

Joseph W. Jones Ecological Research Center
ICHAUWAY

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April 22, 2010

Dear GOS Grants Conservation Committee,

Below is a brief summary and attached map describing the application of a 2009, \$14,000 apportionment of the Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant fund. This grant aided in establishing 8 new Red-cockaded Woodpecker (RCW) clusters (32 total artificial cavities 2 more clusters than proposed; see map clusters 51-58) and an additional 16 new cavities and 15 rehabilitated cavities in established RCW clusters. The grant also facilitated translocating 9 sub-adult juvenile RCWs (3 more than proposed) from Francis Marion National Forest to the J.W. Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway in November of 2009. Four of the 9 birds have been identified on site post release and 2 of the 8 clusters have become active (Clusters 55 and 56). More clusters will likely become active and additional birds identified as the current breeding season progresses. Your generous grant also provided 2 months employment and mentoring for an apprentice biologist in the techniques of RCW management.

Creating 8 new clusters sites across the southern end of our RCW population sets the stage for continued population growth and eventual recovery of the Ichauway RCW population in the years ahead. Recovery of the Ichauway population aids in establishing a state mitigation bank for RCWs and an example of endangered species conservation and recovery on private land. Your grant further exposed your organization to over 500 individuals who visit the center annually to learn about our RCW program and the conservation benefits of RCW management to the piney woods of the southeastern coastal plain. Besides directly aiding in RCW conservation you have become a part of joint venture with Private, State, Federal conservationist on the RCWs road to recovery.

We greatly appreciate your generous support and partnership with recovery of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker population at the J. W Jones Ecological Research Center at Ichauway and look forward to future opportunities for partnerships for avian conservation in the southeastern coastal plain in the years ahead. Please contact me at your convenience if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

Jonathan M. Stober
Conservation Biologist
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Map and population trend for Ichauway RCW population: Cluster sites in purple were funded by the Georgia Ornithological Societies Bill Terrell Avian Conservation Grant fund in 2009.

