



NFWF

Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund

RECIPIENTS

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality

AWARD AMOUNT

\$6,280,400

PARTNERS

Audubon Mississippi

Mississippi State University

Mississippi Wildlife

Natural Resources Conservation Service

LOCATION

Mississippi Gulf Coast

AWARD DATE

November 2016

STATUS

Active

PROGRESS UPDATE

Audubon staff continued coastal bird surveys and data entry. Audubon and volunteers promoted program awareness and recruited volunteers. MSU verified potential sampling points based on criteria in the Marsh Bird Research Plan. (February 2019)

The Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), supports projects to remedy harm and eliminate or reduce the risk of harm to Gulf Coast natural resources affected by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. To learn more about NFWF, go to www.nfwf.org.

MISSISSIPPI

Coastal Bird Stewardship in Mississippi – Phase II

This project expands, in both scope and duration, an earlier GEBF-funded Mississippi Coastal Bird Stewardship project. This four-year initiative will continue to benefit beach nesting and wintering shorebirds and seabirds, will expand habitat improvements for shorebirds and other migratory species, as well as filling key information gaps to support marsh bird conservation. Monitoring efforts will improve our understanding of coastal bird population responses to ongoing restoration actions.

Posting, stewardship, and monitoring on beaches and barrier islands will benefit six focal species (American oystercatcher, black skimmer, least tern, Wilson's plover, piping plover, and snowy plover). Assessments of abundance and distribution of focal marsh bird species (least bittern, clapper rail, marsh wren, Nelson's sparrow, and seaside sparrow) will inform future habitat and marsh bird conservation efforts in the Gulf region. This effort will also support the conservation of significant wetland habitat, benefitting shorebirds and other migratory species through leveraged investment by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's Regional Conservation Partnership Program.



Clapper rail: Credit iStock



Black skimmer: Credit iStock



Key species for this project include the clapper rail (left) and black skimmer (right).