

## PROGRESS REPORT FOR SAN DIEGO UNIFIED PORT DISTRICT



Living Coast Discovery Center  
Ridgway's Rail Propagation Program  
Agreement No: 126-2018VM



Report Period: July 1, 2018 – September 30, 2018

### **Description of Work Completed**

In accordance with the agreement with the San Diego Unified Port District, the Living Coast Discovery Center respectfully submits this progress report. This report includes work completed during the grant period as well as work conducted in the time in between agreements (May 1, 2018-June 30, 2018).



### **Program Highlights**

This year, the Living Coast Discovery Center received two of the five potential breeding pairs in the Light-footed Ridgway's rail breeding program. This has been the first season since 2014 that the Living Coast has had two potential breeding pairs. Additional rails are at SeaWorld San Diego and San Diego Zoo Safari Park.

In the 2018 season, the Living Coast had the greatest productivity of rails bred in captivity and released into the wild. SeaWorld San Diego produced 19 rails, San Diego Zoo Safari Park

produced 9 rails, and **Living Coast produced 22 rails**. A detailed table of rails born and released this season is included in this report.

To our surprise, the Living Coast is currently observing a fourth clutch of eggs. This is the first time a fourth clutch has occurred in this breeding program. A pair of rails on average will breed up to three clutches for a season if the conditions are suitable. If the eggs are viable, we expect them to hatch within three weeks. This will extend the breeding season and husbandry care for the new rails through mid-December.

A total of 469 rails have been released by the program to the wild since 2001. Reintroductions for the 2018 season include:

- 11 rails at South San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, Imperial Beach
- 11 rails at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge, Seal Beach
- 8 rails at Kendall-Frost Reserve, San Diego
- 15 rails at Batiquitos Lagoon, Carlsbad

The Living Coast will continue to care for the five remaining rails that are in pre-conditioning pens. The last rail release of the 2018 season is scheduled on November 2, 2018 at Seal Beach National Wildlife Refuge. During the upcoming off-season months, the Living Coast plans to construct new and maintain existing artificial nest platforms on Sweetwater Marsh. After the breeding season concludes, the Living Coast will conduct maintenance on the current rail exhibits. In addition, the Living Coast will assist U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with maintenance within the pre-conditioning pens.

## Summary of Activities

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
April 30, 2018	Contract	Agreement 216-2014 concludes: Light-Footed Clapper Rail Propagation and Nesting Enhancement, between Living Coast and Port of San Diego.
May 1, 2018	Conference Call	Ridgway's rail breeding season update and discussion with Team Clapper Rail partners.
May 6, 2018	Eggs Hatch	Second clutch of eggs for LCDC Shorebird A breeding pair begin to hatch, 2 total chicks.
May 10, 2018	Site Visit	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) provided a tour to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Biologists from Carlsbad office. Tour included husbandry procedures and rail enclosures for LCDC and proving areas.
May 15, 2018	Eggs Laid	Second clutch of eggs laid for LCDC Shorebird B breeding pair.
May 22, 2018	Rail Transfer	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in the transfer of five rails hatched from the SeaWorld into the proving enclosures.
May 23, 2018	Rail Survey	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) conducted rail surveys with Dick Zembal and Bernice Villanueva at Point Mugu Naval Base, CA.
May 24, 2018	Eggs Laid	Third clutch of eggs laid for LCDC Shorebird A breeding pair.
June 1, 2018	Rail Survey and Egg Collection	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) surveyed and assisted in collecting wild rail eggs to enhance gene variation within the Ridgway's rail propagation program at Upper Newport Bay, Newport Beach, CA. Beth assisted in transferring the collected eggs into artificial incubator at SeaWorld.
June 6, 2018	Eggs Hatch	Second clutch of eggs for LCDC Shorebird B breeding pair begin to hatch, 2 total chicks.
June 6, 2018	Rail Transfer	Transfer of six rails hatched from the LCDC into the proving enclosures.
June 13, 2018	Rail Transfer	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in the transfer of four rails hatched from Safari park into the proving enclosures.
June 20, 2018	Eggs Hatch	Third clutch of eggs for LCDC Shorebird A breeding pair begin to hatch, 8 total chicks.
June 22, 2018	Eggs Laid	Third clutch of eggs laid for LCDC Shorebird B breeding pair.
June 29, 2018	Rail Banding and Release	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in capture, transfer and banding of rails pre-release. Beth assists in release of rails and bands two rails for release at South San Diego Bay, Imperial Beach, CA.
June 29, 2018	Rail Survey	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) conducted rail surveys at Tijuana Estuary, Imperial Beach, CA with Eddie Owens (USFWS), Brian Collins (USFWS) and Dick Zembal.
June 30, 2018	Rail Survey	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) conducted rail surveys at Point Mugu Naval Base, CA with Bernice Villanueva.
July 1, 2018	Contract	Agreement 126-2018VM begins: Ridgway's Rail Propagation Program, between Living Coast and Port of San Diego.
July 5, 2018	Rail Transfer	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in the transfer of seven rails hatched from the SeaWorld into the proving enclosures.
July 6, 2018	Rail Transfer	Transfer of two rails hatched from the LCDC into the proving enclosures.
July 18, 2018	Eggs Hatch	Third clutch of eggs for LCDC Shorebird B breeding pair begin to hatch, 2 total chicks.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Details</b>
July 20, 2018	Proving Rail Processing	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in capture and processing of eleven rails for release at Seal Beach.
July 20, 2018	Proving Maintenance	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) clears out old vegetation and overgrowth within three proving enclosures.
July 22, 2018	Rail Survey	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) conducted rail surveys with Bernice Villanueva at Point Mugu Naval Base, CA.
July 25, 2018	Rail Transfer	Transfer of rails hatched from Safari park into the proving enclosures.
August 1, 2018	Rail Transfer	Transfer of four rails hatched from the LCDC into the proving enclosures.
August 25, 2018	Rail Release / Rail Banding	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in capture, transfer and banding of rails pre-release. Beth bands three rails and assists in release of rails at South San Diego Bay, Imperial Beach, CA.
August 25, 2018	Rail Transfer	Transfer of eight rails hatched from the LCDC into the proving enclosures.
August 26, 2018	Proving Maintenance	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) clears out old vegetation and overgrowth within proving enclosures.
August 28, 2018	Rail Survey	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) conducted rail surveys with Bernice Villanueva at Point Mugu Naval Base, CA.
September 11, 2018	Rail Release / Rail Banding	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in capture, transfer and banding of rails pre-release. Beth bands three rails and assists in release of eight rails at Kendall-Frost Reserve, Mission Bay, CA.
September 12, 2018	Rail Transfer	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in the transfer of seven rails hatched from the SeaWorld into the proving enclosures.
September 16, 2018	Rail Transfer	Beth Sabiston (LCDC) assists in the transfer of two rails hatched from Safari park into the proving enclosures.
September 19, 2018	Eggs Laid	Fourth clutch of eggs laid for LCDC Shorebird A breeding pair.
May 2018- September 2018	Proving Husbandry	LCDC staff provides full husbandry care and daily observations to rails in proving enclosures.

### **Costs Incurred**

<b>Costs Incurred</b>	<b>July-Sept 2018</b>	<b>Oct-Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2019</b>	<b>Apr-June 2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
Animal and Veterinary Care	\$3,200.00				\$3,200.00
Personnel	\$14,950.00				\$14,950.00
Exhibit Upgrades and Maintenance	\$750.00				\$750.00
Marketing and Interpretation	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$19,900.00</b>				<b>\$19,900.00</b>

### **Matching Funds**

<b>Matching Funds</b>	<b>July-Sept 2018</b>	<b>Oct-Dec 2018</b>	<b>Jan-Mar 2019</b>	<b>Apr-June 2019</b>	<b>Total</b>
Living Coast Discovery Center	\$6,250.00				\$6,250.00
SANDAG	\$8,650.00				\$8,650.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,900.00</b>				<b>\$14,900.00</b>

## Facebook Posts

 **Living Coast Discovery Center**  
August 25 · 🌐

Rails released into the wild! Earlier this year, we told you several endangered Light-footed Ridgway's rails hatched at The Living Coast. Today we released them into the wild! As part of Team Clapper Rail, we are fighting to end extinction of this beautiful birds. Take a look at the photos from the release this morning in South Bay. We are hoping soon they won't be endangered anymore!

#EndingExtinction #Rails #TeamClapperRail #Nature #SaveWildlife #SavetheBirds #HabitatLoss San Diego Zoo Safari Park USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System San Diego National Wildlife Refuges






**Rail Release, August 25, 2018**  
South San Diego Bay, Imperial Beach, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/thelivingcoast/posts/10155464565516010>

 **Living Coast Discovery Center** shared a post.  
September 12 at 10:10 AM · 🌐




**San Diego National Wildlife Refuges** is at Kendall-Frost Mission Bay.  
September 11 at 5:31 PM · San Diego · 🌐

... And they're OFF!

8 endangered light-footed Ridgway's rails were released today into Kendall-Frost Mission Bay Marsh Reserve in pacific beach. These rails w...

[See More](#)

**Rail Release, September 11, 2018**  
Kendall-Frost Reserve, Mission Bay, CA

<https://www.facebook.com/thelivingcoast/posts/10155498718466010>

**Light-Footed Ridgway's Rail Propagation Season 2018 (As of 9/30/18)**

<b>Studbook ID</b>	<b>Living Coast Discovery Center</b>	<b>San Diego Zoo Wild Animal Park</b>	<b>SeaWorld San Diego</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>Hatched Date</b>	<b>Proving Date</b>	<b>Proving</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Release Date</b>	<b>Release Site</b>
18001			1	1	~3/28/18	5/22/18	North	Released	June 29	South Bay
18003			1	1	~3/28/18	5/22/18	North	Released	June 29	South Bay
18004			1	1	~3/28/18	5/22/18	South	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18005			1	1	~3/28/18	5/22/18	North	Released	June 29	South Bay
18008	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18009	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18010	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18011	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18012	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18013		1		1	4/13/18	6/13/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18014		1		1	4/13/18	6/13/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18015		1		1	4/13/18	6/13/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18016		1		1	4/13/18	6/13/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18017			1	1	3/30/18	5/22/18	North	Released	June 29	South Bay
18018	1			1	~4/14/18	6/6/18	Middle	Released	July 20	Seal Beach
18021			1	1		7/5/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18022			1	1		7/5/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18023			1	1		7/5/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18024			1	1		7/5/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18025			1	1		7/5/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18027	1			1	5/6/18	7/6/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18028	1			1	5/6/18	7/6/18	South	Released	Aug 25	South Bay
18030	1			1	6/6/18	8/1/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18031	1			1	6/6/18	8/1/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18033	1			1	6/6/18	8/1/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18034	1			1	6/6/18	8/1/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18039	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18040	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18041	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18042	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18043	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18044	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18045	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18046	1			1	6/20/18	8/25/18	South	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18051		1		1	5/25/18	7/25/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18052		1		1	5/25/18	7/25/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18053		1		1	5/25/18	7/25/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18054		1		1	5/25/18	7/25/18	Middle	Released	Sept 11	Kendall-Frost
18057		1		1	7/6/18	9/16/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 29	TBD
18059	1			1	7/20/18	10/5/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 29	TBD
18060	1			1	7/21/18	10/5/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 29	TBD
18061*			1	1	6/24/18	~9/3/18		Alive		
18062			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18063			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18064			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18065			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18066			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18067			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18068			1	1	6/24/18	9/12/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 5	Batiquitos
18069			1	1	7/22/18	10/5/18	Middle	Alive	Oct 29	TBD
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>50</b>						

\*Potential breeding male