**Presidential Migratory Bird Federal Stewardship Award**
**Nomination Application**
**Submit your application to: nanette_seto@fws.gov**
**(Maximum length of 5 pages - text only, 12 pt font)**

**Goal of Award**: Award acknowledges an action [see Award Announcement for definition] conducted by or in partnership with a Federal Agency that contributes to migratory bird conservation, meeting the intent and spirit of the EO 13186. Agency/project demonstrates a leadership role in inspiring others to take action in migratory bird conservation. This could include developing and implementing BMPs, a policy action, or research.

**1. Applicant (must be a Federal Agency. If more than one, list the lead agency):**
**Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE)**

**2. Co-applicant(s) (if any; can be Federal or non-Federal entity):**
**U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**

**3. Action (In two pages or less, describe how the action contributes to overall migratory bird conservation. Be sure to highlight areas in which the action exceeds daily activities and/or agency mandates, and represents a leadership role in migratory bird conservation):**
**The study "Compendium of Avian Information and Comprehensive GIS Geodatabase" pulled together for the first time information contained in Atlases, Census compilations and databases that are held by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, State environmental agencies, academic institutions or avian advocate groups such as the Audubon Society or the Sea Duck Joint Venture. The data from these diverse datasets dates back more than 30 years and is being compiled, synthesized and incorporated into a comprehensive GIS Geodatabase to assist BOEMRE scientists and decision makers regarding potential impacts from wind energy development on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). The need for this information was identified during the BOEMRE Alternative Energy workshop and in a previous study of the Worldwide Synthesis and Analysis of the Existing Information Regarding Environmental Affects of Alternative Energy Uses on the OCS.**

**This compilation will serve as a basis for future studies by identifying key species of concern and data gaps. Information about seabirds and shorebirds, two groups potentially at risk in the offshore environment, were the focus of data compilation and standardization. This study compiles data on seabirds and shorebirds off and along the Atlantic Coast, the area where offshore wind development is most likely to occur in the immediate future. The study also develops a predictive model for seabird occurrence.**

**4. When was the action initiated? (Initiation date must be 2001 or later)**
**The study was initiated in 2008, and will conclude in 2011.**

**5. Is the action local, regional, national or international in scale? Please explain.**
**It is mostly regional in scope, encompassing the Atlantic Coast of the United States from Maine to Florida, but it is also international to the extent that data from studies in the Canadian Maritimes and interviews with Canadian seabird scientists was also included.**

**6. How does the action meet or exceed agency mandates or daily activities?**
**The BOEMRE is responsible under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 for managing alternative energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. This includes preparation of Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements using the best available knowledge and information. Because the data on birds offshore on the Atlantic Ocean were dispersed, collected by different entities over a time period of more than 30 years, and recorded in varying formats, the data was largely unavailable for use in such assessments. This study goes beyond the mandate to use "best available information" and brings decades of past data together and makes the compiled data widely available for the first time for use in environmental assessments. It thus significantly improves BOEMRE's ability to make environmentally sound decisions regarding the siting and permitting of offshore energy developments on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf.**

**7. Explain how the action promotes or results in effective migratory bird conservation.**
**By making available information on where and when birds are concentrated on the Atlantic OCS, this study will enable BOEMRE to minimize or avoid significant impacts on bird populations by avoiding heavily used migratory pathways and/or areas of high bird concentrations when permitting offshore energy activities.**

**8. Provide details that demonstrate how the action is innovative.**
**This study is innovative in several ways:**

a. **It compiles a dataset that covers both a wide region (Maine to Florida) and a wide span of years (more than 30 years).**
b. **It develops a predictive model of seabird occurrences on the Atlantic Coast of the United States.**
c. **The data is compiled into a comprehensive GIS database.**

**9. Describe the roles and responsibilities of partners (if any).**
**The USGS conducted the study with major funding contributed by BOEMRE and USFWS.**

**10. How might the action be transferrable to other sites managed by this or other federal agencies? How is this being encouraged? Please explain.**
**The GIS database will be accessible to other Federal agencies with such information needs, such as NOAA and DOD, and will be valuable to FERC and to state agencies as well in making decisions about a variety of activities that could impact birds along the Atlantic OCS.**

**11. How does/did the action impact your agency's current migratory bird conservation practices?**
**This database will be a major contributor to site evaluations where future energy development is being considered or has been proposed, thus enabling BOEMRE to minimize or avoid significant impacts to birds by avoiding heavily used migratory pathways or areas of high bird concentrations.**

**12. How does the action benefit migratory bird species of concern? If yes, how?**
**This database improves our ability to avoid migratory pathways or high concentration areas used by migratory bird species of concern. It also enables us to identify data gaps for migratory bird species of concern for which there is too little information, so we can aim future studies at filling these data gaps.**