



Northern Channel Islands Loggerhead Shrike Citizen Science Evaluation

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Background and Purpose

More than 200 citizen scientist opportunities were provided by the 2009-2010 Northern Channel Islands Loggerhead Shrike study on Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands. The purpose of the project was to obtain a rigorous and defensible estimate of northern island loggerhead shrike abundance on both islands.

Evaluation Methods

To evaluate and improve future citizen science programs, a written evaluation instrument was administered at the conclusion of the surveys. The respondents included federal and state agency affiliates, Audubon members, non-profit affiliates, academicians, consultants, and students.

Results and Discussion

Among survey respondents, 100 percent agreed that they understood the survey protocols, that their goal for participation was attained, that they would recommend the activity to others, and that they would attend other citizen science activities. Ninety-seven percent agreed that safety is a primary concern to the team, the survey conditions were well explained by the team, and distributed materials were helpful. Similarly, 91 percent of survey respondents agreed that they understood what to do in an emergency and that the campsite conditions were adequate.



Citizen scientists from the 2009 Santa Rosa Island surveys (left) and 2010 Santa Cruz Island surveys (right) surveyed hundreds of hectares of rugged terrain searching for shrikes. One participant stated that what s/he liked best about surveys was "being able to learn something new" while another commented "Great place, great comradery, and good birds."

Citizen Scientist Comments

When asked "what did you like best about the surveys", more than one-third of respondents commented on the scenery and/or hiking while another one-third commented on the positive interactions with other participants. When asked "what did you like least about the surveys", almost one-third of respondents commented on the wind while almost one-fourth commented on non-native invasive plants and/or a desire to see more shrikes. One citizen scientist commented that they liked having "access to beautiful areas not open to the public" while others praised the team spirit "excellent cooperation from all crew members" and "team dynamics were good."

Responses from Northern Island Loggerhead Shrike Citizen Science Survey Participants

