

Addendum #11



Texas Master Naturalist - Cradle of Texas Volunteer Project & Activity Request Form EXAMPLE

To fill out the form electronically, use the tab key to move from blank to blank.

Project/Activity Name: Project Prairie Birds

Partner Organization or Sponsor: Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

PURPOSE of PROJECT or ACTIVITY	Citizen Science Project sponsored by Partners in Flight. More than a dozen grassland bird species winter in our area. Little is known of their winter distribution, habitat requirements and population changes. This project will gather data to help understand these issues.
DESCRIBE PROJECT or ACTIVITY	3 to 5 person teams will census as many as 10 transects over a four month time frame – December through March. Usually 3 people will walk a 100 meter transect, 2 people beating the grass with a 10 meter pole and the third member will count birds by species as they are flushed from the prairie grass. In the fourth month (March), a vegetation survey will be taken and no avian data will be gathered.
TIME/FRAME (Dates/Times)	Allow about 4 hours per 10 transects. Starting times will be just after sunrise and meeting location will be determined by the team leader. December, January and February will be bird census and March will be a vegetation survey. Multiple transects can be done in each month at the volunteers discretion.
TRAINING Required	In the fall of each year a training session will be held at the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory. Allow at least 6 hours for the session.
SPECIAL SKILLS	To be an observer, one needs to be able to sort out the various grassland sparrows by their flight pattern. Usually the bird will be seen for only 3-5 seconds flying away from the observers and beaters. No special skill is required by the beater, but it is a good opportunity to start learning to be an observer.
PERSONAL EQUIPMENT	Binoculars (seldom used), snake leggings, gaiters or long pants – mostly to protect your legs from the spartina grass and/or wet grass.
PHYSICAL DEMANDS	Usually very physical as the grass can be high, the transect must be walked in 2 minutes and some of the transects may be a few hundred meters from the road. Not suggested for people with heart, hip or other physical concerns.
REFERENCE MATERIAL	Project Prairie Bird Pamphlet, Texas Parks & Wildlife #PWD BK W7000-485 (1/01)
Cradle of Texas Chapter Contact:	Tom Collins
Submitted By:	Tom Collins

Submit by e-mail to the Volunteer Chairperson