

All Times Subject To Change
Working Table: Migratory Birds

Co-Chairs:

- **Charles M. Francis**, Manager, Bird Population Monitoring, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada;
- **Humberto Berlanga**, Coordinador del Programa NABCI/ICAAN y Temas de Vida Silvestre, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico;
- **Ken Richkus**, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.

Coordinator:

- **Eric L. Kershner**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, eric_kershner@fws.gov

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XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

Working Table Priorities for 2014-2019

- Partnership Opportunities for Birds
 - Conservation business plans
 - Landscape-scale Conservation, including coordination via JVs, LCCs, conservation business plans, and other existing landscape cooperatives
 - North American / Western Hemisphere flyway conservation
- Birds and Global Climate Change
- Human induced mortality management (science and actions)
- Incidental Take Regulatory Issues (policy)
- Collaborative data management and monitoring

Executive Table Items From Migratory Birds Table:

1 – Implementing the Migratory Bird Vision

Report on progress in the development of Vision implementation plans.

2. Letter of Intent (LOI) on Bird Banding

Discussion about short term trilateral actions to implement the LOI

MONDAY, April 9, 2018

9:00-9:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda. ▪ Adoption of the agenda
9:15-9:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2: 2017-18 Action Item Report (AIR)</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Report on major accomplishments or challenges from the Action Item Report (AIR) (particularly those that are not on this year’s agenda) and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The AIR is used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Working tables review the previous year’s AIR at the beginning of each annual</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>meeting.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</p>
9:45–10:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M. Francis (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the MBT.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information only</p>
10:30-10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45-12:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Tri-National Priorities</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4: Implementing Bird Conservation for the Americas</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Jude Scarl (NABCI-US), Charles M Francis, J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discuss the next steps for implementing the vision, including short- and long-term plans for engaging partners.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2017, the Migratory Bird Table agreed to identify specific actions for partners to move this Vision forward. Medium-term plans should identify actions to be undertaken over the next ~10 years. Short term plans should identify which of those actions are of highest priority to be undertaken over the next 1-2 years. The action plans (especially short-term) should identify who should take the lead or leads in implementation (agencies / organizations / individuals), as well as specific timeframes and measurable outcomes to track progress. Actions should consider involving both traditional and non-traditional partners with emphasis on actions that will have the greatest long-term benefits through mainstreaming of bird conservation—in essence, addressing the “we will” components of the Vision.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss the status of the action plans and prioritize how the plans will be implemented across all three countries, and agree on how we will track progress on implementation.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Co-Chairs</p>
12:00-13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15-14:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5: Trilateral Nation Collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Migratory Birds Task Force (MBTF)</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Guy Foulks (Submitted Agenda Item);</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Rob Clay (WHSRN), Brad Andres (USFWS), Deborah Hahn (AFWA), Judith Scarl (AFWA), Greg Butcher (USFS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: With the new Trilateral Conservation Vision and efforts by CMS to convene key members and interested parties via its Migratory Birds Task Force, the time is ripe to identify actions Trilateral Member nations can take to engage with this Task Force opportunity, expand awareness of Conservation Investment Strategies / Conservation Business Plans as conservation roadmaps, and integrate mainstreaming of biodiversity for all stakeholders involved in migratory bird conservation in the Americas.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Americas Flyways Framework (AFF), developed by various international bird conservation professionals convened by WHMSI in April 2014, was adopted by CMS into their scope of work. The AFF outlines broad bird conservation goals for the Americas based on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and its Aichi Targets approved by Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. To date it is not clear how much action the AFF generated other than its adoption by CMS. Consequently CMS convened a Task Force (MBTF) to begin to build an implementation plan and Scope of Work for migratory bird conservation in the Americas that includes AFF. The MBTF has support from the country of Brazil, is led by CMS staff and seeks to convene a meeting to develop a more detailed implementation plan for migratory bird conservation in the Americas.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Plan of Action for Trilateral Nation engagement with the CMS/MBTF.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Guy Foulks, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p>
14:15-14:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6: Update on Southern Wings</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deborah Hahn (AFWS), State Fish and Wildlife Agencies</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The mission of Southern Wings is to provide a mechanism to support and facilitate State Fish and Wildlife Agency participation in conservation projects that support the conservation of shared migratory bird species in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: This is an ongoing program for the State agencies with partnerships with Mexican and Canadian partners. We have presented on this program at previous meetings. The Program started in 2009. Since 2009 30 state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed almost \$2.7 million to projects in the Colorado River Delta, Chihuahuan Desert grasslands, Laguna Madre, Sierra Madre Occidental, and Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico; Costa Rica; Nicaragua; Dominican Republic; Guatemala; Bolivia; and Colombia.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform the Committee about the projects occurring in Mexico, consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species, and discuss potential additional collaboration opportunities.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Hahn, AFWA (presenter)</p>
14:30-14:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 7:</u> The Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy (PASCS)</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Brad Andres (United States Fish and Wildlife Service), Stan Senner (National Audubon Society), Catherine Hickey (Point Blue Conservation Science), Cynthia Pekarik (Canadian Wildlife Service), Eduardo Palacios (Centro de Investigación Científica y de Educación Superior de Ensenada), Carlos Ruiz (Asociación Calidris), Rob Clay (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network), Carmen Espoz (Universidad Santo Tomás), River Gates (National Audubon Society).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy (PASCS) is a collaborative effort to coordinate shorebird conservation throughout the Pacific Flyway. The purpose of the Strategy is to identify the most pressing threats and to develop effective conservation actions and coordinated approaches to maintain and restore populations of shorebirds and their habitats. The project area includes 14 countries (from the USA to Chile) and is divided into four focal geographic regions that share broad habitat characteristics and similar conservation challenges and opportunities. The Strategy was completed in 2016 and is now entering the implementation phase, which includes communications, outreach, partnership development and projects that will address key threats (climate change, aquaculture, development, invasive species, disturbance, habitat modification and water management).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Shorebirds can be found along the entirety of the Pacific coast of the Western Hemisphere during some time of the year. Many species travel from Arctic breeding areas to spend their winter on the beaches and mudflats of Mexico, Central America and South America, where they share the environment with resident species. Shorebirds and the habitats they depend upon are exposed to an increasing number of anthropogenic threats. In the Pacific Americas Flyway, 11% of shorebird populations demonstrate long-term declines, another 46% have unknown population trends and 43% are stable. The PASCS was developed to address conservation issues across the full suite of geographic, ecological and cultural landscapes and provide the most comprehensive and current set of actions needed to reverse shorebird population declines and maintain populations into the future. Partners have received funding for first phase implementation and are looking for additional revenue streams.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Awareness about the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy. Opportunities for engagement with other migratory bird initiatives as well as other conservation efforts. Support tri-national implementation to achieve PASCS goals and objectives.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Brad Andres (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and Cynthia Pekarik (Canadian Wildlife Service)</p>
14:45-15:00	<i>Break</i>
14:45-16:00	<p><i>Managing Bird Mortality</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 8:</u> Managing Anthropogenic Mortality</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis, J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Changes in regulatory policies require tri-national discussions on how to manage anthropogenic mortality in the absence of consistent regulatory mechanisms.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Anthropogenic impacts continue to influence bird populations across the full annual-cycle. Changes in U.S. regulatory approaches have created uncertainty in how all three nations can work together for hemispheric conservation. Effective coordination among the three countries could enhance research efforts to identify mortality priorities and new approaches to minimize mortality, as well as enhancing dissemination and uptake of results.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss and develop a greater understanding of the emerging direction in the US and the consequences of this approach to Canada and Mexico.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Co-Chairs</p>
16:00-16:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9: Mainstreaming Best Practices to Reduce Mortality</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Eric Kershner (USFWS), Joelle Gehring (FCC), JoAnna Lutmerding (USFWS), and Lesley Kodella (USFWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: In an effort to engage more partners in bird conservation outcomes, new innovative approaches are required to mainstream bird conservation into public and industry sectors. Mainstreaming efforts must focus on factors that provide a benefit to the public or industry sector (e.g., cost savings of actions) and less on aspects of bird conservation directly.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Innovative partnerships are being developed to address bird collisions by mainstreaming industry benefits of best practices that are also bird friendly. Bird collisions with buildings and communication towers cause significant mortality of migratory birds. There are solutions for reducing mortalities if building and tower owners can be shown the inherent benefits to the industry by reducing operational cost and energy use. Partnerships of federal and state agencies and NGOs can play a critical role in engaging these industries to clearly articulate the operational cost savings of implementing best practices. This approach could be applied across Canada and Mexico, however, it is important to first assess what industry outreach efforts are underway in these countries.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss how mainstreaming approaches with non-traditional partners can be used in the three nations for buildings and towers. Determine how the tri-nations can better collaborate on these mainstreaming efforts to decrease the number of bird collisions with buildings and towers.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Lesley Kordella, JoAnna Lutmerding, and Eric Kershner U.S. Fish</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	and Wildlife Service; Joelle Gehring (Federal Communication Commission)
17:00-18:00	Country Delegation Preparatory Meetings
18:00-19:00	Dinner
19:00-20:00	Welcome reception

TUESDAY, April 10, 2018

9:00–10:00	Welcome Ceremony; Remarks by Delegation Leaders
10:00-10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15-11:00	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Possible Joint Session with Ecosystem Table</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10: Next Steps for Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies), Aimee Roberson (Río Grande Joint Venture Coordinator), Alicia Melgoza (Universidad Autonoma de Chihuahua), Guy Foulks (USFWS).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Grassland birds remain one of the highest priority conservation issues from a tri-national perspective: many species of birds spend their whole life cycle travelling between Canada, USA and Mexico, but are experiencing dramatic population declines. Funding is being sought to implement the next steps.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Chihuahuan grasslands remain a conservation concern for the Trilateral Committee because several rapidly declining grassland birds are dependent upon these habitats for their survival. These habitats are threatened by conversion of rangelands to irrigated crops, which also affects the livelihood of ranchers and threatens the water resources in the region. Mainstreaming conservation of these habitats has the potential to benefit both birds and people. The mainstreaming concept engages multiple sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, biodiversity) in an effort to find common solutions that benefit all parties in the region. Mainstreaming can create a sense of responsibility not just from the conservation partners but also from other government and industry partners. A workshop is proposed to bring together these diverse sectors to explain the conservation urgency – both for birds and for people – and to work together to seek common solutions. CWS and FWS have committed to provide partial funding through collaboration involving NGOs and CONABIO.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discussion sources of funding for implementing a 2018 workshop and how the tri-nations can coordinate for this</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>workshop</p> <p>AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Humberto Berlanga</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies)</p>
<p>11:00-11:30</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 11:</u> Coordinating Conservation of North America’s Central Grasslands</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); Kristin Madden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Russell Castro, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Mauricio de la Maza, Pronatura Noreste; Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy; Jon Hayes, Audubon – New Mexico; Laura Paulson, Nature Conservancy – Mexico; Sonia Najera, Nature Conservancy – Texas; Alejandro Carrillo, Pasticultores del Desierto; Robert Potts, Dixon Water Foundation; Scott Somershoe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Casey Stemler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Judith Scarl, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/ North American Bird Conservation Initiative.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Grassland birds are in steep decline with nearly one third of them on the watch list for the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. And birds of the central grasslands that winter in the Chihuahuan Desert have declined 70% since 1970 – more than twice as much as other grassland birds (NABCI State of the Birds Report 2016). We know that one of the biggest threats to these birds and other grassland wildlife is habitat loss and degradation, which is also occurring at an alarming rate. Conservation partners across the continent are asking, what can be done to address this conservation crisis? Thankfully, there are numerous conservation assessment and planning efforts that have recently been completed or are currently being developed across North America’s Central Grasslands. These include: (1) The Northern Great Plains Business Plan completed by the National Fish and wildlife Foundation in September 2016; (2) the Grassland Bird Conservation Plan: A Full-Annual Cycle Plan for four Priority Grassland Birds currently being developed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and partners; (3) the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Investment Strategy being developed by the Río Grande Joint Venture in partnership with the Intermountain West Joint Venture and the Sonoran Joint Venture; and (4) an assessment of native grasslands in the North American Great Plains to inform conservation delivery being developed by the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture in coordination with the and Northern Great Plains Joint Venture, Playa Lakes Joint Venture, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture, Rio Grande Joint Venture, USDA Farm Services Agency. In addition, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies passed a resolution to focus on grassland conservation during their September 2017 Business Meeting, and their Bird Conservation Committee approved the formation of a Grassland Work Group, which started its work in December 2016, hopefully providing a foundation for support of future grassland conservation efforts. Even some members of the U.S. Congress are concerned about native grassland conservation and introduced versions of the “American Prairie Conservation Act” in both the Senate and the House</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>of Representatives in October 2017. While it is good news that conservation organizations and partnerships and some political leaders are turning their attention to the dire issue of grassland conservation, how can we ensure that we are working together across the continent in a coordinated fashion to maximize effectiveness and efficiency in achieving our shared grassland conservation goals?</p> <p>BACKGROUND: This agenda item follows and builds on several presentations related to conservation of grasslands and grassland birds given during a joint session of the Trilateral Committee’s Migratory Bird and Ecosystem Conservation Tables in 2017.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the current status of several grassland conservation assessment and planning efforts across North America’s central grasslands. • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with grassland conservation. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for trilateral coordination and collaboration. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Aimee Roberson, Río Grande Joint Venture</p>
<p>11:30-11:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 12:</u> South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program: Habitat Restoration and Landscape Connectivity for Monarch Butterflies and Grassland Birds in South Texas</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO); Kristin Madden, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Russell Castro, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department; Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Mauricio de la Maza, Pronatura Noreste; Andrew Rothman, American Bird Conservancy; Maria Jose Villanueva, World Wildlife Fund; Iliana Pena, Audubon – Texas; Laura Paulson, Nature Conservancy – Mexico; Sonia Najera, Nature Conservancy – Texas; Alejandro Carrillo, Pasticultores del Desierto; Robert Potts, Dixon Water Foundation.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program is a multi-organization partnership led by the Rio Grande Joint Venture aimed improving monarch butterfly and grassland bird habitat enhancement in key areas. The Grassland Restoration Incentive Program promotes land management practices that maintain and or produce suitable grass-dominated habitat for wildlife, including monarch butterflies in the core of their migratory route through south Texas. With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation’s Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund, we developed this program to provide technical and financial assistance to landowners conducting approved grassland enhancement practices on their property. The Grassland Restoration Incentive Program has already been successfully implemented for several years by the Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture in central and northern Texas and Oklahoma. By assisting private landowners in South Texas, the Rio Grande Joint Venture is adding another important ‘stepping stone’ along the Monarch migratory flight path while also enhancing habitat for grassland bird species.</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>BACKGROUND: For many years, monarch butterfly and birds that depend on diverse grasslands and grass-dominated shrublands throughout Texas and northern Mexico have been steadily declining. Many factors have contributed to these population declines, but the primary cause is loss of habitat. In South Texas, these losses are partially due to invasive non-native grasses, the increase of dense shrublands, and fire suppression. These factors have had a significant impact on multiple species of pollinators, such as monarch butterflies, as well as many grassland birds. Rio Grande Joint Venture partners are working together to address these population declines in various ways and the National Fish and Wildlife Fund's Monarch Butterfly Conservation Fund has been an important source of funding for this. The South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program is one example. Another example is Rio Grande Joint Venture partner Pronatura Noreste working in Mexico on monarch conservation activities including habitat restoration, community outreach and education, and monitoring.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update the ECWT on status of the development of the South Texas Grassland Restoration Incentive Program led by the Río Grande Joint Venture. • Exchange of information and increased understanding of challenges and opportunities associated with monarch butterfly and bird habitat restoration. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for trilateral collaboration. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Aimee Roberson, Río Grande Joint Venture</p>
11:45-12:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 13: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Gilles Suetin (Parks Canada), Federico A. Méndez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Iñigo-Elias (Cornell Lab of Ornithology)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been collaborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. We will update the Migratory Birds Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In the last five years, several bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects were initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation.</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico</p>
12:00-13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15-13:45	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Coordinated Bird Monitoring and Information Sharing</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 14:</u> Review of North American waterfowl monitoring programs</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis, J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Ken Richkus (USFWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The cooperative North American waterfowl monitoring programs, including the western air-ground surveys, the eastern waterfowl surveys, arctic goose surveys, winter surveys and banding programs among others, form the basis for management of harvest of waterfowl species in North America. They also involve a significant budget investment by federal, state and provincial agencies. It is important to ensure they are both efficient and effective, and targeted at the highest priority areas. A comprehensive review of these programs has not been undertaken for many years. Since that time, there have been many new developments in statistical analysis methods (e.g., hierarchical models) that allow for more efficient analyses of data. There may also have been changes in information needs related, for example, to changes in waterfowl populations or hunting pressures. A joint review of waterfowl surveys, including banding, is needed, but with a realistic workplan and time frame, and adequate allocation of resources to ensure its completion.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Smith (1995) undertook a comprehensive review of the traditional air-ground surveys. CWS undertook a partial review of these surveys in 2002, as part of the Avian Monitoring Review, which led to some reductions in the ground surveys. Several recent evaluations of other surveys have been undertaken by CWS, including parts of the eastern waterfowl surveys, but a comprehensive review is now required.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Agreement on the scope and time frame for a review of waterfowl monitoring programs, and an associated work plan.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis, J. Ryan Zimmerling (ECCC / CWS)</p>
13:45-14:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 15:</u> Species Joint Venture Participation and Support</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis, J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Ken Richkus (USFWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on collaborative international joint ventures that focus on critical management needs for sea ducks, American Black Duck, and Arctic geese and their habitats. Canada and the United States have historically committed significant human and financial resources to collaborative research and monitor programs that ensure that management decisions are based on the best available</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>data. Should support for the joint ventures be reduced to fund higher government priorities, this would result in a decreased ability to develop and implement landscape-level bird conservation and management actions that also benefit local landowners and communities. Such a decrease would also consequently significantly reduce the amount of non-federal funds leveraged for conservation. It will be important to discuss and document these consequences.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Species Joint Ventures (Sea Duck Joint Venture, American Black Duck Joint Venture and Arctic Goose Joint Venture) are international in scope, spanning North America and including circumpolar countries. Each Joint Venture includes a range of partners from federal, provincial and local governments, to conservation organizations. These joint ventures focus on critical science needs to inform the management of over 20 species (50+ populations) and their related habitats as identified in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. Research directed through species joint ventures also addresses questions for other bird species that share the habitats.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss the human and financial support that will be provided by each country to the joint ventures for the next fiscal year and, if a reduction in support is anticipated, document the impacts that this will likely have on operation and delivery.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: J. Ryan Zimmerling and Charles M. Francis (ECCC / CWS)</p>
14:15-15:15	<p>AGENDA ITEM 16: Enhancing other continental bird monitoring programs</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Ken Richkus (USFWS), TBD (USGS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Many bird monitoring programs in North America involve cooperative activities among Canada / USA and/or Mexico. These include the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), other volunteer-based surveys such as the International Shorebird Survey (ISS), Christmas Bird Counts (CBC), and less formal programs such as eBird. We also cooperate on activities related to bird-banding. The purpose of this discussion will be to discuss ways that we could enhance these monitoring programs, within our countries, and actions that might be needed to achieve those. For example, would there be value in undertaking another review of the BBS and/or updating the BBS strategic plan (last version was for 2006-2010)? Are there specific activities that might be needed to enhance its value in Mexico? Are there efforts needed to enhance the bird-banding programs? Are there ways that we could enhance Citizen Science projects such as CBC or eBird to be better monitoring tools? For shorebirds, much of our population trend information currently comes from migration monitoring counts, through the ISS and similar programs in Canada. Are there ways that we could enhance those programs and/or improve their funding security?</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Results of many of these monitoring programs form the basis for conservation assessments, such as those used in State of the Birds reporting and the Avian Conservation Assessment database, and are widely used in other types of decision making.</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identification of specific projects and/or actions that would enhance the value of some of these monitoring programs.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis (ECCC / CWS),</p>
15:15–15:30	Break
15:30-15:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17:</u> Nonbreeding Shorebird Monitoring Standards</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Brad Andres (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, brad_andres@fws.gov); Matt Reiter (Point Blue Conservation Science, mreiter@pointblue.org); PRISM Committee</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Development of <i>Standards for Monitoring Nonbreeding Shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere</i></p> <p>BACKGROUND: In February 2016, leaders of many of the multi-national nonbreeding shorebird and other waterbird monitoring programs active in the Western Hemisphere met in Panama City, Panama. The target of the two-day workshop was to align strategies among monitoring programs in the Western Hemisphere with the intent to maximize the value of these data in informing conservation of shorebirds (and other waterbirds) and address the sustainability of monitoring through time. This workshop was a critical step in generating shared objectives for integrating data to inform shorebird and other waterbird conservation effectively at a scale that is meaningful for many of the wide-ranging migrants typical of this group of birds. Participants highlighted the need for: 1) critical evaluation of the timing of surveys, field methods, and implications for analyses; 2) the ability to achieve objectives; and 3) the need to link databases across existing programs. To build on the Panama workshop and resultant, a two-day workshop was held in March 2017 (Lakewood, Colorado, USA). The purposes were to: 1) agree on key components of survey design, field methods, and data management that would move existing programs towards a common goal; 2) serve as foundation for expanded collaboration among monitoring programs; and 3) establish guidelines for developing monitoring projects that can feed into a larger framework. Participants represented countries and organizations from across the Western Hemisphere, including Mexico, Canada, and the USA.</p> <p>The purpose of the guidelines is to provide a unified set of standards to design and implement nonbreeding shorebird monitoring programs and projects throughout the Western Hemisphere. Although the focus is on programs developed in the Western Hemisphere, ideas presented here will be applicable to nonbreeding shorebird surveys at any location. We acknowledge the history, individuality, and integrity of long-standing programs and accept the need to improve consistency and rigor. This document represents the views of the workshop participants and other contributors (Appendix 4) and follows the general structure of the USFWS National Wildlife Refuge System’s Standard Operating Procedures of the Survey Protocol Handbook (USFWS 2013).</p> <p>The overall goal of these standards is to use shorebird data to inform conservation and management decisions. The standards address monitoring of all migrant and resident shorebirds occurring in the Western Hemisphere during their non-breeding period. Our</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>general objectives follow those previously described by PRISM as 1) estimation of abundance and distribution and changes in abundance and distribution (trends); 2) determine habitat relationships and any changes in the relationships; and 3) determine key drivers of patterns and changes in abundance, distribution, and habitat relationships. To produce data that allows for rigorous analyses of shorebird patterns and trends at large spatial scales, implementation of consistent and standardized methods at the field level is critical. The standards that follow focus on survey elements of sampling design, field methods and program administration. We see this as a living document and plan to develop supplements that provide more discussion of analytical approaches and data management, for example. These supplements may also include specific actions needed to improve aspects of the current programs.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Endorsement and agreement to distribute and implement.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Brad Andres</p>
<p>15:45-16:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 18:</u> Enhancing coordination of Avian Conservation Assessments</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservancy of the Rockies), Eric Kershner (USFWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Avian Conservation Assessment database (ACAD) forms the basis for many conservation reporting and planning decisions on birds in North America. However, there are also several other conservation assessment processes for birds, including the IUCN Red List, NatureServe, and the Status of Birds in Canada as well as evaluations under the U.S. Endangered Species Act or the Committee on Status of Wildlife in Canada. Owing to differences in criteria among processes, individual species may potentially receive different assessments and categorizations in each, which can cause confusion and could undermine credibility if the differences are not well understood. We would like to discuss a cooperative process to review and understand these differences and perhaps work towards reconciling them. Such a review would aim to understand how often status assessments differ for the same species and why, and then consider whether there are any options for improving consistency.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The trilateral has previously endorsed the ACAD as an important planning tool, and specifically sought to increase support for it.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: A cooperative review of the tools being used across the three nations and agree on the scope of work to be done to coordinate the use of these tools.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Charles M. Francis (ECCC / CWS)</p>
<p>16:00-16:15</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 19:</u> FWS Migratory Bird Data Asset Catalog</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Emily Silverman; Kathy Fleming; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

	<p>DESCRIPTION: Tri-national coordination on monitoring, data management, and data access is essential to informed, scientifically-based conservation of migratory birds. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program is working to improve discovery of, and access to, our data resources through the development of a data asset catalog. We describe the catalog effort and summarize the data assets that the USFWS Migratory Bird Program has identified as our responsibility to maintain.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The migratory bird management community engages in a wide variety of highly collaborative, long-term, and large-scale monitoring efforts. These efforts often involve a variety of partners; and they evolve through time, with changing names, protocols, and purposes. As a result, it can be difficult to find data, data descriptions, or even an appropriate contact. A catalog-system with standard searchable metadata and persistent identifiers would improve data discoverability, and consequentially, data standardization, integration, and use. The U.S. FWS data management community is currently working to develop standard metadata, documentation, and procedures for data resources; an important first step is cataloging and describing our data assets. Involving the broader migratory bird community in this effort is necessary to ensure it is successful and broader adoption of this approach will benefit bird conservation and management.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform attendees about the catalog and obtain feedback. Initiate a discussion about extending the catalog effort to other organizations maintaining significant migratory bird data assets.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Emily Silverman</p>
16:15-16:45	<p>AGENDA ITEM 20: Next steps for Avian Knowledge Network</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Eric Kershner (USFWS), John Alexander (Klamath Bird Observatory), Michael Fitzgibbons (Point Blue Conservation), Denis LePage (Bird Studies Canada), Charles M. Francis (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Trilateral is exploring opportunities for supporting bird conservation across U.S., Canada and Mexico borders by leveraging tools that facilitate data sharing and enable coordinated use of data across international boundaries.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) is a rapidly developing hub for avian data and technologies to augment the utility of this data with a growing network of supporters and contributors within the bird conservation community. This agenda item explores the current and growing capacities of the AKN to support and facilitate tri-national objectives toward improved hemispheric bird conservation efforts supported by data-driven and partnership-based tools and technologies.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss next steps for determining the value and use of the AKN for tri-national conservation actions.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Eric Kershner (USFWS) and Charles Francis (CWS)</p>

XXIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem
Conservation and Management
Shepherdstown, WV
April 9-13, 2018

WEDNESDAY, April 11, 2018

08:30-12:00	Field Trip
12:00-13:15	Lunch
13:15-17:30	Plenary Session

THURSDAY, April 12, 2017

9:00-10:00	<u>AGENDA ITEM 21:</u> Reserved for MBWT discussion, agenda follow-up, and prep for meeting with EWT
10:00-10:15	<i>Break</i>
10:15-10:45	<u>AGENDA ITEM 22:</u> Working Table Co-Chairs & Executive Table Co-Chairs Joint Session on Incidental Take
10:45-11:15	<u>AGENDA ITEM 21 continued:</u> Reserved for MBWT discussion, agenda follow-up, and prep for meeting with EWT
11:15-12:00	<u>AGENDA ITEM 22:</u> Working Table Co-Chairs Report Out to Executive Table Co-Chairs
12:00-13:15	<i>Lunch</i>
13:15-14:15	<u>AGENDA ITEM 21 continued:</u> Reserved for MBWT discussion and agenda follow-up
14:15-14:30	<i>Break</i>
14:30-16:30	<u>AGENDA ITEM 23:</u> Prepare 1-page highlights document and start preparing Action Item Reports