Read-Me

This document is an outline describing the data that is submitted with the raw data provided as a supplement to the Final Report for the project entitled “Occupancy, distribution, and abundance of Black Rails (*Laterallus jamaicensis*) along the Texas Gulf Coast.” It is suggested that this Read-Me Document be consulted to understand the data sets included with the report.

The first file entitled “Site Data” includes the raw data collected at each survey point over the entire project. Each site has its own excel work book file for each year, with pages for revisits of each site.

The second file entitled “Vegetation Data” includes the raw data collected at survey sites for each year.

The third file entitled “Analysis Data” includes data files that have the abbreviated data that was used to build models and assess black rail occupancy and abundance—thus the format of the data is compatible with package unmarked in program R. There are five excel documents: detection history files with all detection covariates for both occupancy and abundance (these data are not as reduced as the multi-season files because only surveys with incomplete data were removed), detection history files with only detection covariates that were influential (multi-seasonal files), and a habitat covariate file which contains habitat covariates for both years (only 2015 habitat covariates were used because 2016 data did not seem to influence transition variables).

It should be noted that 67 points were removed before analysis due to lack of data which were a result of logistical constraints. These points are included in the “Site Data” and the “Vegetation Data” files but are excluded from the “Analysis Data” for the reasons stated above. Thus all final results reported in the Report were derived from this limited data set.