

October 2014
2014 Grant Committee Report
Committee Chair: John Brzorad
Board: Tom Custer, Dave Moore

The Committee met on 9/29/14 via conference call to discuss the applications. They had been sent to committee members via e-mail in early August and each member ranked the applications according to the rubric (attached at the end of this document). Applications fall into two categories; 1) proposals from the developing world that ask fundamental questions about the abundance and distribution of species in little studied regions 2) proposals from the developed world where the fundamental questions have been answered, and more specific, hypothesis-driven questions (and methods) are proposed. Separate rubrics are used.

In 2014 seven people applied for the Nisbet Fund and 17 applied for the Kushlan Fund. Of those 17, two involved shorebirds and one involved waterfowl. These authors were informed that these taxa were too far removed from the goals of both the Nisbet and Kushlan Funds. Thus, 21 applications were considered seriously.

Dr. Patricia Szczys was unanimously awarded the Nisbet Award in the amount of **\$1,000** for her proposal; “Population and Conservation Genetics of Eurasian Black Terns”

Ms. Golya Shahrokhi was awarded the Kushlan Fund in the amount of **\$3,860** for her proposal; “An Examination of Gene Flow Between Distinct Management Units of the Reddish Egret”

Following is a continental (author’s address, not location of research) and taxonomic breakdown of the applicants:

	Nisbet	Kushlan
North America	4	3
Caribbean	0	3
South America	1	0
Europe	2	1
Asia	0	2
Africa	0	5
Total	7	14

Following is a species breakdown by Fund

Nisbet

Roseate Tern	1
Common Tern	1
Black Tern	1
Black Skimmer	1
L. Black-Backed Gull	2
Western Gull	1

Kushlan

Many taxa/Survey	5
Squacco Heron	1
Reddish Egret	2
Little Blue Heron	1
Great Egret	1
Madagascar Heron	1
Goliath Heron	1
Little Bittern	1
Wood Stork	1
Total	7

14

Since my time as chair of the Grant's committee I have taken the time to send all authors a letter detailing ways that their grants could be improved. I carry on this practice from Mike Erwin, the previous Chair. It is hoped that applicants will apply again and that the society is viewed as a place that nurtures research and gives positive feedback for the general improvement of avian ecology world-wide. With a few exceptions, applicants have responded very favorably to our constructive comments.

Topics to be addressed at the annual meeting in Baja:

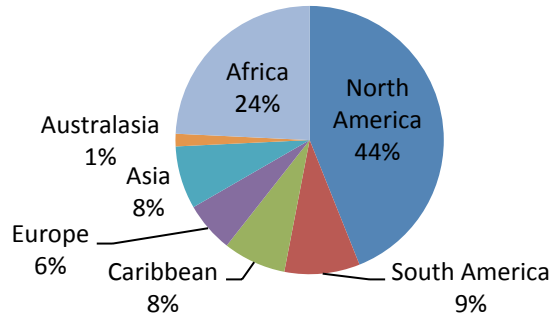
- 1) Should more detail be given in the instructions to grant applicants as to the contents of each section of the proposal?
- 2) Should a successful application be posted? Possibly each year's winners?
- 3) Should the rubrics be posted?

Evaluation Rubrics

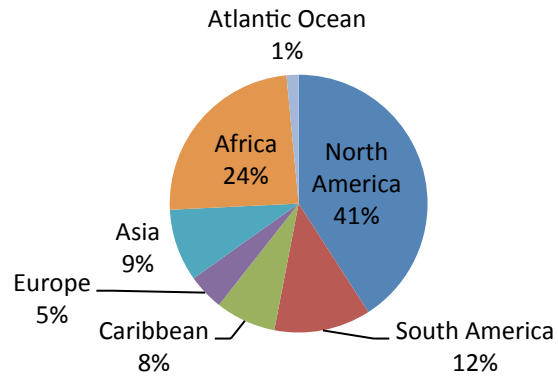
	Kushlan & Nisbet Funds	Percentage Available	% Earned
General Features	Significance	25	
	Originality	15	
	Feasibility	15	
Scientific Structure	Concise abstract	3.33	
	Background	3.33	
	Clearly stated objectives	3.33	
	Methods well described	3.33	
	Proper choice of statistics	3.35	
	Proper use of statistical inference	3.33	
Budget	Budget reasonable and specific	5	
	Clearly identified Waterbird funds	5	
	Adequate justification	5	
Implication to Society	Conservation impact	5	
	Public outreach impact	5	
		100	
	Studies for Fundamental Questions in Developing World		
General Features	Significance	30	
	Feasibility	25	
Scientific Structure	Concise abstract	2	
	Background	2	
	Clearly stated objectives	2	
	Methods well described	2	
	Proper choice of analytical methods	2	
Budget	Budget reasonable and specific	5	
	Clearly identified Waterbird funds	5	
	Adequate justification	5	
Implication to Society	Conservation impact	10	
	Public outreach impact	10	

Three Year Analysis

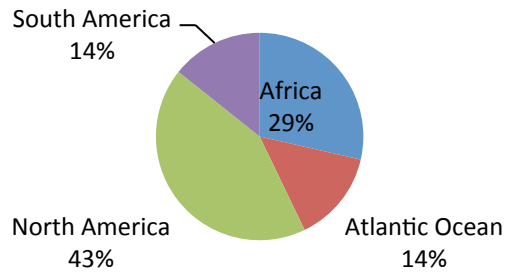
Proposals by Author's Continent/ Region N=66



Proposals by study continent/Region N=66



Awards Given by Study Site Continent/Region N=7



Nisbet Applications 2012-2014
by study area
N=22



Kushlan Applications 2012-2014
by study area
N=44



21

17

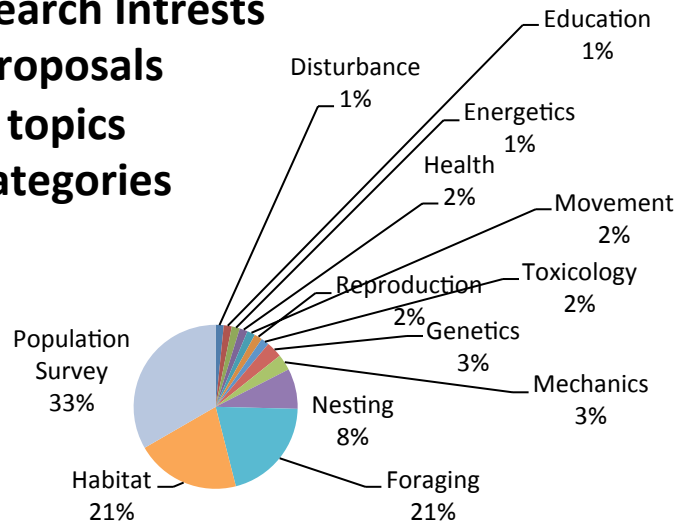
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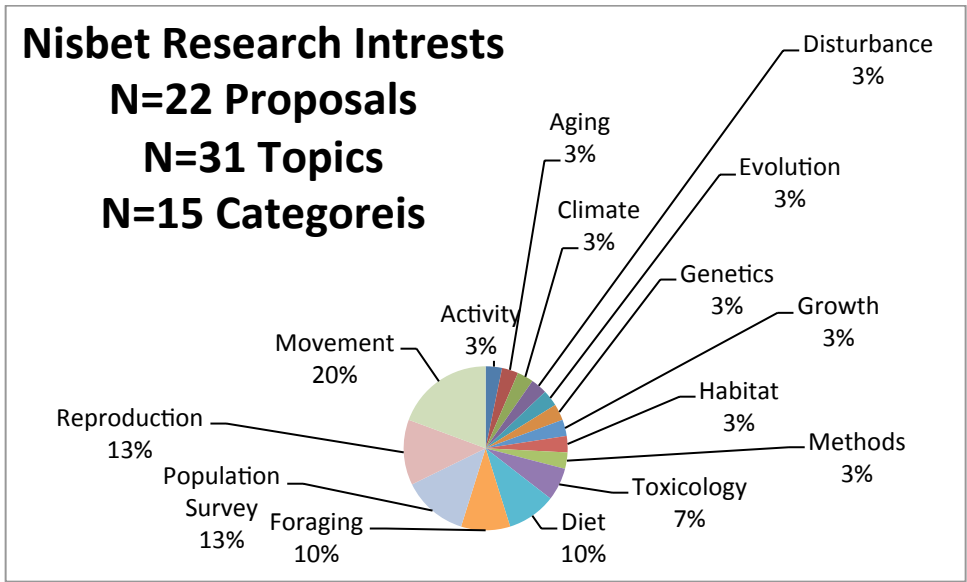
Kushlan Research Intrests

N=44 proposals

N=63 topics

N=13 Categories





Proposals by Taxa

Kushlan

Nisbet

Taxa	%	Taxa	%
Bitterns	4	Black-legged Kittiwake	9
Grey-Crowned Crane	2	Ivory Gull	5
Sarus Crane	2	Kelp Gull	9
Squacco Heron	2	Lesser Black-Backed Gull	9
Green heron	4	Sabine's gull	5
Snowy Egret	4	Western Gull	9
Tricolored Heron	4	Arctic terns	5
Great Egret	6	Black Skimmer	9
Little Blue Heron	8	Black Tern	5
Reddish Egret	8	Caspian terns	5
Goliath Heron	2	Common Tern	9
Great Blue Heron	2	Least Tern	5
Madagascar Heron	2	Peruvian Tern	5
Madagascar Pond Heron	2	Roseate Tern	5
Black-faced Ibis	2	Numerous tern speices	5
Dwarf Olive Ibis	2	Large-Billed Terns	5
Madagascar sacred Ibis	2	Double-Crested Cormorant	5
White Ibis	2		
Wood Stork	6		

Habitat	2
Many Species	32