

**Reddish Egret Working Group Webinar**  
**Agenda: REEG Monitoring Database and the REEG Website**  
**Hosted by Clay Green and Kelli Stone**  
**Feb. 8, 2017**

**Attended**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Amy Schwarzer	Florida Wildlife Commission
Andrew Cox	Florida Wildlife Commission
Ann Paul (I believe she was on call?)	Audubon Florida
Bart Ballard	Texas A&M, Kingsville
Clay Green	Texas State University
Kelli Stone	FWS, Migratory Bird Program, R2
Ken Meyer	Avian Research and Conservation Institute
Mark Rachal	Audubon Florida
Steve DeMasos	Gulf Coast Joint Venture
Troy Wilson	FWS, Migratory Bird Program, R4

**Updates on Action Items** (generated from Jan. 2017 working group meeting)

1. Develop a 2-page white paper: Five-Year Breeding Monitoring Protocol for Range.
  - a. Draft outline (by ANDREW Cox, KEN Meyer, and ARIAM Jimenez before March 1, 2017. Final by early May might be tough to get entire working group to have input, approve and finalize by early May.
  - b. *2/8/2017 Update: Andrea and Ken are working on straw man and will have draft to the core working group (i.e., people attending this webinar and 1/2017 working group meeting) for edit and then on to larger working group for final edit.*
2. Contact partners in Bahamas and other locations to ensure if they can conduct surveys within the 5 year period we identified above (2016 – 2020).
  - a. *2/8/2017 Update:* Ken agreed to contact Bahamas since it will be necessary aspect of completing the white paper on monitoring (action #1). Clay said he talked with some colleagues in Bahamas in fall of 2016 and could pass on that conversation and/or talk with colleagues in Bahamas. Clay said biologists in Bahamas want to survey REEG but last survey was in conjunction with Clay’s efforts.
3. Webinar on database and to lesser degree website discussion). Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2017, 2pm ET.
  - a. Hosted by CLAY Green. *2/8/17 - Completed*
4. Lower priority – develop brief document (white paper?) on banding, reporting resighting, etc.
  - a. No one assigned to action item yet. *2/10/2017 Update: Clay volunteered to develop straw man*
5. Determine what NFWF wants from working group regarding potential funding for REEG (i.e., elements of pre-proposal document).
  - a. TROY Wilson, before leaving migratory bird position – i.e., Feb. 2017
6. Draft a 2-page pre-proposal to potentially provide to NFWF
  - a. KEN will develop draft and working group will review/add/edit. No due date established.
7. Follow up with Bart Ballard and find status of foraging project to map and describe foraging habitat. KEN Meyer. *2/8/2017 Update: we didn’t discuss -*
8. Investigate Basecamp with REEG Working Group (to replace Griffin Group) and report back to group.

VICTORIA

a. *2/8/17 Update: Troy discovered that Griffin Groups is back up and running. We will continue to use that venue for internal conversations and working efforts. No need to check into Basecamp for now.*

9. WORKING GROUP MEMBERS:

- a. Provide research updates, photos, and maps to Clay Green to be included on the webpage.
- b. Review webpage and have suggestions to discuss during Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> webinar.
- c. *2/8/2017 Update – 9a is still an action item. Clay discussed this more during today's webinar (scroll down). However, the research page on website is currently empty but there is a lot of good research results out there that needs to be posted. Please get pictures, research items to Clay – even if it is a blurb about your work with more details coming later.*
- d. *New action item: please register onto Griffin Groups*

A. Introduction by Troy

1. Griffin Groups is up again so we will use it instead of Basecamp. It's free and easy to use. We could use it to discuss REEG monitoring, etc. Troy encouraged working group members to register. Griffin groups.com
2. This is Troy's last week at R4-MBP and thus coordinator of REEG working group. Kelli Stone and/or a biologist from FWS Migratory Bird Program (MBP), Region 2 (Southwest Region which includes Texas) will take it from now on. [Kelli\\_stone@fws.gov](mailto:Kelli_stone@fws.gov), 505-248-6515.
  - i. At one point we talked about some of the tasks of coordinator – and one is to maintain the master list of working group members (contact information). Kelli has that list and is opportunistically up-dating.

B. Went over **action items from Jan working group** meeting notes and action items to assess status of them (see above).

C. Clay Green (CG) did demonstration on **REEG Monitoring Database (DB)**. Below are really basic notes on the database discussion. It was a good discussion and a lot was covered, below is not a complete list of topics. Bold items indicate some action items, etc. In addition to below, Clay Green will contact working group with a couple of requests for information to update database (focal colonies, etc.). He started requesting information via email on 2/9/2017.

1. CG used Micro-soft Access finds it easy to use, but it isn't available on MAC
2. There is a Web App that can be used to easily access DB, but first need to get the fields in it we want, etc.
3. Discussed what defines a focal colony. At 1/2017 working group meeting discussed that a focal colony has 90% of the state's population within it; however a focal colony could differ from state to state or area to area due to variety of factors. **Clay will send request to every state asking them to make a list of their focal colonies and document the criteria used to determine focal colony status. Those focal colony names will be entered into DB**
4. CG tried to create as many options in the drop box menu as possible for quality control reasons
5. Queries in Micro-soft access are very do-able
6. CG will add "county" to the colony name description (because there are many with same name – ie Bird Island)

7. Want this DB to capture data from sites surveyed that are not necessarily a focal colony, sites that were surveyed but no REEG recorded is still data – “zeros count”.
8. Discussed if DB was a place to capture the 5 year breeding monitoring data or all data on REEG. Group agreed that ultimately we would like the DB to house all REEG data partners are willing to submit.
9. Will add a field for color morph
10. Will add a field for “open comment”
11. Should there be fields for weather and survey conditions (i.e., wind speed, etc.)? Not sure if wind impacts REEG and thus survey results. However, decided we could create a list of factors/data we encourage partners to collect and if they have those data – enter it.
12. Discussed who could/should be able to access DB and enter data.
13. Discussed ways that data can be entered into DB
  - a. Manually enter it via the App
  - b. If data are already entered into an excel spreadsheet with the same fields as the DB, then an update Batch file will move data into micro-soft Access DB.
  - c. **Clay (DB manager) will send out an Excel spreadsheet with fields matching DB each year; then partners can enter their data into that spreadsheet and Clay will do batch update of all files.**
14. After the white paper on Range-wide Five-Year Breeding Monitoring Protocol is developed (action #1) the fields needed in the DB will be more obvious – the fields can be refined to fit the protocol.
15. Future action item: the working group needs to develop guidelines on who/how people are accessing and using data in the DB (i.e., using others data in publications, etc. )

#### **D. Discussion on REEG Webpage**

1. Discussed the role of the REEG Webpage versus the role of the Griffin Group.
  - i. Website = the public face of REEG working group, to promote REEG conservation
  - ii. Griffin Group – private site for work efforts (editing documents), place to have conversation about topics (versus long email chains), have to be a member
2. Using the American Oystercatcher (AMOY) webpage as a mode
  - i. They have meeting notes, ppts from their meetings etc on website
3. Action Items: Clay needs:
  - i. Photos (with photo credits)
  - ii. Logos of your organization
  - iii. Blurbs about any relevant REEG topic but especially research! That page is empty and it shouldn't be given the amount of good work – we need to be promoting REEG as a species and the working group.
4. Clay will add a “Working Group” tab to the website
  - i. It will contain a link to Griffin Group, meeting notes, ppt from meetings etc.
5. Clay can continue to manage the website – so working group needs to let Clay know what they want to see on it – send him information to post, etc.
6. The banding/re-sighting page – it is a bit “clunky” now but Clay isn't too worried about it now because that are not that many birds banded (i.e., not a lot of re-sighting) but if more birds are banded we will need to make site more useable.