XXIV Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S.
Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
Victoria, Canada
April 8-12, 2019

All Times Subject To Change
Working Table: Migratory Birds

Co-Chairs:

- **Ryan Zimmerling**, Migratory Birds and Wildlife Health, 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

Webex Connection Information:

Remote connection to the migratory birds table will be available by Webex using telephone for audio. To connect to the audio, please use the information below (please note we are limited to 20 lines).

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Trilateral Committee Priorities for 2019

- Integrating Human Dimensions
- Technology Innovation for Conservation
- Connectivity (terrestrial)
- Adaptation to Ecosystem Change

Migratory Birds Table Priorities:

- Implementing bird conservation for the Americas
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity
  - Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation
- Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats
- Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing

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MONDAY, April 8, 2019

09:00-12:30	Plenary Session – Human Dimensions and Community Engagement
12:30-14:00	*Lunch*
14:00-17:00	Field Trip – Victoria Harbour Migratory Bird Sanctuary and NatureHood Program
17:00-18:00	Dinner on Own
18:00-20:00	Opening Reception

TUESDAY, April 9, 2019

9:00-9:15	**AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS) **DESCRIPTION:** Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda. **BACKGROUND:** Standard item to build consensus and ensure full participation. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: ▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda. ▪ Adoption of the agenda
9:15–9:45	**AGENDA ITEM 2: 2018-19 Action Item Report (AIR)** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS) **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. **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 meeting. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.
9:45–10:45	**AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)

	DESCRIPTION: Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the MBT. **BACKGROUND:** Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: Information only
10:45-11:00	*Break*
11:00-11:20	***Tri-National Priorities*** **AGENDA ITEM 4: Trilateral Nation Collaboration with the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) Migratory Birds Task Force (MBTF)** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Greg Butcher (US Forest Service), Guy Foulks, USFWS guy_foulks@fws.gov; Natalie Savoie, Canadian Wildlife Service natalie.savoie@canada.ca **DESCRIPTION:** America's Flyways Task Force (AFTF) as a mechanism for engagement with CMS **BACKGROUND:** AFTF had its first meeting in Brazil in July of 2018, with representation from Canada and the USA. A newly revised work plan was released in early March of 2019. The group expects to meet again in September of 2019 in Panama to come up with recommendations to the Conference of Parties of the Convention on Migratory Species. The Trilateral recently endorsed a Hemispheric Vision for the Next 100 Years of Bird Conservation. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Migratory Bird Working Table should consider recommending to the Executive Table that the 3 countries engage with AFTF as one way to pursue its Hemispheric Vision to migratory bird conservation. The MBWT should agree to support a few of the AFTF action items and then determine an approach to their implementation. Action items that have overlap with already existing projects initiatives (e.g., NABCI, Southern Wings) would likely be prioritized. **SUBMITTED BY:** Greg Butcher, U.S. Forest Service, gsbutcher@fs.fed.us
11:20-11:40	**AGENDA ITEM 5: Update on Southern Wings** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** State Fish and Wildlife Agencies **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. **BACKGROUND:** This is 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 $2.8 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. These efforts connect well with many of the Table's priorities such as mainstreaming grassland bird conservation, implementing migratory bird conservation in North America, and coordination in reducing threats. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about the projects occurring in Mexico, consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species, and discuss potential additional collaboration opportunities. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Deborah Hahn** **SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Hahn, AFWA**
11:40-12:00	**AGENDA ITEM 6: U.S. Bird Conservation Priorities** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS**: Judith Scarl (jscarl@fishwildlife.org), NABCI/AFWA; Greg Butcher (gsbutcher@fs.fed.us), USFS; Tammy VerCauteren (tammy.vercauteren@birdconservancy.org), Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; US NABCI Committee **DESCRIPTION:** NABCI helps to identify and promote common priorities across the bird conservation community. In 2018, NABCI identified a short list of broadly supported bird conservation priorities, organized into five themes: Land and Water Conservation, Research and Evaluation, Engagement and Partnerships, Addressing Threats, and Policy and Funding. The **National Bird Conservation Priorities** document features a "Top 10" list of Priority Actions that the majority of NABCI partners agree urgently need to happen, on which we can make progress over the next 3-5 years. This short list of priorities provides a unified voice for bird conservation partners to communicate to federal leadership, foundations, and other funders, and enables partners to demonstrate how local, state, and regional actions tie into a national bird conservation need. The Priorities also provide a common framework to discuss bird conservation actions and needs. **BACKGROUND:** The US Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative represents broad interests across the bird conservation community and facilitates coordinated communication about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation. With such a broad and diverse bird conservation community, identifying common priorities across organizations and partnerships can be challenging. NABCI extracted priorities from existing national and international conservation documents and grouped these priorities into unifying themes and strategies. We asked Committee members to vote on which actions they felt most urgently needed to happen; this allowed us to identify a unified list that represents areas of consensus across all bird conservation groups. Such a list ensures that consistent, crosscutting needs are communicated, and provides emphasis to priorities that the broader community support. A short, concise list helps leadership hear the voices that are "singing the same song."

	REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Use Priorities document to identify areas of common priorities between U.S., Canada, and Mexico **SUBMITTED BY:** Judith Scarl (NABCI/AFWA)
12:00-13:00	*Lunch*
13:00-14:30	**AGENDA ITEM 7: Tri-national Priorities: Finding Common Ground** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS) **DESCRIPTION:** Discuss common priorities and how commonalities accomplish the Tri-national vision. **BACKGROUND:** The Migratory Bird Table agreed to identify specific actions for partners to move the Tri-national vision forward. During previous Trilateral meetings, the three nations were tasked with identifying short- and medium-term action plans. 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. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Discuss the commonalities between tri-national priorities and identify what actions need to take place to implement the tri-lateral Vision. **SUBMITTED BY:** Co-Chairs
14:30-15:00	**AGENDA ITEM 8: Implementing Flyway-scale Shorebird Conservation in the Americas** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Brad Andres, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Cynthia Pekarik, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada; numerous NGO, federal and state partners in the flyways. **DESCRIPTION:** Update on implementation of flyway-scale activities for shorebird conservation delivered through the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI) and the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy (PASCS), the proposed development of a Midcontinent Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, and the Americas Flyway Task Force. **BACKGROUND:** The Atlantic and Pacific shorebird conservation strategies were developed to address full annual-cycle conservation for this highly migratory group of birds. A complementary effort is being considered for the midcontinent of North and South America. Implementation of actions identified in the Atlantic and Pacific strategies have been supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (through USAID and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act), USDA Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, David and Lucile

	Packard Foundation and numerous other NGO, state and international partners. Below are a few accomplishments relevant, or applicable, to Trilateral partners. The Atlantic and Pacific strategies are available at: https://www.shorebirdplan.org/international-shorebird-conservation/. These flyway-scale efforts address the following priorities established by the Executive Table: integrating human dimensions, and connectivity, under the themes of: implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas and improved coordination of monitoring and information sharing. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** • Atlantic and Pacific: Continue financial support to match NGO contributions and technical assistance for implementation of strategies and actions, including the Harvest Working Group workshop and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting. • Midcontinent: Funding is required to: 1) hire a coordinator/writer to organize partners and oversee strategy development, and 2) support one to two facilitated workshops with participants from Canada, the U.S. and Mexico to define the scope, objectives and actions. • Monitoring Standards: Please share these standards with your shorebird networks, available at https://www.shorebirdplan.org/science/program-for-regional-and-international-shorebird-monitoring/, and support implementation. **SUBMITTED BY:** Brad Andres, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
15:00-15:15	*Break*
15:15-15:45	***Addressing Anthropogenic Mortality*** **AGENDA ITEM 9: Promoting Best Management Practices and Supporting State Legislation for Regulating Incidental Take** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Judith Scarl, AFWA/NABCI, jscarl@fishwildlife.org; Eric Kershner, USFWS, eric_kershner@fws.gov **DESCRIPTION:** The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA)'s Bird Conservation Committee (BCC) is working to support states that wish to more effectively manage or regulate incidental take of migratory birds. In partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the BCC's Incidental Take Working Group is compiling existing Best Management Practices (BMPs) for incidental take, evaluating additional needs for development or improvement of new BMPs, and developing a strategy for effective communication of BMPs. This working group is also developing and compiling model language to support states that wish to clarify or strengthen their authority to regulate incidental take of migratory birds, to fill some of the gaps left by the December 2017 reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. **BACKGROUND:** In light of the U.S. Department of the Interior Solicitor's M-opinion that indicates that the jurisdiction granted by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

	does not extend to incidental take of migratory birds, the Bird Conservation Committee of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies is working to support other ways that states can proactively work to reduce the impacts of incidental take. In September 2018, the BCC formed a Working Group with two tasks: 1) develop model language or guiding principles for model legislation for states wishing to develop statutes or rules addressing incidental take, and 2) collaborate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop and communicate about Best Management Practices (BMPs) for avoiding or minimizing incidental take of migratory birds. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Commitments to explore possibilities for trinational BMP repositories; input on available and effective BMPs from Canada and Mexico that may be applicable in the US **SUBMITTED BY:** Judith Scarl (NABCI/AFWA)
15:45-16:15	**AGENDA ITEM 10: Reducing Bird Mortality at Communications Towers thru Mainstreaming** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Joelle Gehring (USFCC), JoAnna Lutmerding (USFWS), Eric Kershner (USFWS), Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Vicente Rodriguez (CONABIO) **DESCRIPTION:** To address the number of communications towers that are a threat to bird collisions, an innovative approach to mainstream bird conservation by focusing on energy and cost savings for tower owners is warranted. Data show that towers lit with only flashing lights at night are involved in 70% fewer bird collisions than towers lit with non-flashing lights. Using only flashing tower lights simultaneously reduces tower construction, operation, and maintenance costs by an estimated $3,700-8,600 per year per tower. The goal of this action is to enhance a tri-national working group to develop strategies for mainstreaming changes to communication towers that can reduce bird collisions across the hemisphere. This working group has been working to develop materials to make available to all interested countries. **BACKGROUND:** The tri-national working group was established in 2018. It has been evaluating the status of communication tower lighting in each country, the available databases for outreach purposes, and the most efficient methods for outreach. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Discuss how to fully engage three nations, including actions that increase the number of towers that reduce collision risks across the tri-nations. **SUBMITTED BY:** Joelle Gehring, Eric Kershner, Jo Anna Lutmerding
16:15-16:30	**AGENDA ITEM 11: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico** **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), Jennie Duberstein (FWS)

	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 colloborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. We will update the Migratory Bird Working Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, workshops, exchanges, and efforts to promote the LOI. We will highlight in particular the 2019 Trilateral Committee priortities as it relates to conservation efforts on island ecosystems within the three countries. **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. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Annie Little (USFWS) and representatives from Canada and Mexico (TBD) **SUBMITTED BY:** Annie Little, USFWS
16:30-16:45	**AGENDA ITEM 12: Implementation of the Red-crowned Parrot (*Amazona viridiginalis*) Conservation Action Plan in Tamaulipas, Mexico** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Aimee Roberson and Jesús Franco (Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy), Alfonso Banda Valdez (Terra Asesoría Ambiental), Cliff Shackelford (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department), Gretchen Nareff (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). **DESCRIPTION:** The Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy, Terra Asesoría Ambiental, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have partnered to implement a monitoring plan and develop a conservation action plan for the Red-crowned Parrot in the core of its remaining habitat in the Tamaulipan Brushlands Bird Conservation Region in central Tamaulipas, Mexico. The objectives of the monitoring plan include identification of the species' population size and status, local movements, and general distribution, as well as habitat condition, use, and threats. The baseline biological and technical information generated to date is being used as the foundation for the development of the species' conservation action plan for the project area. Priority nesting, feeding and roosting sites and threats to them have been identified and the development of the conservation action plan for

	the species is currently underway. Active support from interested stakeholders is now needed for the implementation of the plan's recommended conservation actions. Critical threats to the species that need to be addressed include loss of habitat due to agricultural expansion and charcoal production, as well as poaching and the collateral damage of destruction of nesting cavities for the illegal pet trade. Effective implementation of priority next steps to reduce threats will require the integration of a strong human dimensions component and increased coordination and sharing of information. **BACKGROUND:** In December 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the Red-crowned Parrot as a candidate species for threatened or endangered status due to its serious habitat and population declines in its limited range in northeastern Mexico. The Red-crowned Parrot and other *Psitacids* thrive in gallery forest, deciduous woodlands, pine-oak forest, Tamaulipan thorn scrub, and riparian areas along rivers in southern and central Tamaulipas. The southern portion of the Tamaulipan Brushlands reaches down to central Tamaulipas to areas where critically imperiled Red-crowned Parrot habitat can still be found in the lower portions of the Sierra Madre Oriental. With more than 50% of its native habitat gone, the parrots are now only found in fragmented areas where they feed, roost, and breed. Prior to our monitoring efforts, no comprehensive Red-crowned Parrot studies about their population status, annual local movements, breeding, roosting, and feeding areas existed in the region. Also, prior to implementation of this project, no outreach, educational or comprehensive conservation plans existed. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** • Update MBWT on status and development of the Red-crowned parrot Conservation Action Plan in Tamaulipas. • Endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts for Red-crowned parrot. • Discuss opportunities and next steps for binational collaboration. • Discuss potential sources of financial and institutional support for the implementation of the plan's recommended conservation actions, which may prevent the need for listing as threatened or endangered (as determined by the USFWS). **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Jesús Franco (in person). **SUBMITTED BY:** Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy
16:45-17:00	**<u>AGENDA ITEM 13:</u> Conservation of Reddish Egret (*Egretta rufescens*) in the U.S. and Mexico** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Aimee Roberson and Jesús Franco (Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy), Kelli Stone and Dean Demarest (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), Clay Green (Texas State University), Mauricio de la Maza and Alfredo Alvarez (Pronatura Noreste), Bill Vermillion (Gulf Coast Joint Venture), Andrew Cox (Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission).

	DESCRIPTION: The Rio Grande Joint Venture is a member of the Reddish Egret International Working Group, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and actively collaborates with U.S., Mexican, and international partners to develop conservation actions for the Reddish Egret throughout its range. The working group has been assisting with the development and refinement of the Reddish Egret Conservation Business Plan for Mexico. The business plan is being led by Pronatura Noreste with funding provided under the USFWS Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. As envisioned, the business plan will articulate a portfolio of strategies and actions to advance Reddish Egret conservation in Mexico, and serve in mobilizing and leveraging resources to support these. A U.S. Business Plan, modeled after the Mexican plan, is soon to be developed and will benefit from coordination provided through the Reddish Egret International Working Group. Concomitantly, the working group is leading an update to the 2014 rangewide Reddish Egret Conservation Action Plan. The revised action plan will include new biological, demographic, genetic, migratory connectivity and other pertinent planning information that has become available since the original publication. Whereas the Conservation Action Plan will establish the context, objectives and expectations related to conserving sustainable populations of Reddish Egrets rangewide, the two business plans will communicate "what it will take" to accomplish key supporting actions in Mexico and the U.S. Multiple factors such as sea level rise, human disturbance and encroachment, and anthropogenic habitat alteration being principal threats. Some of the main direct threats to Reddish Egret populations and habitats include: habitat shifting and alteration from sea-level rise and subsidence, increased frequency and intensity of storms and flooding, human disturbance due to recreational and commercial activities, local ranching and other land use activities, elevated predation from predators associated with human activities, pollution and invasive species. Active support from interested stakeholders is needed for the implementation of both the Mexico and U.S. conservation business plans, which will require the integration of a strong human dimensions, and increased coordination and information sharing. **BACKGROUND:** The Reddish Egret is federally listed recognized as a species of special concern in Mexico and as a Bird of Conservation Concern in the U.S. Likewise, it was identified as a regional priority species in need of Critical Recovery or Immediate Management in the 2006 Southeast U.S. Waterbird Conservation Plan, and is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Reddish Egret is the rarest and least known of the egrets and herons of North America. The majority of the population is distributed within a narrow latitudinal belt extending east from the Baja California peninsula and the Gulf of California, to the Yucatan Peninsula and northern coast of Gulf of Mexico, to peninsular Florida and islands in the Caribbean basin. The global population of Reddish Egrets is estimated to be 7,000 – 9,000 individuals, with 3,500 to 4,250 breeding pairs. Specific threats include habitat shifting and alteration from sea-level rise and subsidence, recreational and commercial activities, ranching and other land use activities, predation associated with human activities, pollution and invasive species. The Reddish Egret is an international resource, with Mexico and the U.S. appearing to support about equally the bulk of the global breeding population, complemented by a number of Central American and Caribbean nations. There is broad agreement that the Reddish Egret is in need of our conservation efforts.

	REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: • Improve Migratory Bird Working Table (MBWT) awareness and recognition regarding ongoing strategic collaboration among technical professionals in the U.S. and Mexico to plan for and promote Reddish Egret conservation at ecologically meaningful scales. • Seek executive support and endorsement through the MBWT and Trilateral Committee in furthering the relevancy and capacity of the Reddish Egret International Working Group and what this might entail. • Seek guidance from the MBWT regarding priorities or initiatives with potential linkages to Reddish Egret conservation, and where there may be opportunities for synergy or enhanced capacity in working toward common goals. • Discuss viable opportunities to enhance fiscal and institutional support for the implementation of the business plans and continued international coordination on Reddish Egret conservation. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Jesús Franco (in person) **SUBMITTED BY:** Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy.
	Dinner on your Own

WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2019

09:00-12:00	Commission for Environmental Cooperation Joint Session
12:00-13:00	*Lunch*
13:00-13:30	*Joint Session with Ecosystem Table* ***Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation*** **<u>AGENDA ITEM 14</u>: Next Steps for Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Charles M Francis (CWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies) **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. A workshop is being planned for later in 2019. **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 being planned for 2019 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. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: Discuss last minute issues related to the 2019 workshop (topics to be covered) and ensure all appropriate participants (from all three nations) are identified. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S):** Humberto Berlanga **SUBMITTED BY:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling and Charles M Francis (CWS), Arvind Panjabi (Bird Conservation of the Rockies)
13:30-13:45	**AGENDA ITEM 15**: **America's Grassland Conference** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Greg Butcher (USFS) and Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies **DESCRIPTION:** Item is to coordinate trilateral participation in the 2019 America's Grasslands Conference **BACKGROUND:** Every other year, the National Wildlife Federation puts on America's Grasslands Conference. The 2019 America's Grasslands Conference: Working Across Boundaries co-hosted by The National Wildlife Federation, North Dakota Grazing Lands Coalition, and North Dakota State University will be held August 20-22, 2019 in Bismarck, North Dakota. The conference serves to connect producers, researchers, educators, and other stakeholders through three days of talks, discussion sessions, field trips and more. U.S. Forest Service expects to help pay for travel for 5 participants from Chihuahua, Mexico, and two from the Southern Cone of South America. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The Bird Table should consider endorsing this conference and encouraging all interested in the conservation of grassland birds in the 3 countries to attend. It may not be too late to reach out to the organizers to add specific events to the agenda. **SUBMITTED BY:** Greg Butcher, U.S. Forest Service gsbutcher@fs.fed.us
13:45-14:00	**AGENDA ITEM 16**: North American Grasslands Alliance (NAGA) and Trilateral Grasslands Strategic Conservation **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Lucie Robidoux, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC); Sarah Heiberg, CEC; Michael Gale, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

	DESCRIPTION: The idea of a North American Grasslands Alliance (NAGA) is a continental partnership to advance grassland conservation and sustainable use through collaborative action. NAGA would be an alliance of government agencies, landowners and conservation groups, non-government organizations, and other interest groups working together to protect and sustainably use native grasslands. The goal of NAGA would be to lay a path forward for a continentally integrated planning and management approach to achieve lasting sustainability of the uniquely shared terrestrial ecosystem of grasslands. The presentation will overview the NAGA model and facilitate a discussion regarding trilateral coordination on grasslands conservation in consideration of this approach. **BACKGROUND:** In 2013, the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) published *North American Grasslands Alliance: A Framework for Change*, as part of a project beginning in 2011 entitled *North American Grasslands: Management Initiatives and Partnerships to Enhance Ecosystem and Community Resilience*. The framework for NAGA was developed through a participatory process coordinated by the CEC (including 72 participants from three countries). In addition to the NAGA Framework, the project also produced an online tool to host and disseminate almost 100 beneficial management practices (BMPs) from ranchers, conservation organizations, government, and academic bodies in Canada, Mexico, and the U.S. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES**: Inform a conversation about trilateral grasslands conservation efforts and whether the Trilateral Committee could serve as a platform for establishing the NAGA as outlined in the framework published by CEC. **SUBMITTED BY**: Michael Gale, Special Assistant, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
14:00-14:15	*Break*
14:15-14:45	**<u>AGENDA ITEM 17:</u> Eight Migratory Bird Joint Ventures Assessing and Planning for Connectivity of Native Grassland Ecosystems for Birds and Other Wildlife Across the Central Grasslands of North America** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Kevin Barnes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (kevin_barnes@fws.gov) Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (andy_bishop@fws.gov) Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (mike.carter@pljv.org) Dan Casey, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (dcasey@duscks.org) Jim Devries, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (j_devries@ducks.ca) Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture (jennie_duberstein@fws.gov) Sean Fields, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (sean_fields@fws.gov) Jim Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (jgiocomo@abcbirds.org) Ken Kriese, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (ken_kreise@fws.gov) Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture (aroberson@abcbirds.org) **DESCRIPTION:** In an effort to stabilize population declines of grassland-dependent birds, eight Migratory Bird Joint Ventures whose geographies contain temperate grasslands from Canada to Mexico have come together, in partnership with ConocoPhillips, to collaborate on conservation opportunities. These eight Joint Ventures – Prairie Habitat, Prairie Pothole, Northern Great Plains, Rainwater Basin,

	Playa Lakes, Oaks and Prairies, Rio Grande, and Sonoran – are collaborative, geographically focused, public-private partnerships that conserve habitat for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people. We have taken initial steps to expand the Strategic Habitat Conservation model across the eight Joint Ventures, with support provided by ConocoPhillips, Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Farm Service Agency, and other partners. Our eight Migratory Bird Joint Ventures are currently discussing the possibility of developing a comprehensive strategy for conservation of North America's central grasslands, which would include several tangible products. The first product, already underway, will be a geospatial landcover data layer that shows vegetation communities from Canada to Mexico and will include developed lands, undisturbed grasslands, planted grasslands, trees, shrublands, and wetlands. The Prairie Pothole Joint Venture has led efforts in collaboration with ConocoPhillips, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the seven other Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to assess the state of undisturbed native grasslands across the Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert regions of North American (central grasslands). To date, we have compiled the necessary datasets and have completed the first phase of analysis which entails a deductive process to remove all likely tilled land, areas of development, large water bodies, and forested regions across the study area; the remaining regions are potentially undisturbed lands. We estimate that approximately 49.25% of the study region is potentially undisturbed. Estimates vary spatially across the central grasslands, and generally are greater in the southern Joint Ventures. We have initiated the second remote sensing phase to assess the remaining potentially undisturbed land across the study area using 10 m resolution imagery. This will enhance the thematic resolution of the layer, as we attempt to classify native and non-native grasslands, as well as other pertinent major cover classes, such as shrubland. The Joint Ventures are considering how to integrate our collective habitat goals and will likely identify a subset of priority grassland bird species to guide conservation delivery across using Geospatial Species Distribution Models for different species in different grassland communities. Additional information that will go into the assessment includes a grassland conversion assessment and a conservation estate layer showing where conservation programs have been implemented. We are discussing the development of a threats assessment to identify vulnerable grasslands, as well as a projection of grassland loss. Together, these products will help prioritize vulnerable grasslands important to priority species. Finally, we hope to work together on a report that outlines potential programmatic options and costs associated with implementing this work at the levels necessary to sustain populations of priority grassland birds. **BACKGROUND:** The work of the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures is guided by national and international bird conservation plans, including the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan, United States Shorebird Plan, and North American Waterbird Conservation Plan. We use the Strategic Habitat Conservation model to undertake conservation of priority birds and habitats, from planning and modeling to implementing on-the-ground conservation. The North American central grasslands, from Canada to Mexico, are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world. The soils and climate make this region one of the

	most productive agricultural regions in the world, and as a result, extensive areas of native grasslands across central North America have been lost due to agricultural land conversion and unsustainable grazing practices. This began in the 1800s and continues to escalate with the demand to feed a growing world population, advances in genetically modified crops, biofuel technology, and expanded distribution of electricity to rural areas that enable increased groundwater pumping for irrigation of crops in arid regions. For example, in the northern Great Plains where the most intact grasslands remain, agricultural conversion is happening five times faster than grasslands can be protected. The rate of agricultural conversion in northern Mexico is also alarming. As a result of this land use change, populations of birds that depend on grasslands have declined significantly. If things continue at the current rate, some species may become extinct in the next 50 years. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** ● Discuss important issues, information, resources, and partners to consider in this effort. ● Discuss potential sources of financial and institutional support for the development and implementation of a central grasslands conservation strategy. ● Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the central grasslands of North America. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTER(S):**Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy (in person), Sean Fields, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (remotely), Kevin Barnes, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (remotely) **SUBMITTED BY:** Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture, American Bird Conservancy
14:45-15:00	**<u>AGENDA ITEM 18</u>: Trinational Actions to Support Monarch Butterfly Conservation – An Overview** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Ryan Drum, United States Fish and Wildlife Service; Ignacio J. March Mifsut, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales, Greg Mitchell, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)/ and Georgina O'Farrill and Lucie Robidoux, Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC). **DESCRIPTION:** The Trinational Monarch Conservation Science Partnership (TMCSP) will speak to some of the new trinational research priorities identified at two recent Trinational Monarch and Pollinator Science Meetings held in Montreal and Mexico City, discuss domestic research priorities and progress for the conservation of monarch butterflies, and highlight key research results from a recent CEC grant directed at filling science gaps with respect to monarchs and pollinators. **BACKGROUND:** In 2007, the CEC Council instructed the Secretariat to support a multi-stakeholder collaborative effort to develop a North American Monarch Conservation Plan (NAMCP). The action plan was published in 2008 and includes among other elements, a list of key trinational collaborative conservation objectives

	and actions. Since then, trilateral collaboration for monarch conservation has expanded to include High-Level Working Groups in each country, a shared short-term biological target for the eastern population, and a robust TMCSP. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** • Exchange of information and fuller understanding of challenges and opportunities in each country • Discuss the use of trilateral science coordination for conservation of the Monarch butterfly as another model for thinking about grasslands conservation and science coordination in North America. **SUBMITTED BY:** Georgina O'Farrill & Lucie Robidoux (CEC), Michael Gale and Ryan Drum (USFWS), Ignacio March (Conanp), Greg Mitchell and Keith Hobson (ECCC)
15:00-15:30	**AGENDA ITEM 19: Towards a full annual cycle, coordinated strategy for Tri-national grassland bird conservation** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Tammy VerCauteren, Maureen (Mo) Correll, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Jim Giocomo, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (OPJV); Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture; Scott Somershoe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA). **DESCRIPTION:** Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR), along with partners, will host a multi-stakeholder workshop in 2020 to examine existing priorities, programs and capacities, identify gaps and needs, and create a shared roadmap for coordinated conservation across the central North American grasslands involving all major stakeholders including NGOs, landowners, industry, foundations, academia and government agencies. Prior to the workshop and with support from AFWA, OPJV will conduct a survey and gap analysis of existing conservation programs by states and other actors in the region. At the workshop, we will discuss the results of the OPJV survey and the first-ever Integrated Population Model (IPM) for a grassland songbird, the Baird's Sparrow (*Centronyx bairdii*). The IPM will use 9 years of demographic and abundance data collected on the breeding and wintering grounds in Mexico, Canada and the U.S., as well as broad partner input, to help identify limiting factors and simulate the effects of various investment scenarios on population growth. By engaging and leveraging resources across all stakeholders, we will create a shared roadmap for coordinated grassland bird conservation by aligning efforts to better address limiting factors across the full life cycle through a science-based, coordinated approach. **BACKGROUND:** Grassland bird populations have been declining for decades. Despite recent conservation attention, many species continue to decline, especially those that migrate between the western Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert. As with many migratory birds, specific drivers of population declines for most individual grassland species are poorly understood due to incomplete knowledge of their lifecycle and potential limiting factors they may encounter throughout the year. Therefore, conservation strategies and programs have generally not addressed known limiting factors and instead have focused on locally relevant habitat conservation and

	management, primarily on the breeding grounds. However, recent advances in non-breeding ecology, including wintering distribution, abundance and habitat requirements, land cover trends and migratory patterns, coupled with seasonal demographic rates from across the annual cycle, now permit a more holistic view of grassland bird conservation needs. This information is being synthesized in a full annual cycle Integrated Population Model for the Baird's Sparrow, a species typical of the Great Plains-Chihuahuan Desert grassland bird guild. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Endorsement of the 'grassland roadmap summit'. **SUBMITTED BY:** Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
15:30-15:45	*Break*
15:45-16:00	***Coordinated Bird Monitoring and Information Sharing*** **AGENDA ITEM 20: Improved Coordination of Data Management and Monitoring** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Mark Koneff/Kathy Fleming (USFWS); Charles Francis (CWS) **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. **BACKGROUND:** Last year, we presented a proposal to conduct a comprehensive review of the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS), which had been jointly developed by FWS and CWS technical staff. The Trilateral presentation was followed by additional meetings in which we outlined the scope of the review and the necessary technical work. FWS funding to advance the analytical component of the review in 2019 was also secured. We will provide an update of the current status and timeline of the review. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Update all parties on the status of the review and remaining challenges for proceeding. **SUBMITTED BY:** Mark Koneff/Kathy Fleming (USFWS)

16:00-16:30	**AGENDA ITEM 21: Integration of remote sensing technology for migratory bird monitoring** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Mark Koneff/Kathy Fleming (USFWS), Charles Francis (CWS) **DESCRIPTION:** Integration of remote sensing technology for migratory bird monitoring **BACKGROUND:** The Division of Migratory Bird Management along with the Service's National Aviation Management Branch is integrating remote sensing technology to improve the safety, data quality, and cost-effectiveness of migratory bird monitoring programs. The Service is actively investing in airborne sensors, fleet aircraft modifications, personnel training, and data processing automation research (i.e., artificial intelligence). The broad-scale nature of Division monitoring programs necessitates a highly automated process of image analysis (i.e, detection, classification, and counting of birds from imagery) and the Division is partnering with other agencies, private industry, and academia to foster research on deep learning and other artificial intelligence approaches. Partnerships with other agencies have been critical to overcoming staffing and expertise gaps within the Division. Collaborative efforts with FWS Information Resources and Technology Management have broadened accessibility to critical remote sensing and photogrammetric software at minimal cost. Remote sensing is being applied to monitoring challenges now where feasible and cost-efficient. In other instances, research is being supported to overcome barriers and promote broader integration. The CWS also maintains a strong interest in remote sensing integration to improve monitoring and has invested in novel methods for identifying and counting birds from imagery. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Update all parties on the remote sensing integration strategies being implemented as well as key challenges and vulnerabilities. **SUBMITTED BY:** Mark Koneff/Kathy Fleming (USFWS)
16:30-17:00	**AGENDA ITEM 22: Coordinating use of coded auxiliary markers on migratory birds in North America** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Lesley Howes (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Maria Palma Irizarry (SEMARNAT), Antonio Celis Murillo (USGS), Bruce Peterjohn (USGS) **DESCRIPTION:** The use of coded plastic leg bands, leg flags, and other auxiliary markers requires communication among North American bird banding programs. We propose creation of an auxiliary marker working group with representatives from the Canadian Bird Banding Office, US Bird Banding Laboratory, the Mexican government, and Mexican bird banding community. This working group would communicate to ensure that duplicate auxiliary markers are not assigned in North America, manage resources to facilitate the assignment of coded markers, and create online resources to obtain reports of these marked birds.

	BACKGROUND: Scientists increasingly use coded auxiliary markers to detect and identify individual birds in the field. Resighting records of these marked birds are used to track bird movements, estimate demographic parameters, and contribute to the conservation and management of migratory bird populations. While the bird banding offices in the USA and Canada closely coordinate the use of coded auxiliary markers, similar coordination does not occur with Mexico. In recent years, Mexican scientists are increasingly using these markers on migratory birds, creating the potential for conflicts with birds marked in the USA and Canada. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** In 2015, the Trilateral Committee approved a Letter of Intent providing a cooperative framework to support development of a Mexican bird banding program. Creation of this working group will assist in establishing this Mexican banding program. If approved, each country will identify members to develop the operational protocols for the working group, establish permitting processes ensuring that marker assignments do not cause conflicts in other countries, and develop online resources to expedite the reporting of marked birds to the banding offices. **SUBMITTED BY:** Bruce Peterjohn (US Geological Survey)
	Dinner on Own

THURSDAY, April 12. 2019

09:00-10:00	*Possible Joint Session with Shared Species Table* **<u>AGENDA ITEM 23:</u> Golden Eagle: U.S., Mexico and Canada Approach to Management** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Eduardo Ponce and Angélica Narváez (CONANP), Brian Millsap (USFWS) **DESCRIPTION:** The purpose of this agenda item is to review collaborative efforts among Mexico, Canada, and the US to manage tracking of Golden Eagles; update participants on all recent advances in technology, consulting, monitoring, and best tracking practices, and identify new partners and goals. **BACKGROUND:** Currently, there are a number of golden eagle individuals in Mexico with transmitters that have generated information about the dispersion and use of habitat during the pre-adult stage. Despite the fact that eagles do not migrate, data suggests that their home range fluctuate greatly, and there is a strong tendency for individuals to return within 100 km of their natal site to breed. Similar information has been collected in the United States. Collectively, the knowledge obtained about movements shows eagles use both US, Mexico, and Canada, opening an opportunity for a joint collaboration to monitor and maintain eagle populations. In this regard, the proposed agenda item intends to explore the possibility to work on a continental report for Golden Eagle distribution and population status.

	REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update participants at the Table in an effort to establish some form of collaboration that may strengthen Mexico's current Golden Eagle tracking project and identify proper contacts in the U.S. and Canada that Mexico could work with to conduct a population diagnose at a continental scale. **AGENDA ITEM PRESENTORS:** Eduardo Ponce Guevara, Office of Priority Species Conservation (CONANP) and Brian Millsap (USFWS) **SUBMITTED BY:** Eduardo Ponce, Office of Priority Species Conservation, CONANP
10:00-10:15	*Break*
10:15-10:45	**AGENDA ITEM 24: Partners in Flight Avian Conservation Assessment Database (ACAD) and Population Estimates Database (PED)** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Tom Will, Dean Demarest, Randy Dettmers, USFWS; Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Alaine Camfield, Marie-Anne Hudson, Peter Blancher (emeritus), Canadian Wildlife Service; Becky Keller, American Bird Conservancy; Humberto Berlanga, CONABIO; Luis Sandoval, University of Costa Rica; Alejandra Martinez, CATIE **DESCRIPTION:** The PIF ACAD and PED have been fully updated in 2019 to include the latest available data on population estimates, trends, and threats assessments for all birds at both continental and regional (i.e., BCR) scales for all regularly-occuring species in continental North America from Panama to Canada (1604 species). For the first time since 2004, the regional ACAD now includes all breeding bird species including landbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds and waterfowl. Also for the first time, the PED now includes measures of uncertainty for each landbird population estimate as each scale (e.g., state, BCR) available. The update was made possible due to a recent agreement to provide partial funding annually from USFWS, as well as contributions from other partners including DoD, BLM and Environment Canada. The data are available publicly at www.pif.birdconservancy.org, along with updated documentation of both the PIF assessment process and population estimation methodology. **BACKGROUND:** The PIF ACAD and PED have formed the basis for PIF's conservation plans and Watch List, as well as various lists of species of conservation concern developed by USFWS, ABC, Audubon, CWS, as well as state Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the U.S. The databases are also intended to provide guidance to more than 20 US federal agencies on protecting migratory birds, as outlined in Executive Order 13186. Recently the databases were expanded to Central America and Mexico, as well as all bird species in the U.S. and Canada. These databases are managed by Bird Conservancy of the Rockies with support from various partner agencies and in coordination with the PIF International Science Committee. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Awareness of the recent advances in the ACAD and PED, both in content and in terms of funding, and of the need for

	additional resources to continue development, modernization and readiness of the databases. **SUBMITTED BY:** Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
10:45-11:00	**AGENDA ITEM 25**: **The Borderlands Avian Data Center: Binational Collaboration for Coordinated Bird Monitoring and Data Management** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Jennie Duberstein (Sonoran Joint Venture), Geoff Geupel (Point Blue Conservation Science), Jim Giocomo (Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture), Osvel Hinojosa-Huerta (Pronatura Noroeste and Cornell Lab of Ornithology), Edwin Juarez (Arizona Game and Fish Department) **DESCRIPTION:** The Borderlands Avian Data Center (BACD) is the latest node of the Avian Knowledge Network, launched in spring 2019 and coordinated by the Sonoran Joint Venture and a variety of partners from the U.S. and Mexico. This bilingual, online collaboration space allows partners to manage, share, and visualize bird monitoring data across geographic and organizational boundaries to improve management efforts. We will present ways in which partners on both sides of the border are using this tool to improve monitoring outcomes and help guide bird and habitat conservation decisions in the southwest U.S. and northern Mexico. This includes building partnerships for binational monitoring and conservation of particular species or species groups groups (e.g., Desert Thrasher Working Group, secretive marshbirds, Black-capped Vireos, seabirds) and managing data resulting from broader-scale binational bird monitoring initiatives (e.g., Minute 323, an effort to evaluate the environmental water deliveries and restoration efforts in the Colorado River delta.) **BACKGROUND:** Since 1999, the Sonoran Joint Venture has worked to build and strengthen partnerships across borders to improve conservation and collaboration efforts in the southwest U.S. and northwest Mexico. Four years ago, our partners asked for a mechanism to collaborate and share data to improve coordination for bird monitoring. The Borderlands Avian Data Center comes as a direct result of that request. It provides a collaboration platform that improves communication and allows people to share protocols, data, results, and other key information with others working on similar issues. It also makes scientific data and analyses accessible to habitat managers, conservation practitioners, scientists, and the public. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Discussion of needs for coordinated bird monitoring across borders and the role that BADC could play in supporting them. **SUBMITTED BY:** Jennie Duberstein (SJV)
11:00-11:15	**AGENDA ITEM 26: Using the Avian Knowledge Network for Conservation Collaboration** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** John Alexander (AKN Steering Committee/KBO; Eric Kershner (AKN Steering Committee/USFWS)

	DESCRIPTION: In 2019, the Avian Knowledge Network is rolling out significant advances to the AKN platform. With support from federal and state agencies, the National Node has increased the geographic and taxonomic coverage, the ability to federate datasets, and the capacity to deliver data and decision support. **BACKGROUND:** Conservation collaboration on an international scale is enhanced if partners among the three nations can easily share and access data and resources. The AKN is quickly becoming a resource that can enhance collaboration at multiple scales. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** 1) Discuss how the three nations can better utilize the AKN for tri-national collaboration and 2) Discuss how the AKN can become the repository for hemispheric resources (e.g., survey protocols, best practices, management guidance, etc.) **SUBMITTED BY:** John Alexander (AKN/KBO) and Eric Kershner (AKN/USFWS)
11:15-11:30	**AGENDA ITEM 27: Developing Open Data platforms for wildlife data in Canada to support Cumulative Effects and Impact Assessment** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Charles M Francis (CWS, ECCC); Denis Lepage (Bird Studies Canada / AKN Canada node); Erin Bayne (University of Alberta). **DESCRIPTION:** Canadian Wildlife Service has recently received significant new resources to help make wildlife data, including bird survey data, available through open data platforms to support decision making for conservation, especially in relation to Cumulative Effects and Impact Assessment. Part of this funding is going to collaborators, including the University of Alberta/Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Initiative, Bird Studies Canada, and NatureServe Canada to develop effective platforms to make their bird and other wildlife survey data openly available. This includes both traditional survey data, such as point counts, atlas survey data, transects, species occurrence information, as well as data collected using newer technologies such as digital acoustic recording units, and possibly also image data. For the acoustic data, the intention is to develop a virtual centre of expertise where the raw acoustic files can be stored and managed, interpreted by expert birders and/or automated analysis techniques (depending on the objectives) and the results made available through open databases connected with the AKN. **BACKGROUND:** The University of Alberta in collaboration with ABMI has already developed a platform called WildTrax that allows storage of acoustic files in a cloud-based environment, and provides an online tool for viewing and interpreting the files (i.e., having experts listen to and identify the species calling). This was modelled after a similar program, called Avichorus developed by CWS. Bird Studies Canada manages many bird survey programs through their Nature Counts node of the AKN, and is already working to find ways to make these more readily openly available. NatureServe (international) is in the process of developing an updated version of NatureServe Explorer 2.0 that would provide access to geospatial data from the

	Conservation Data Centres. A meeting is planned in late April to bring together these partners to discuss ways to work most effectively together. **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** To get feedback on some of the ideas being developed in Canada, and to consider how these might be relevant in the USA and Mexico, and how they might link with other AKN activities. **SUBMITTED BY:** Charles Francis (CWS/ECCC)
11:30-12:00	**AGENDA ITEM 28: Improving Tools for Collaboration** **COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (USFWS), Ryan Zimmerling (CWS) **DESCRIPTION:** The tri-lateral committee continues to seek innovative mechanisms for tri-national sharing of data and information to improve conservation collaboration. **BACKGROUND:** There are emerging opportunities that can serve as a data, best practice, and survey protocol repository all three nations. Exploring which platform(s) may serve to meet the needs of the trilateral committee and the tri-national vision is an important step **REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** 1) Discuss how tri-national needs can be met by various outlets such as PIF, AKN, and others and 2) Discuss resources to improve these platforms (i.e., improve and maintain webpages). **SUBMITTED BY:** Co-Chairs
12:00-13:00	*Lunch*
13:00-17:00	**AGENDA ITEM 29:** Reserved for MBWT co-chairs to prepare materials for ET, Preparation of 1-page highlights document and Action Item Report