

NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY
ABSTRACTS OF COMPLETED RESEARCH PROJECTS
APPROVED BY FACULTY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Applied Research Project Grant Final Report
Researchers: Dr. Rebecca Belcher and Dr. Max Fridell

“A Study of Faculty Perceived Satisfaction with Principals’ Servant Leadership and Non-Servant Leadership Styles” (Spring 2005)

Abstract

Recognizing the need to maintain the definition of school success as centered on student learning, this study sought to determine if the current principals in elementary, middle school, and high school exercised an operating talent of servant leadership (even if the term itself was unknown) and whether or not such a self-perceived leadership style indicated student achievement according to state sponsored, standards-based assessments. A research study of elementary, middle, and high school principals in a three state Midwestern region was conducted to compare the principals’ self-perceived leadership style with the students’ results in reading and math on the statewide assessment. The percentage of students scoring in the top two levels on a 5-point scoring scale or in the top level on a 4-point scoring scale of the statewide assessments for each building was entered into data files for statistical analysis by state and region. The student test scores were compared to the self-perceived leadership style of the principal as servant-leader or traditionalists to identify any statistical significance between the students’ test scores and the principals’ perceived leadership style. The demographic data was analyzed to identify any potential statistical significance between the demographic data, principal leadership style, or students’ test scores. Based upon the statistical analysis of data for the three states there was not any significant correlation between the principal’s leadership style and students scoring in the top levels on the state assessment for reading or math. Correlations between demographic data and student test scores were not significant at the region level. Although at the single state level the data showed a significant correlation, in one state, between the gender of the principal and higher reading and math test scores. For this state, if the elementary principal were a female then the students scored higher in reading and in math. At the individual state level there was a significant correlation between leadership style and the number of years that a principal served as a teacher. The longer the person had served as a teacher the more likely the person was to become a Traditional principal and the shorter the person had served as a teacher the more likely the person was to become a Servant-Leader principal.

Budget Summary

Account Code Number x122463

Budget amount approved	\$2,267.00
Student Labor – Regular expenditure	821.00
Balance	1,446.00

Easterla, David A. (Distinguished University Professor of Biology) "A Follow-up 24 Hour Snap-shot Survey of Bird Migration on the Southern Border of California." Fall 2005.

From 28 April – 1 May 2006, a survey was conducted of migratory (permanent resident species were also present but could not be positively separated) avian species by three ornithologists in the southern tier county of Imperial, California. Concentration centered on Salton Sea because of its diversity and unique habitats. Scouting was intensive until the date of 30 April 2006, which was selected as the day of the 24 hour (midnight to midnight) snap-shot survey of bird migration on the southern border of California in Imperial County.

At midnight the survey began at Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge (226 feet below sea level) for rails, then east through Calipatria to Rammer and Finney Lakes and south into the southwestern part of Brawley listening for owls. We then drove south to the area along the New River east of Fig Lagoon listening for rails and Yellow-breasted Chat. After looking over Fig Lagoon with a powerful lamp, we left the flatlands and headed west to In-ko-pah, and drove up to the valley immediately to the north of the Eliot Mine hoping to hear Poor-will. We remained in this area until about 7:30 AM looking for those foothill/chaparel birds whose range in Imperial County is restricted to this small location. We then returned to the Imperial Valley, starting at Fig Lagoon and Lakeview Golfcourse, then working our way eastward along the New River to the southeastern corner of El Centro. From here we worked north along Dogwood and McConnel Roads to Brawley, then on north through Calipatria and the area close to the Calipatria State Prison to Niland and the Wister Unit headquarters. We then drove southward along Davis and Schrimpf Roads to the north end of Garst Road, Red Hill, the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge headquarters and Obsidian Butte. We continued on southeastward to Unit 1 of the Salton Sea National Wildlife Refuge and the north end of Poe Road, then northward to Salton City. We ended the day by driving southward into Brawley and looking for passerines in Riverview Cemetery.

This survey recorded 172 avian species within a single county during a 24 hour period. An estimated 6,500 total birds were recorded. The greatest concentration of migrants was in the desert "traps" (oases

of concentrated vegetation – usually around water), and at Salton Sea where open water, isolated marshes and mudflats occurred. Best weather conditions for northward migration involved a warm (70°F or warmer), clear night with a fairly strong southerly wind (5-20 mph; over 20 mph seemed detrimental). However, for ideal human documentation of such aerial migrants (via sight and calls/songs), a sudden strong (over 20 mph) northerly wind/storm with overcast skies moving south prior to dawn forced migrants to the ground where they could be recorded. Although weather conditions were good on 30 April 2006 for our survey, we believe on 27 April 2006 weather conditions were even better for avian migration, and higher numbers could have possibly been recorded. This survey recorded seven vagrant/rare species: Black Rail, Ruff, Laughing Gull, Little Gull, Western Gull, Elegant Tern, and Ruddy Ground Dove.

It is of interest to compare this 30 April 2006 Imperial County 24 hour snap-shot survey of bird migration in southern California with last year's bird survey (1 May 2005) in adjacent San Diego County. The San Diego County count recorded a much higher number of species (217, which was a United States county 24 hour count record!) and individuals (approximately 10,000) despite comparable weather conditions. Undoubtedly, the greatest disparity between the two counts involved geography – life zones = floral diversity = faunal diversity. Imperial County's geography lacked both sea coast and mountains which would add considerably to the diversity of habitats and birds.

It is unknown whether our 24 hour snap-shot surveys during the springs of 2005 and 2006 were typical for these two counties on the Mexican border; only future surveys will reveal such information. A database has now been established, and it is highly recommended that such spring surveys of avian migrants for this area continue.

Mühsam, Armin. (Assistant Professor in the Department of Art) “Creative work for an exhibition”, approved Fall 2005

My proposed research was to present as much new work as possible at Zeitgeist Gallery, Nashville, TN. This show was concurrent with the joint conference of the Mid-America College Art Association and the Southeastern College Art Conference and featured two receptions: One for the conference's participants and another for the general public. Beside the honor to represent Northwest at a joint conference of the two largest regional college art associations in the country, this exhibition is also a singular personal achievement, as Zeitgeist Gallery is a recognized art gallery in the Midwest.

The exhibit went extremely well. I showed seven large paintings on paper, two smaller ones on wood and two sculptures.

My research into landscape painting explores the dichotomy between what the general public acknowledges as the “beauty” of natural landscapes and the “ugliness” of landscapes that have been technologically altered by man. I do this by revealing the manner in which and the extent to which the natural has already been replaced by the artificial, employing the *construction site* not only as a metaphor for the act of altering the (or creating a new) landscape but as an actual reality in my paintings, which increasingly become hybrids of 2-dimensional and 3-dimensional elements. In other words, I paint but I also create a sculptural

plane in front my paintings. Additionally, I create the *model* of a landscape as the metaphor for the human planning effort that is involved in altering the landscape, a compositional problem that combines the major subjects of still life and landscape and consists of actually building landscape models.

I had originally applied for the grant in order to acquire materials such as canvas, stretchers and paint. It soon became evident, however, that the direction of my work dictated me to paint on paper, and so the bulk of the money was spent on frames. The actual costs incurred ran as follows (I went slightly over the budget but paid the remainder myself):

Supplies:	frames (various sizes, incl. shipping)	\$ 817.83
Shipping:	One way to Nashville, TN	\$ 270.31
Total granted to me		\$1,065.98