

XXVI Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S.
Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management
Virtual Meeting
May 17-20, 2021

All Times Eastern Time Zone and 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

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Virtual Meeting Connection Information:

This information will be sent to registered participants closer to the meeting date

Trilateral Committee Priorities for 2021

- 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 Conservation
 - Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation
- Coordination of efforts to reduce priority threats
- Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing

MONDAY, May 17, 2021

All Times Eastern Time Zone

1:00-1:30	Plenary Session – The Strategic Use of Ecosystem Restoration for the 21 st Century
1:30-2:00	Panel of Speakers – followed by discussion and Q&A
2:00-2:15	Break
2:15-2:30	<u>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda</u>

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	<p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (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 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
2:30-2:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 2: 2020-21 Action Item Report (AIR)</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (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 Table uses the AIR to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Working tables review the previous year’s AIR at the beginning of each annual meeting.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</p>
2:45-3:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (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 and identification of priority topics for further discussion.</p>
3:15-3:30	<i>BREAK</i>
3:30-4:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates (Con’t)</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p>

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	<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 and identification of priority topics for further discussion.</p>
4:30-4:45	<i>BREAK</i>
4:45-5:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 4 Promoting Conservation Relevance and Broad Partnerships to Encourage Action</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Judith Scarl, NABCI/AFWA; Steve Albert, The Institute for Bird Populations; Jessica Barnes, Virginia Tech; Greg Butcher, U.S. Forest Service, Andrés Anchondo, American Bird Conservancy; Amy Upgren, American Bird Conservancy</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Demonstrating the relevance of birds, bird habitat, and bird conservation to the interests of broader professional communities as well as the public will increase opportunities to expand partnerships and decrease competition between bird conservation and other human goals. NABCI’s Relevancy and Partnerships initiative creates resources that demonstrate how birds and bird conservation are linked to strong economies, positive human health outcomes, and clean water. These resources include messaging geared towards the public (“Why Care About Birds” campaign) and international governments/impact investors (International Program Fact Sheets), as well as resources for bird conservation professionals looking to build strong partnerships with organizations whose primary interest is not birds (“Field Guide to Developing Partnerships”).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Over the last 50 years, our continent has lost nearly 3 billion birds. In that same period, the U.S. population has grown by nearly 70%, which has implications for land use, human consumption, and other human behaviors and needs that directly or indirectly affect our ability to conserve birds and their habitats. Understanding human needs and values, and aligning conservation goals with these needs when possible, will help engage broader constituencies and form more impactful coalitions to accomplish goals that benefit birds and people. With the tremendous publicity caused by the “3 Billion Birds” campaign, the time is right for bird conservation professionals to promote these broader connections and link bird conservation with larger sustainability initiatives, environmental justice, and other human concerns.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Canada and Mexico will be invited to share relevancy success stories to an International Relevancy Story Map; discussion of how bird conservation has been successfully mainstreamed in Mexico and Canada and possibility of using these approaches as models in the US.</p>

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5:00-5:15	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 5: Convention of Migratory Species America’s Flyway Framework</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Rob Clay, Manomet, Greg Butcher, USFS, Guy Foulks, Brad Andres, and Scott Johnston, USFWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Provide an update on the Convention on Migratory Species America’s Flyway Framework – presenting the priorities from the AFF Action Plan that were identified by the AFF Task Force members and seek North American input and support.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) has supported flyway work globally for many years. In the last few years they have developed their first focus on the western hemisphere called the America’s Flyway Framework (AFF) which lays out a plan of action for countries in the hemisphere to work together to plan and implement migratory bird conservation. In addition, CMS has organized a Task Force, which represents countries in the hemisphere to coordinate work to implement the AFF.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: All Migratory Bird Table participants are aware and updated on the AFF. Seek continued support and participation from North American partners. Request that North American partners reach out to CMS and provide support to organize a Task Force meeting virtually in 2021. This aligns with the NABCI Hemispheric Vision with a renewed push for an effective AFF. Supports the 30/30 objective as a way to manage more habitat.</p>
5:15-5:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 6: Open Discussion on Coordination of Hemispheric Conservation Priorities</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Given the urgency and multitude of conservation needs, tri-national coordination is key to developing priorities and actionable tasks for addressing population declines.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: With documented declines across the continent, coordinated action is an important need. The three nations can share information, tools, and strategies for addressing priority conservation needs.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss high priority opportunities for coordination and collaboration.</p>

TUESDAY, May 18, 2021

1:00-1:15	<i>Grassland Bird Conservation Joint Session with other tables</i>
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	<p>AGENDA ITEM 7: Addressing Central Grasslands/Species Conservation in North America – report on CEC efforts</p> <p>COLLABORATORS: Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO) and Eduardo Ponce (CONANP), Lucy Roubidoux (CCA)</p> <p>BACKGROUND: CEC Strategic Pillars: Shared Ecosystems and Species; Resilient Economies and Communities</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Support central grasslands cross-sector, mainstreamed management, restoration and conservation in Canada, Mexico, and the United States by raising awareness on the importance of grasslands, providing knowledge for decision-making and strengthening collaboration, through the development of communications material, supporting research and facilitating both inclusive network-building and strategic planning. (information only)</p>
<p>1:15-1:30</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 8: JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (andy_bishop@fws.gov); Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (mike.carter@pljv.org); Jim Devries, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (j_devries@ducks.ca); Deanna Dixon, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (deanna.dixon@canada.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); Graeme Patterson, JV8 Conservation Director (graeme.patterson@jv8.org); Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (jeff.raasch@tpwd.texas.gov); Aimee Roberson, Rio Grande Joint Venture (aroberson@abcbirds.org); Catherine Wightman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (cwightman@ducks.org)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: As North American native grasslands are disappearing, we are losing not only birds but also pollinators, working lands, opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation, vast stores of organic carbon, and water security. These losses adversely impact wildlife and rural communities and economies across the continent.</p> <p>To address this critical issue, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures are applying what they have learned in turning things around for wetland birds to grassland birds. Migratory Bird Joint Ventures have some of the highest returns on investment in conservation. The dramatic reversal of downward population trends for waterfowl over the last 30 years is in large part due to the efforts and investment of Joint Ventures and their partners. Through the JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative, eight Joint Ventures — representing over 63 federal, state, provincial, non-profit, and industry conservation partners — are collaborating to stem grassland losses and the negative impacts to migratory birds. The Joint Ventures are working together across the</p>

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	<p>breeding, migration, and wintering habitats used by migratory grassland birds during their annual cycle in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.</p> <p>To date, the Joint Ventures have completed a North American Great Plains Grassland Assessment to understand the extent of undisturbed native grasslands across the tri-national geography. In August 2020, we hired a Conservation Director who is driving the creation of the JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Strategy (planned completion: summer 2021). This document will identify priorities for conservation investment and guide coordinated implementation of on-the-ground grassland conservation activities to address the causes of declining grassland bird populations across the eight Joint Ventures.</p> <p>The JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative builds on the power of partnerships and the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures’ 35-year record of success in conserving wetland birds. Through this new initiative, the Joint Ventures are bringing people and resources together to scale up successful models of grasslands conservation.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The North American central grasslands, from Canada to Mexico, are among the most threatened ecosystems in the world. Agricultural land conversion and unsustainable grazing practices have resulted in habitat loss and degradation and 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. To address these declines, eight Joint Ventures from Canada to Mexico formed the JV8 Central Grasslands Initiative for trinational coordinated grassland conservation. These eight Joint Ventures will work within their geographies and across boundaries to help ensure healthy grasslands for birds, other wildlife, and people who depend on them.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 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 the JV8 Central Grasslands Initiative and Strategy. ● Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the central grasslands of North America.
<p>1:30-1:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 9: Central Grasslands Roadmap</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Christian Artuso and Barry Robinson, <i>Canadian Wildlife Service</i>; Humberto Berlanga, <i>CONABIO</i>; Brian Smith and Bob Ford, <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>; Greg Butcher, <i>U.S. Forest Service</i>; Tate Lantz, <i>National Resources Conservation Service</i>; David Klute, <i>Colorado Parks and Wildlife</i>; Jeff Raasch, <i>Texas Parks and Wildlife</i>; Graeme Patterson, <i>JV8 Initiative</i>; Catherine Wightman, <i>Northern Great Plains Joint Venture</i>; Jim Giocomo, <i>Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture</i>; Seth Gallagher, <i>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</i>; Irene</p>

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Ruvalcaba, *Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon*; Alice Boyle, *Kansas State University*; Josh Demorrett and Natalie Riley, *ConocoPhillips*; Drew Kramer and Diana Leiker, *Tristate Generation and Transmission*; Alison Holloran, *Audubon Rockies*; Aviva Glaser, *National Wildlife Federation*; Libby Khumalo, Monica Terkildsen and Martha Kauffman, *World Wildlife Fund*; Bill Milton, *Winnett ACES*; and Steve Jester, *Partners for Fish and Wildlife*.

DESCRIPTION: In the summer of 2020, with the support of a planning team representing 8 sectors and 3 countries, more than 200 delegates from 150 organizations came together through a virtual “Summit” to develop a collaborative roadmap for the future of the Central Grasslands. Each sector (Federal and State/Provincial governments, Indigenous communities, NGOs, Academia, Private landowners, Industry and Philanthropic Foundations) shared their perspectives and experience in grasslands conservation while delegates contributed their ideas and expertise in three main focal areas (partnerships/engagement, policy/funding, and research/evaluation) to develop common priorities for saving our shared grassland ecosystem, wildlife and rural communities. A four-page executive summary elevating 12 priorities for grassland conservation has been developed and is available at www.grasslandsroadmap.org.

A constellation governance model is guiding the process moving forward whereby the planning team, with a professional facilitator, is leading efforts and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies is currently serving as the convening body. We are working to take the roadmap that was developed at the “100,000 foot” level to gather more input and strategies for stepping down the priorities and developing actions for more regional (JV) and local application. To achieve this, working groups are forming across the 8 sectors and three countries (including the JV8) that are identifying key actions or sprint goals we can achieve in the next 1-3 years by unifying our voices and messaging to catalyze bigger investments, actions and outcomes.

We are working to bring together multiple layers of GIS information, from birds to landscape condition and the human footprint, to better inform where we need to concentrate voluntary actions for protection, enhancement and restoration of grasslands Trinationally. We are identifying targets and measures that reflect priorities for all sectors and countries and developing a shared model for measuring progress going forward. We expect to conserve millions of acres of grasslands through the investment of billions of dollars annually over at least the next 10 years to change the trajectory of our grasslands and sustain its shared resources and services.

BACKGROUND: The Central Grasslands are a shared ecosystem between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico that has been a focus of the Trilateral Committee for more than a decade. They are also an ecosystem in crisis and we are nearing the point of losing much of the unique biodiversity associated with it. Collectively we have lost more than 70% of the migratory birds dependent on the Central Grasslands. A recent study published in *Science* found that we have lost three billion birds, or roughly 25% of all birds in the U.S. and Canada, since 1970. The same study identified that 1 of every 4

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	<p>birds lost was a grassland bird. Recovery strategies are being developed through initiatives such as the “Road to Recovery”, and four of the most vulnerable species are birds of the Central Grasslands that depend on all three countries at some point in their annual cycle.</p> <p>Despite ongoing efforts across multiple sectors and organizations to address grassland loss and degradation, migratory grassland birds and other associated species have continued to decline, indicating ongoing, disparate efforts are insufficient and not adding up. The Central Grasslands Roadmap aims to bring together grassland stakeholders from 8 different sectors and 3 countries to develop a common framework that will increase collaboration and leverage our voices and resources to reach the critical mass needed to effectively conserve the Great Plains–Chihuahuan Desert grassland ecosystem. The Roadmap provides both guidance and context for the many grassland-related initiatives underway across the three countries, and a means to connect them. The Roadmap concept was first presented to the Trilateral Committee during a joint session of the Migratory Birds and Ecosystems Working Tables in 2019.</p> <p>We are spending 2021 gathering more regional and national level input and actions for moving the Roadmap forward, defining targets and measures of success, and developing a collaborative model for managing and sustaining the effort over the next 10 years and beyond. We plan to come together as a community in late 2021 or early 2022 to finalize and endorse the roadmap.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: 1) Engagement in the Roadmap effort, including assistance and investment in achieving sprint goals, 2) commitment from the three countries to elevate grasslands as a Tri-national priority and signing of an MOU to formally recognize this shared priority, and 3) when the Roadmap is complete, endorsement and dedication of staff and resources to achieve measures of success.</p>
<p>1:45-2:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 10: Cropland expansion and grassland loss in northern Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Arvind Panjabi, Brandt Ryder, Mo Correll and Andy Bankert, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Charles M. Francis, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Humberto Berlanga, CONABIO;</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: We developed a tool in Google Earth Engine that utilizes remote sensing and available spatial data to estimate changes in the extent of croplands and grasslands in Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) in northern Mexico. Grasslands in the Chihuahuan Desert have been shrinking for many decades due to desertification and shrub encroachment and increasingly crop conversion. These potentially represent a population-limiting habitat for migratory grassland birds that are shared trinationally. We will present rates of loss for individual GPCAs in northern Mexico over various periods since 1990, and identify where rates of grassland loss are highest and continuing. We will also update the rate of cropland expansion for the Valles Centrales GPCA in Chihuahua that was calculated from 2006-2011 and predicted to result in the total loss of valley-bottom grasslands by 2025.</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND: The Chihuahuan Desert grasslands in northern Mexico are a critical wintering habitat for migratory grassland birds, the most rapidly declining group of birds in North America. However, they are limited in extent, occupying less than 15% of the Chihuahuan Desert region. In addition to being impacted by ongoing shrub encroachment and desertification, they are increasingly being converted to irrigated croplands. However, there is little information available on how much grasslands have been lost to croplands, both historically and more recently, where this loss is occurring, and how these rates are changing over time. GPCAs were developed trinationally by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation to identify the most important areas for grassland-dependent wildlife in North America’s Central Grasslands. In Mexico, GPCAs encompass 53% of all grasslands in the Chihuahuan Desert, according to INEGI (. In 2014, Pool et al. published an article in <i>Biological Conservation</i> that estimated cropland expansion and grassland loss from 2006 to 2011 in the Valles Centrales of Chihuahua, the largest GPCA in Mexico, encompassing 2.7 million hectares (6.7 million acres). They found that croplands expanded by 6.04%/year and that remaining valley-bottom grasslands in the Valles Centrales could disappear at this rate by 2025. They estimated the cropland expansion destroyed 69,240 ha (171, 096 acres) of Chihuahuan Desert grasslands and shrublands, and displaced over 350,000 grassland birds. These included over 132,000 Chestnut-collared Longspurs, a steeply declining species recognized as Endangered under Canada’s Species at Risk Act, in addition to nearly half the breeding population of the Aplomado Falcon in Chihuahua, a species recognized as Endangered in the U.S. and Threatened in Mexico. Pool et al also found that only 3% of the land area converted to croplands in Valles Centrales had been permitted for land-use change by SEMARNAT, resulting in a loss of \$43 million (USD) in revenue for the Mexican federal government from impact fees for restoration and mitigation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss and develop a strategy to raise awareness among policy makers of the scope of the problem of ongoing loss of grasslands in GPCAs in northern Mexico, including inside Natural Protected Areas, and obtain commitments to slow or prevent further conversion of grasslands to croplands, and address grassland health, in the Chihuahuan Desert.</p>
2:00-2:15	BREAK
2:15-2:25	<p>AGENDA ITEM 11: Support for the United Nations International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)/Año Internacional de Pastizales y Pueblos Pastores</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, CONABIO: humberto.berlanga@conabio.gob.mx Christian Artuso, CWS: Christian.Artuso@canada.ca Layne Coppock, USA Co-Chair for North America, UN IYRP, layne.coppock@usu.edu Jürgen Hoth, Mexico Co-Chair for North America, UN IYRP, jurgenhoth1521@gmail.com Barry Irving, Canada Co-Chair for North America, UN IYRP, birving@ualberta.ca</p>

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	<p>DESCRIPTION: Grasslands (comprised by rangelands) are one of the largest terrestrial biomes, most threatened and at the same time least protected in North America and indeed globally. The UN designates specific years to promote a particular topic through awareness-raising and other activities. In August 2019, the Government of Mongolia, a traditionally pastoralist country, proposed that the United Nations (UN) declare an International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP, see https://iyrp.info). In October 2020, the Committee on Agriculture (COAG) of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) endorsed the Mongolian proposal for a Year devoted to the topic of rangelands and pastoralists in 2026.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The successful campaign to promote the IYRP for FAO’s COAG led by the Government of Mongolia has been supported by the IYRP International Support Group (ISG), as well as from a strong, vibrant, active, and worldwide network of more than 160 civil society and public and private sector institutions, organizations, cooperatives, and associations, with further formal support from 16 governments. In October 2020, the COAG after hearing positively from more than 50 countries, recommended the designation of IYRP for 2026. The proposal now is expected to move to the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2021 for a formal declaration. We are now seeking to leverage this support even more strongly in the run-up to the UNGA.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Consistent with the grasslands conservation efforts promoted by the Trilateral over the last 20 years throughout the North American region, this initiative asks the agencies convening in this forum to support and promote the endorsement by their relevant Ministries/Secretaries in each of their counties to secure the designation by the UN of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP).</p>
<p>2:25-3:15</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM 12: Tri-national efforts towards Grassland Conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discussion of how the three nations can develop better coordination and synergy with regard to grassland conservation.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Grassland conservation has been a priority of the Trilateral Committee for a number of years and numerous efforts are underway. This time will be used to further coordination, identify needs and gaps, and chart a collaborative approach moving forward.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify areas where Tri-national coordination can be improved and priorities where collaboration and coordination will improve the conservation status of grasslands.</p>
<p>3:15-3:30</p>	<p>BREAK</p>

3:30-3:45	<p><i>Anthropogenic Impacts</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 13: Reducing Bird Collisions with Communications Towers</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Joelle Gehring (Joelle_Gehring@fws.gov, FWS), Eric Kershner (FWS), Julie Bourque (CWS) and Christian Roy (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Birds are attracted to non-flashing lights during night migrations. Communications towers can be safely lit using only flashing lights, which reduces bird collisions by as much as 70% and reduces tower construction and operation costs. Outreach is needed to encourage and assist tower operators in making this cost saving change and mainstreaming.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Scientists estimate that each year 6.8 million birds, primarily Nearctic-Neotropical migrants, collide with U.S. and Canadian communications towers. Towers lit with non-flashing lights at night are involved with significantly more avian collisions than towers lit with only flashing lights. In 2015, the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration changed tower lighting recommendations to systems that eliminate non-flashing lights, maintain aircraft safety, reduce tower lighting and maintenance costs to the industry, and reduce migratory bird collisions by as much as 70%. Transport Canada offers a similar option to tower owners. Mexico has not yet included this option in tower lighting recommendations and outreach is required. Using only flashing lights on existing and future towers is one of the most effective and economically feasible means of reducing avian fatalities at communications towers. Education of the industry and natural resources agencies is critical to implementation on existing towers.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss approaches to understand the issue in Mexico. How can the Trilateral support this effort? Support Canadian efforts to determine tower ownership in Canada and to encourage owners to extinguish unnecessary lights.</p>
3:45-4:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 14: Tri-national Discussion on Addressing Human Caused Mortality Sources</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discussion of how each country is addressing human caused mortality, including mainstreaming efforts, partnerships, and best practices.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Human caused mortality can be addressed at larger scales if common priorities are identified. Information sharing is key for Tri-national coordination.</p>

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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify areas where Tri-national coordination can be improved and priorities where collaboration and coordination will reduce the threat of human caused mortality.</p>
<p>4:30-4:45</p>	<p><i>BREAK</i></p>
<p>4:45-5:05</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>General Conservation</i></p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 15: Southern Wings: Connectivity Across the Americas</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deborah Hahn, AFWA</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The mission of Southern Wings is to provide a mechanism to support and facilitate conservation projects that support the conservation of shared migratory bird species in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean. 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.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Program started in 2009. Since 2009, 39 state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed over \$3.2 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. It connects well with the Trilateral priority of connectivity even though terrestrial sites for migratory birds are not always right next to each other. It also connects well with many of the Table’s priorities such as mainstreaming grassland bird conservation and implementing next steps for bird conservation in the Americas.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p>5:05-5:25</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 16: Bringing Back Streams for Migratory Birds</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Megan Bean, Inland Fisheries, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, megan.Bean@tpwd.texas.gov Jeff Bennett, Conservation Delivery Specialist, Rio Grande Joint Venture / American Bird Conservancy, jbenentt@abcbirds.org David Borre, Pronatura Noreste, A.C., dborre@pronaturane.org Philip Boyd, Dixon Water Foundation, pboyd@dixonwater.org Julio Carrera, Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas, jcarrera@conanp.gob.mx Krista Muddle, National Park Service at the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program, krista_Muddle@nps.gov Aimee Roberson, Coordinator, Rio Grande Joint Venture / American Bird Conservancy, aroberson@abcbirds.org</p>

Herbert D Young Jr., National Park Service at Big Bend National Park,
Herbert_Young_Jr@nps.gov

DESCRIPTION: In the arid ecoregions of the Southwestern United States, studies have shown that 70% of avian species depend upon riparian habitats for survival at some stage of their life and riparian areas support a higher breeding diversity of birds than all other western habitats (Krueper 1993). Similarly, a study in Mexico, found that 80% of detected species were in riparian areas and that riparian areas were frequented more by migratory birds than terrestrial birds (Villaseñor-Gómez, 2008). Unfortunately, in many of the watersheds across the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion, our stream ecosystems are highly altered due to the persistent and widespread problem of stream dewatering, incision, floodplain disconnection, and riparian degradation. While there is significant interest in restoring these ecosystems to a higher functioning state to benefit birds, fish, and other wildlife, this work is often intensive and costly with a relatively high risk of failure. Thus, practitioners are increasing trying new restoration techniques that are more cost-effective, less intensive, and can more practically scale up to the scope of degradation.

Rio Grande Joint Venture partners, including the American Bird Conservancy, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Pronatura Noreste, A.C., and other conservation organizations in the U.S. and Mexico, are leading efforts to develop the capacity, knowledge, and support needed for stream restoration in the Chihuahuan Desert ecoregion. Over the past several years, we have hosted binational workshops and trainings to increase the regional knowledge and capacity available for developing projects to restore highly degraded stream and riparian habitats. We are also working with conservation organizations and investors to provide technical and financial assistance to land and water stewards interested in restoring and enhancing aquatic and riparian habitats and adjacent uplands.

Initial pilot projects have taught us that simply planting riparian vegetation is often inadequate to restore ecosystem function. In highly degraded stream and riparian systems, we also need to reduce scouring, and retain water, sediment, and nutrients. We have begun deploying water-harvesting strategies that include several low-tech, process-based restoration technologies derived from Indigenous peoples' agricultural systems in other arid environments (e.g., Sonora, Arizona, and New Mexico). These technologies have proven to be successful in reversing altered hydrologic functions, thereby improving ecosystem integrity and wildlife habitat. This includes the placement of grade-control structures, such as *trincheras*, one-rock dams, and beaver dam analogs within streambeds, arroyos, and gullies. These relatively simple structures slow annual flows and encourage sediment deposition and streambed aggradation. In time, this will lead to more frequent inundation of floodplains and more verdant, robust, and resilient riparian and aquatic habitats. We are collaborating across our partnership to develop cost-

	<p>effective monitoring protocols to evaluate the effectiveness of these methodologies in bringing back streams for migratory birds, fish, and all our relations.</p> <p>Citations Krueper, David J. 1993. Effects of land use practices on western riparian ecosystems. In: Finch, Deborah M.; Stangel, Peter W. (eds.). Status and management of neotropical migratory birds: September 21-25, 1992, Estes Park, Colorado. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-229. Fort Collins, Colo.: Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service: 331-338</p> <p>Villaseñor-Gómez, José F., 2008, Habitat Use of Wintering Bird Communities in Sonora, Mexico: The importance of Riparian Habitats, In: Futh, Janet M., Brush, Timothy, Krueper, David J. (eds.). Birds of the US-Mexico Borderlands: Distribution, Ecology, and Conservation. Studies in Avian Biology No. 37, A Publication of the Cooper Ornithological Society.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Historical accounts of perennial or intermittent streams within the Chihuahuan Desert indicate many were historically lined with large stands of cottonwood and willow. For example, in 1933, Terlingua Creek, which flows through Big Bend National Park, was described as a “<i>bold running stream, studded with cottonwood timber as was alive with beaver.</i>” However, mining and agricultural activities during the late 19th and early 20th centuries led to the harvest of many riparian forests for fuel and structural material. Overgrazing has also taken its toll on these ecosystems. Yet, aside from a small area along the creek, above Terlingua Abajo, the riparian forest has not returned despite 70 years of protection by the National Park Service. We hypothesize that the old riparian forest provided the nursery conditions necessary for cottonwood and willow recruitment by reducing hydrologic forces during high flows. Once the forest was gone, normal annual flows were sufficient to scour young plants. We also hypothesize that the removal of vegetation encouraged stream incision, reduced the extent of the riparian aquifer, and promoted head cutting into surrounding uplands. In this way, degraded stream conditions can and often do migrate into adjacent grasslands and important habitats for birds and other wildlife are lost.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Discuss opportunities to increase awareness of and coordinate and collaborate on implementation and funding of low-tech, process-based riparian restoration methodologies.</p>
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WEDNESDAY, May 19, 2021

1:00-1:15	<i>Seabird Conservation</i>
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	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 17: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (NPS), Gilles Seutin (Parks Canada), Federico Méndez Sánchez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Advanced Conservation Strategies), Patty Baião (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), John Randall (The Nature Conservancy), Nick Holmes (The Nature Conservancy), Eduardo Ponce (CONANP), Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation), Robby Kohley (Pacific Rim Conservation)</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. The Trilateral Island Working Group will update the Migratory Bird Table on the status of current collaborative efforts, including ongoing projects, priorities, and efforts to promote the LOI. We will highlight island conservation efforts that in particular relate to the 2021 Trilateral Committee priorities, including technological innovation, connectivity, climate change, invasive species, and habitat restoration.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Over the last decade, multiple bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects have been 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> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico. The goal of the Trilateral Island Initiative is for the three countries to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation.</p>
<p>1:15-1:30</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 18: Translocation of Black-footed Albatrosses from Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, USA to Create a Breeding Colony on Guadalupe Island Biosphere Reserve, Mexico</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Pacific Rim Conservation (PRC): Dr. Eric A. VanderWerf, C. Robby Kohley, y Dra. Lindsay C. Young. Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECD): Dr. Julio C. Hernández Montoya, Cand. Dra. Yuliana Bedolla Guzmán y Cand. Dr. Federico A. Méndez Sánchez.</p>

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	<p>Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO): Biól. Humberto Berlanga García. Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas: M.C. Marisol Torres Aguilar y Dr. Eduardo Ponce Guevara.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Black-footed Albatross currently is considered near threatened by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Protection of suitable nesting habitat and creation of new colonies on higher islands are among the highest priority conservation actions for this species. Establishing additional Black-footed Albatross colonies on other high elevation islands would further secure the future of the species and mitigate some of the anticipated effects of climate change. A project is underway to translocate Black-footed Albatross from Midway Atoll to Isla Guadalupe, Mexico.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOME: Provide an update on the first translocations and seek continued support from the Trilateral Working Tables.</p>
<p>1:30-1:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 19:</u> Update on Mexican Conservation Action Plan (CAP) for Marine Bird Species</p> <p>COLLABORATORS: Eduardo Ponce (CONANP), Humberto Berlanga and Federico Mendez (GECI).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: With the leadership of CONANP with the support of CONABIO and Ecology and Island Conservation Group (GECI), Mexico is developing an official Conservation Action Plan for the conservation and recovery of marine bird species, to be published in 2021.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOME: Inform MBTA on the status of the CAP. Discussion of the plan and potential collaborations to develop trinational actions for seabird conservation.</p>
<p>1:45-2:00</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 20:</u> <i>Synthliboramphus</i> Murrelets Conservation Action Plan in the USA and Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: California Institute of Environmental Studies (CIES) Michael Parker, Executive Director, mike_parker@ciesresearch.org Darrell Whitworth, Biologist, darrellwhitworth@ciesresearch.org</p> <p>Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas (GECI) Yuliana Bedolla Guzmán, Director of Marine Birds, Yuliana.bedolla@islas.org.mx</p> <p>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Jennie Duberstein, Coordinator Sonoran Joint Venture, Jennie_Duberstein@fws.gov</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: We discuss a proposal to complete a previously initiated draft document: “Management and Restoration Plan for <i>Synthliboramphus</i> Murrelets at</p>

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breeding islands off southern California and the western Baja California peninsula”. Updating this document will assist and inform government agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their conservation efforts for Scripps’s (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*), Guadalupe (*S. hypoleucus*), and Craveri’s (*S. craveri*) murrelets. After a recent review of the existing draft plan, it was determined that major revisions and additions would be needed to produce an effective plan. Our team seeks to raise awareness of this need so that a comprehensive conservation action plan can be completed.

BACKGROUND: In 2009, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife first sponsored development of a “management and restoration plan” for the former Xantus’s Murrelet (*S. hypoleucus* which was split into *S. scrippsi* and *S. hypoleucus* by the American Ornithological Union in 2012) to: (1) identify and prioritize management and restoration needs at murrelet breeding areas, especially within the Southern California Bight which extends across the Mexico-USA border; (2) foster cooperation between government agencies, universities, NGOs, and other private groups; and (3) inform future conservation actions. In June 2011, a partially completed draft of the management plan was prepared and distributed among members of the Xantus’s Murrelet Technical Committee (XMTC) of the Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) so that remaining crucial sections of the plan could be completed. Unfortunately, little progress was made toward completing the plan between 2011 and 2020. The XMTC has since been renamed the Scripps’s and Guadalupe Murrelet Technical Committee (SGMTC) after the taxonomic change in 2012. Completion of the conservation plan is now considered a priority by the SGMTC as the lack of a plan has been cited as a factor in reluctance to allocate funding for important management, research, restoration, and monitoring projects. After a recent review of the existing draft “management and restoration plan”, it was determined that major revisions and additions were needed to: (1) reflect changes in *Synthliboramphus* murrelet taxonomy; (2) discuss the significant progress made in murrelet conservation efforts since 2011, especially in Baja California, Mexico; (3) include Craveri’s Murrelet throughout its entire breeding range so that there is one plan for all *Synthliboramphus* murrelets breeding in this region; and (4) provide for a holistic conservation approach at breeding colonies that includes monitoring protocols, prioritized management and restoration actions, and identification of important research needs to further conservation of these species. Inclusion of Craveri’s Murrelet will require extensive additions to the conservation plan but was deemed warranted by the SGMTC given the overlap in the three species’ breeding and (especially) wintering ranges, their shared breeding and foraging ecologies, their vulnerability to similar at-sea and colony-based threats, and the similar conservation actions needed to manage and protect these species.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:

- Raise the Trilateral Committees awareness of the need for a *Synthliboramphus* Conservation Action Plan that will enhance consistency with approaches to monitoring and conservation actions needed to protect and manage these imperiled species

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss opportunities for plan implementation
2:00-2:15	<i>BREAK</i>
2:15-2:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 21: Tri-national coordination for Seabird Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discussion of how the three nations can develop better coordination and synergy with regard to seabird conservation.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Seabirds are one of the fastest declining groups of birds and pose challenges of significant knowledge gaps on the scope and scale of these declines. Efforts are underway to protect seabird colonies, translocate seabirds to new areas for the establishment of new breeding populations. Given the challenges of seabird biology, improved coordination between the three nations is imperative, including the identification of priority actions that can be supported by the Trilateral Committee.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify areas where Tri-national coordination can be improved and priorities where collaboration and coordination will improve the conservation status of seabirds.</p>
2:30-2:45	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 22: Implementing Flyway-scale Shorebird Conservation in the Americas</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Brad Andres, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Benoit Laliberte, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada; numerous NGO, federal and state partners in the flyways.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Update on development of the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative (MSCI) and implementation of flyway-scale activities for shorebird conservation delivered through the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI) and the Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative (PSCI).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Development of the strategic framework for the Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative is underway, and a series of workshops have been completed in North America. Implementation of key strategies in the AFSI and PSCI is occurring, and updates and accomplishment reports are being developed. Flyway-scale frameworks are the next steps for achieving conservation of shorebirds in the Americas by collaboratively addressing threats to shorebirds across their entire annual cycles. Examples will be provided of shorebird conservation projects and programs that address ecosystem services and human well-being in an effort to mainstream shorebird conservation. The Coastal Solutions Fellows Program was developed to engage non-traditional sectors in achieving shorebird conservation along the Pacific Americas Flyway. Collaboration across all flyways will enable export and wider adoption of proven conservation technologies and strategies. Development of flyway-scale initiatives for shorebirds could help catalyze increased activity of the Americas Flyway Task Force. The Implementation of actions identified in the AFSI and PSCI strategies</p>

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	<p>and development of the MSCI have been supported by the Canadian Wildlife Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (through USAID, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, and the Migratory Bird program), USDA Forest Service, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, David and Lucile Packard Foundation and numerous other NGO, state and international partners. The presentation will address the 2021 priorities of integrating human dimensions, connectivity and adaptation to ecosystem change.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>AFSI and PSCI</u>: Continue financial support to match NGO contributions and technical assistance for implementation of strategies and actions. • <u>Midcontinent</u>: Facilitate completion and review of the strategic framework. • <u>Americas</u>: Commit to increasing the effectiveness of the Americas Flyway Task Force,
<p>2:45-3:15</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 23: Tri-National Coordination for Shorebird Conservation</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discussion of how the three nations can support and develop better coordination and synergy with regard to shorebird conservation activities, including ensuring adequate support for effective and strong monitoring programs.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Shorebirds are in steep decline. Multiple flyway initiatives are underway to address the highest conservation priorities for shorebirds.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify areas where Tri-national coordination can be improved and develop steps for improved coordination.</p>
<p>3:15-3:30</p>	<p><i>BREAK</i></p>
<p>3:30-3:45</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 24: Partners In Flight Eastern Working Group and Advancing Conservation Investment Strategies for Migratory Landbirds</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Becky Stewart (CWS), Randy Dettmers (USFWS), Guy Foulkes (USFWS), Deb Hahn (AFWA), Ryan Zimmerling (CWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS), Greg Butcher (USDA), Craig Thompson (Wisconsin DNR), Andrew Rothman (ABC), María Gabriela Toscano (BirdLife International), Nick Bayly (SELVA), Rosabel Miro (Audubon Panama)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Partners In Flight Eastern Working Group (PIF EWG) formed in April of 2019. Its goal is to improve the conservation status of eastern North American landbirds, focusing on broad-scale issues or causes of decline that lack a forum for comprehensive attention and/or cross jurisdictional boundaries. The working group has three sub-groups or “teams”—Full Annual Cycle Conservation, Science Delivery, and Data Management. These teams’ objectives relate directly to 4 of the 5 Trilateral Committee’s priority themes: implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas; mainstreaming biodiversity; coordination of</p>

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	<p>advancements in reducing priority threats, and; improved coordination of information sharing. We will provide a brief update on each of the team’s objectives and activities as they relate to these themes and will look to the committee to help identify additional synergies and opportunities to advance these initiatives. In addition, we will facilitate a more detailed discussion on the Full Annual Cycle Conservation Team’s efforts to develop Conservation Investment Strategies for key non-breeding areas. In particular, we will focus on the NMBCA-funded effort to develop a Conservation Investment Strategy for the mid-elevation forests of the Central and South America. We will also discuss plans to advance similar strategies for other key non-breeding areas (e.g., Gulf/Caribbean Slope of Mesoamerica) and these strategies’ potential to provide unifying frameworks for international collaboration for migratory landbird conservation and metrics to serve as indicators of conservation success across the US, Canada and Mexico.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: PIF Eastern Working Group fact sheet Framework for the Partners In Flight Eastern Working Group Framework for the Full Annual Cycle Conservation Team Project summary for the Conservation Investment Strategy for the Central and South American mid-elevation forests</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Committee to consider integrating the landbird Conservation Investment Strategies into their international conservation activities, including using the framework to prioritize and guide international funding decisions such as those made under NMBCA and the Canada Nature Fund - Committee to consider mechanisms, such as their agency response to 3 Billion Birds, to provide additional budgetary support for the development of Conservation Investment Strategies - Committee to consider identify additional staff and initiatives that align with PIF EWG’s working group objectives and to promote fuller integration of their activities and PIF activities to avoid duplication and increase positive outcomes. Examples include: identifying synergistic initiatives, encouraging or directing staff to engage with PIF including participating in working groups and/or attending annual meeting (next meeting Fall of 2021)
<p>3:45-4:15</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 25: Improving Coordination on Conservation Priorities for Neotropical Long-distance Migrants</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), J. Ryan Zimmerling (CWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Discussion of how the three nations can develop better coordination and synergy with regard to neotropical migrant conservation.</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND: Neotropical migrants use all three nations for some portion of their annual life cycle. Improved coordination on conservation priorities is sought for this declining group.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify areas where tri-national coordination can be improved and priorities where collaboration and coordination will improve the conservation status of neotropical migrants.</p>
4:15-4:30	<p><i>Monitoring and Data Management</i></p> <p>AGENDA ITEM 26: Progress report on VRR/ considerations for continued support and incorporation of VRR to long term continental bird monitoring efforts</p>
4:30-4:45	<p>BREAK</p>
4:45-5:00	<p>AGENDA ITEM 27: Advancing Open Avian Data platforms in Canada to support North American bird conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Charles M. Francis, Canadian Wildlife Service; Denis Lepage, Birds Canada; Alex MacPhail, Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: To improve access to avian data in Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service has been working with Birds Canada and the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute (ABMI) to develop a Canadian network for open avian data. This network will link a number of platforms for openly sharing bird monitoring and survey data, both raw data and derived results such as population trajectory analyses. It will also provide links to a variety of analytic, mapping, reporting and visualization tools that draw upon these data to support conservation decisions. Data will be made available (through APIs) to other online open data initiatives run by various Canadian government departments and other institutions. This network will be well positioned to link into upcoming discussions to develop a Canadian Biodiversity Observation Network (CAN BON) in connection with the Global Earth Observation Biodiversity Observation Network (https://geobon.org/). The central components of this network are the NatureCounts database of Birds Canada (https://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/default/main.jsp), and the WildTrax database of ABMI (https://www.wildtrax.ca/home). NatureCounts is a Canadian node of the Avian Knowledge Network and is used to manage or share data from a wide range of bird monitoring programs, including all of the Canadian Breeding Bird Atlases, nocturnal owl surveys, eBird Canada data and many other surveys. Tools are being developed on this site to map and display data in a wide range of formats, and the Canadian Wildlife Service is working with Birds Canada to develop a component on the Status of Birds in Canada. WildTrax has been developed to house and manage data from electronic sensors, especially digital acoustic recorders (including Autonomous Recording Units – ARUs) and camera traps. It also houses observation data from the Boreal Avian Modelling project point count database. It includes a wide range of tools for analysing acoustic data, including a flexible online interface for interpreting recordings, as well</p>

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	<p>as a growing number of tools for automated detection or recognition of particular species.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: These efforts are being supported by funding ECCC has received to make data openly available to support the Canadian government open data policies, as well as environmental impact assessment.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform partners of the status of this effort and discuss opportunities for linking these efforts with similar activities in the USA and Mexico.</p>
<p>5:00-5:15</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 28:</u> Update on remote sensing and machine learning integration for migratory bird monitoring</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: USFWS/DMBM – Mark Koneff BOEM/ESP – Tim White USGS/UMESC – Jennifer Dieck</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The FWS, BOEM, USGS and others are collaborating to advance the integration of remote sensing technologies and improve the safety, data quality, and efficiency of broad-scale aerial migratory bird surveys. The scope of continental migratory bird monitoring programs and the high-resolution imagery required for species identification produces tremendous data volumes. Machine learning methods and in-flight processing capabilities are being investigated to automate data processing and improve efficiency.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Traditionally low-level surveys using human observers have been used to collect data over broad geographic regions and under tight phenological and regulatory timelines to inform management decision making. These methods have proved to be fast and cost-efficient in generating required population data, however, they do expose personnel to increased risk and the individual biases associated with many different observers can affect the quality of resulting population estimates. Remote sensing technologies are being investigated to allow for data collection at higher altitudes to reduce the risk of obstacle strike, provide aircrews additional maneuvering capability, and increase margin of safety. Hardware/software for in-flight and field data processing as well as machine learning methods are being investigated to improve data processing efficiency and automation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform partners of the status of this effort and discuss opportunities for enhanced trinational cooperation on these efforts.</p>
<p>5:15-5:30</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 29:</u> Review of the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Kathy Fleming/Emily Silverman (USFWS)</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND: The USFWS, in collaboration with CWS and USGS, is undertaking a comprehensive review of the Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey (WBPHS). This review includes (1) an analysis of current survey coverage, relative to the best current information about species distributions and coverage of other experimental and operational breeding waterfowl surveys; (2) exploration of possible changes to survey coverage and re-stratification, relative to optimal sampling of priority species and stocks; and (3) investigation of reallocation of effort for improved survey efficiency and accuracy. Technical work is currently being conducted by a USGS postdoctoral researcher and overseen by John Sauer (USGS) and Emily Silverman (USFWS) with input from a joint USFWS/CWS review committee. We will provide an update of the current status and timeline of the review.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Update all parties on the status of the review</p>
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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2020

1:00-1:20	<p>Monitoring and Data Management (con't)</p> <p><u>AGENDA ITEM 30: Implementing the New Breeding Bird Survey Strategic Plan</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Thomas O'Connell (Eastern Ecological Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey), Charles Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada), Vicente Rodriguez (Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Session on implementing the New BBS Strategic and Action Plans (2020-2030), under the Trilateral's 4th theme of <i>Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</i></p> <p>BACKGROUND: Started in 1966, the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) provides the quantitative foundation for conservation planning and management of hundreds of North American bird species at regional and continental scales. Since then, the survey has engaged thousands of skilled volunteer and professional bird-watchers every year to collect data using a rigorous, design-based survey protocol. Today, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Partners in Flight are among the many organizations that primarily rely on information from the BBS to inform avian conservation priorities and act. In September 2019, BBS experts and stakeholders met at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Laurel, Maryland, to assist in the development of a new 10-year Strategic Plan that will carry the program into the future. Since then, the group of experts grew and facilitated the development of a companion Action Plan, which steps down the three goals and eight objectives of the strategic plan into 28 specific Action items, providing a road map for realizing the vision of the BBS over the next decade. The session will consist of a presentation on the new Strategic and Action Plans, progress to date on its implementation, various aspects of</p>
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	<p>BBS Program, and how BBS data are used in decision-making. We will focus discussion on areas and ways for all three countries to work together on implementing the Plan.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Identify and agree on specific ways for the Trilateral Committee to help advance the implementation in all three countries of Actions under the three Goals of the Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhance the BBS program to support new data collection protocols and improved analyses to better serve the bird conservation and management community. 2. Ensure BBS data and products are accessible and widely recognized as the authoritative source of information on long-term changes in North American bird populations. 3. Ensure adequate staffing and resources to maintain and expand the BBS program.
<p>1:20-1:35</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 31: Tri-national Coordination of Bird Banding</u></p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Lesley Howes, Charles Francis (CWS); Humberto Berlanga, Vicente Rodriguez (CONABIO); Antonio Celis-Murillo (USGS).</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Bird banding and the use of auxiliary markers is a fundamental tool in ornithology. A coordinated approach to bird banding and marking in North America is imperative to ensure that bands and other markers remain unique and banding, tracking and encounter data are deposited into a secure database and accessible for future use to support research and conservation decision-making.</p> <p>We are seeking direction and support to advance three broad issues relevant to bird banding in North America: strategic planning for the existing North American bird banding program; advancing an effective centralized banding program in Mexico; and improving coordination among bird banding programs across the Americas.</p> <p>The North American Bird-banding Program, involving US and Canada, is one of the longest standing international collaborations for wildlife science and conservation, dating to the early 1900s. The most recent review of the bird banding program was through a Federal Advisory Committee report published in 2008. Since then, bird banding has evolved to include new and developing technologies for bird tracking, data management and reporting technologies have advanced considerably, while there are ongoing challenges related to resources. We believe this program would benefit from an updated program review and development of a new strategic plan. This plan should cover many different aspects including modernizing data management platforms, improving cooperation amongst agencies within and among countries in managing banding activities, addressing new and emerging technologies (such as tracking devices), identification of program priorities, development of standards and training</p>

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	<p>materials, dissemination of data and results, and ensuring adequate resourcing and support.</p> <p>In 2015, the executive table of the trilateral committee signed a letter of intent, committing support for development of a comparable program in Mexico coordinated with the North American Program; however, to date, this program has had limited progress, due largely to lack of resources in Mexico. We would like to review and propose some options to move forwards on this.</p> <p>Finally, we would like to discuss ways to strengthen relations with other banding programs in the Americas through reinvigoration of the Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network (WHBBN). This has the potential to improve coordination of banding programs in the Americas, and benefit conservation science through band, marker and data management.</p> <p>This submission fits in the theme: Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing, and supports the priorities of Technology Innovation for Conservation, and Connectivity as well as implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In 2015, the Trilateral Committee approved a Letter of Intent providing a cooperative framework to support development of a coordinated approach for bird banding across North America. This agreement supports various conservation and management initiatives including Mexico’s participation in the Flyway System. Some progress has been made, including development of a draft agreement between USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) and CONABIO for the coordinated use of auxiliary markers on birds. By working with partners, standards for training and guidelines for use of birds in science have been developed and applied in North America and elsewhere resulting in a pool of well-trained banders and some valuable training materials that are useful in all 3 countries. However, development of a centrally managed program in Mexico remains elusive.</p> <p>The Canadian Banding Office and the Bird Banding Lab have been working cooperatively with SEMARNAT and CONABIO since 2006 with the long-term goal to support banding program collaboration in the Western Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere Bird Banding Network was formed in 2007, and had some initial good progress. However, it has been relatively inactive since 2010 resulting, limiting development of banding programs in many countries. Lifecycle and connectivity projects in the Americas are affected by lack of bands and programs.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support for a comprehensive review and strategic plan for the North American
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	<p>Bird Banding program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussion of options for advancing development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program under the Trilateral LOI.
1:35-2:00	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 32:</u> Initiation of a Bird Banding Program in the Protected Area System of México</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga, Vicente Rodriguez (CONABIO); Antonio Celis-Murillo (USGS); Eduardo Ponce (CONANP); Lesley Howes, Charles Francis (CWS).</p> <p>BACKGROUND: In the last two decades, there have been several initiatives in México to develop a national bird banding program in order to build a solid collaboration framework with the BBP in the US and the CBP in Canada. In order to establish a basic platform to achieve this goal, CONANP, CONABIO and the General Direction of Wildlife, with the support of BBP and CBP will collaborate to develop a platform to initiate a long term bird banding program in the protected areas system of México.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOME: Inform the MBT on the status of this initiative. Discussion and feedback about options for advancing development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program under the Trilateral LOI.</p>
2:00-2:15	<i>BREAK</i>
2:15-2:30	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM 33:</u> Developing an Avian Knowledge Network banding data extension</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory; Eric Kershner, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: To prevent the loss of banding data that were not archived within other programs and support efforts to better understand bird population dynamics at continent-wide scales through data access, visualization, and analysis, the Avian Knowledge Network would like to complete efforts to extend the AKN data model to accommodate banding data and associated capture effort data.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The AKN has developed a substantial banding data archive, but more effort is still needed to ensure vulnerable banding data are protected from loss, curated, made available, and analyzed. Efforts would include integration with Bird Banding Lab and broad banding networks like those managed by the Institute for Bird Populations and the Western Hemisphere Banding Network.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inform partners of the status of this effort and the steps needed to complete an AKN banding extension. Endorsement of this project as a priority and identify key partners and funding sources.</p>
2:30-3:15	<u>AGENDA ITEM 34:</u> ET Joint Session Prep – Co-Chairs Only
3:15-3:30	<i>BREAK</i>
3:30-4:30	<u>AGENDA ITEM 35:</u> Joint Session – ET and Working Tables

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4:30-4:45	<i>BREAK</i>
4:45-5:15	AGENDA ITEM 36: Post ET Joint Session Follow-up – Co-Chairs Only

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