

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