

Nicole Edwards, University of West Virginia and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Red-cockaded woodpecker recovery has advanced significantly during the past decade thanks to Nicole Edwards. Not because she was installing artificial cavities, banding nestlings, writing management plans, or otherwise conducting conservation projects in the field, but because of her superior computer skills. Nicole is my computer assistant, data analyst, data base manager, keeper of our Annual Population Data Report and bibliography, and most importantly at the moment, Assistant Chair for this conference. As I mentioned this morning, without her, we would not be right now. The creation of the electronic version of the Annual Population Data Report was a milestone in the recovery program. Without such a system, it would be virtually impossible to gather, analyze, evaluate and disseminate information related to the management and recovery activities of the 100 public properties and dozens of private properties harboring and/or involved in recovery of red-cockaded woodpeckers. The database and associated programs that Nicole developed for the Annual Report do the job comprehensively, efficiently, and rapidly. She is very deserving of our recognition and thanks for her high quality, hard work, most of which is accomplished in the evenings or during weekends at her home, as she has a full-time job as supervisor of the University of West Virginia's Geology Department's GIS lab. We are honored to present you this award. Thank you Nicole.