



**Georgia Ornithological Society
Terrell Conservation Grant 2023 Progress Report
September 2024**

“Bird Friendly Maritime Grassland Dune Restoration Project”

We at Birds Georgia are nearing the end of our 2023 Bill Terrell Conservation grant and wanted to provide an update as we enter the final stretch. As was discussed via email on December 20 of 2023, we are extremely appreciative of the Georgia Ornithological Society granting us an extension due to the delays in our plant propagation. We apologize if a report would have been appreciated earlier in the year. As the year comes to a close, we will send a final report, officially closing out this work. If anything is needed from us in the meantime, please let us know.

A copy of our previous report will be sent along with this update for reference. Before we go into the details of what has occurred since we last communicated with you, here was our proposed timeline in December of 2023:

- *February 2024 - Sowing of newly collected *M. sericea* seed*
- *April-June 2024 - Secondary herbicide application*
- *September-November 2024 - final herbicide application/spot treatments if needed*
- *December 2024 - planting of *M. sericea* plugs*

**timeframe may include minor adjustments based on the weather conditions*

Here is a bulleted timeline of what has occurred thus far in 2024 and how we expect things to come to completion before the end of the year.

Progress over past 10 months

11/7/23-11/10/23 - Primary herbicide application and seed collection on Jekyll and Saint Simons Island

Birds Georgia Habitat Team conducted an initial herbicide application to the non-native turf grasses on the project site with support from Jekyll Island Authority (JIA). The Habitat Team assisted JIA with seed collection on Jekyll and collected seed from areas on Saint Simons Island for propagation of muhly plugs and other species.

1/12/24 - Muhly propagation meeting with Coastal GNPS

1/23/24 - Muhly propagation meeting with Coastal GNPS, DNR, and Rock Spring Restorations

2/5/24 - Muhly Volunteer Event Check-in

2/10/24 - Altama Plantation WMA Volunteer Workday to prep, clean, and sow muhly seed. 14 volunteers from Coastal Georgia Audubon, Birds Georgia, Georgia DNR, Coastal Plain GNPS, Jekyll Island Garden Club, Jekyll Island Authority, Coastal Wildscapes, etc. came together to prepare $\frac{2}{3}$ of collected seed to be propagated by Georgia DNR at Altama Plantation WMA.

2/23/24 - Muhly seed coordination with Rock Spring Restorations

2/29/24 - Birds Georgia Director of Education transported additional Muhly seed to Coastal Plain GNPS for propagation

6/3/24 - Muhly propagation check-in meeting

6/5/24 - Herbicide application follow-up site visit

- Birds Georgia Conservation staff met with JIA on-site to examine the effectiveness of primary herbicide application treatment. Greater than 95% target species showed evidence of deterioration.

8/23/24 - Muhly progress check-in with Coastal GNPS

Remaining Project Timeline:

October 2024 - Follow-up herbicide application to prep site for planting

November/December 2024 - Plant transport, planting, volunteer planting events, and reporting

Below is breakdown, by major budget category, if the GOS funds given to Birds Georgia for this work. You will see that a large portion of the funds, specifically plant propagation, is back loaded. The most effort for this project is centered on the planting of the plant materials, a final round of herbicide, and the related travel costs (gas, hotels, food).

Budget details:

Expenditures to date (Prior to Sep 1, 2024)

Staff time: \$5,738.50

Herbicide: \$726.99

Propagation: \$1,989.17

Mileage: \$924.41

Lodging: \$725.56

Meals: \$1,074.48

Sep-Dec 2024 Projected Expenditures:

Staff time: \$6,353.50

Herbicide: \$173.01

Propagation: \$18,010.83

Mileage: \$1,876.84

Lodging: \$2,274.44

Meals: \$2,181.52