

## PROPOSAL FOR SYMPOSIUM

*Type of Event:* Symposium

*Title:* **Forty-five years of Brown-headed Cowbird Control: What have we learned?**

*Organizers:* Mary Whitfield, Southern Sierra Research Station, [wifl1989@gmail.com](mailto:wifl1989@gmail.com)  
Barbara Kus, USGS Western Ecological Research Station, [barbara\\_kus@usgs.gov](mailto:barbara_kus@usgs.gov)

*Summary:*

Cowbird control to reduce brood parasitism is a key component of management to protect hosts of conservation concern. Dating back to the early 1970's, cowbird control has been implemented to promote recovery of several endangered species, including Kirtland's Warbler, Golden-cheeked Warbler, Least Bell's Vireo, Black-capped Vireo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. Two conferences during the 1990's, and a symposium in 2003, provided opportunities for sharing information on cowbird ecology, impacts of cowbirds on hosts, and response of hosts to cowbird control. In the intervening decade and a half, research and practice have improved our understanding of how to use cowbird control effectively to achieve conservation goals. This symposium is intended to bring together researchers, resource managers, and practitioners to share lessons learned and recent advances in science-based cowbird management to benefit sensitive hosts.

*Proposed presentations/lead authors:*

**Overview of cowbird control: effectiveness, costs and concerns**

Mary Whitfield (Southern Sierra Research Station; [wifl1989@gmail.com](mailto:wifl1989@gmail.com)) and Barbara Kus (US Geological Survey; [barbara\\_kus@usgs.gov](mailto:barbara_kus@usgs.gov))

**When less is more: alternative protocols for reducing parasitism of the Least Bell's Vireo**

Barbara Kus (US Geological Survey; [barbara\\_kus@usgs.gov](mailto:barbara_kus@usgs.gov))

**An adaptive approach to cowbird management on a southern California drainage**

Linnea Hall (Museum of Vertebrate Zoology; [linnea@wfvz.org](mailto:linnea@wfvz.org))

**Comparative capture efficiency of portable cowbird traps**

MaryAnne Mcleod and Thomas Koronkiewicz (SWCA Environmental Consultants; [mmcleod@swca.com](mailto:mmcleod@swca.com))

**Modelling cowbird-host dynamics to design management for the Black-capped Vireo**

Kathryn Smith (Texas A&M University; [kathryns84@tamu.edu](mailto:kathryns84@tamu.edu))

**Will it ever end? Cowbird management and conservation reliant species**

Richard Kostecke (The Nature Conservancy; [rkostecke@tnc.org](mailto:rkostecke@tnc.org))

*Proposed presentations/lead authors (continued):*

**The role of cowbird control in recovery of the Kirtland's Warbler**

Chris Mensing (US Fish and Wildlife Service; [chris\\_mensing@fws.gov](mailto:chris_mensing@fws.gov))

**Best management practices for cowbird control**

Darrell Ahlers and Rebecca Siegle (US Bureau of Reclamation; [dahlers@usbr.gov](mailto:dahlers@usbr.gov))

**Summary/Panel Discussion**

Speakers, with audience Q&A

*Preferred duration and format:* Half day, afternoon, regular symposium