

XX Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and  
Ecosystem Conservation and Management  
San Diego, California U.S.  
April 13-17, 2015

Working Table: Migratory Birds

Co-Chairs: Brad Bortner, Chief Division of Migratory Birds and Habitat, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.; Humberto Berlanga, Coordinador de NABCI/ICAAN - México Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad, Mexico; Charles Francis *for* Basile van Havre, Director, Population Conservation and Management, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Canada.

This year's agenda was developed based on the following criteria identified in the 2013-2014 Action Items Report. Special consideration was given to the following priorities:

**Working Table Priorities for 2014-2019**

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

**Executive Table Items From Migratory Birds Table:**

**1 – Letter of Intent (LOI) on Bird-banding**

An LOI has been prepared indicating that USGS and EC banding offices will help support development of Mexican banding program in a way that is compatible with U.S. / Canada program. This is currently undergoing review by each country and will likely be ready for signature at meeting.

**2 – Grassland conservation in Mexico**

In May 2014, the Migratory Bird table asked the Executive table to take action on loss of grassland habitats in central Mexico that represent critical wintering habitat for threatened U.S. and Canadian grassland birds.

**2015 Meeting Overview**

- Logistics & Updates
- Conservation Planning for Birds
- Human-induced mortality management
- Data Management and Monitoring
- Conservation Management Action
- Plenary & Field Trip
- Wrap-up and Report-out to Executive Table

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**MONDAY, APRIL 13, 2015**

**MORNING SESSION 1 OF 2: LOGISTICS AND UPDATES**

**9:00 – 9:15: Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO),  
Brad Bortner (FWS), Basile Van Havre (CWS)

**DESCRIPTION:** Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.

**BACKGROUND:** Standard agenda item to build consensus and ensure full participation.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

- Approval of any changes to the agenda.
- Adoption of the agenda

**SUBMITTED BY:** Co-chairs

**9:15 – 9:30: 2014-15 Action Items Report**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO),  
Brad Bortner (FWS), Basile Van Havre (CWS)

**DESCRIPTION:** Report on major accomplishments or challenges from AIR [that are not on the current agenda] and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.

**BACKGROUND:** Action item reports (AIRs) are used to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Tables review AIRs 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.

**9:30 – 9:45: Country Updates**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO),  
Brad Bortner (FWS), Basile Van Havre (CWS)

**DESCRIPTION:** Each country co-chair or representative present a short country report with relevant information to the MBT.

**BACKGROUND:** Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events occurred in each of the three countries.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Information only

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SUBMITTED BY: Co-chairs

**MORNING SESSION 2 OF 2: OVERVIEW OF TRINATIONAL  
CONSERVATION PLANNING SYSTEM COMPONENTS: Business Plans, JVs,  
Flyway systems, LCCs**

**9:45 – 10:00: Southern Wings Update**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deborah Hahn**

**DESCRIPTION:** Southern Wings Program – The mission of the Program 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 an ongoing program for the State agencies with partnerships with Mexican partners. We have presented on this program at previous meetings. The Program started in 2009. Since 2009 the state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed to projects in the Colorado River Delta, Saltillo grasslands, Valle Centrales grasslands and Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Colombia. Twenty-eight states have participated.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about the projects occurring in Mexico and consider how to increase participation by Mexican and Canadian partners for the conservation of shared migratory bird species.

**SUBMITTED BY: Deborah Hahn**

**10:00 – 10:15: BREAK**

**10:15 – 10:40: Overview of Conservation Business Planning**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** David Younkman, Chief Conservation Officer, American Bird Conservancy

**DESCRIPTION:** An overview of Conservation Business Plans, including what they are, how they differ from traditional conservation or implementation plans, where they are, and how we expect they can be used as tools for trinational conservation planning.

**BACKGROUND:** Conservation business plans each contain: 1. Situation analysis; key targets with long-term goals; key threats identified, 2. Conservation projects that are well-defined and able to be implemented, 3. Prediction of a project's measurable impacts

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and costs, 4. A discussion of the general risks that could affect the project and its strategic approach

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about this approach as a tool, what areas have already been targeted for business planning, and how we can use this approach to increase trinational conservation planning effectiveness for the conservation of shared migratory bird species.

**SUBMITTED BY:** David Younkman, American Bird Conservancy

**10:40-11:00: BUSINESS PLANS: Pacific Flyway Conservation of Migratory Shorebirds**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Rob Clay, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network; Catherine Hickey, Point Blue Conservation Science; Andrea Jones, Audubon California; Eduardo Palacios, CICESE, Ensenada; Stan Senner, National Audubon Society.

**DESCRIPTION:** An effective strategy for flyway-scale conservation of long-distance migrant shorebirds must integrate international cooperation, conservation interventions, and monitoring across the full suite of geographic, ecological, and cultural landscapes. Although there are numerous shorebird conservation plans in place within the Pacific Flyway, these plans cover various geographies and there is no comprehensive, integrated full life-cycle plan available for a representative suite of migrants.

**BACKGROUND:** We propose a two-year project to develop a Pacific Americas Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Plan. In Phase I, we propose to convene an international planning committee to develop and refine a conceptual model with input from one workshop for participants from Central and South America and Latin American participants and one for participants from Mexico, the United States and Canada. We will use the methods of the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, including the Miradi model-building software. Phase II will include the completion and publication of the full Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Business Plan. Based on the success of other flyway strategies, we believe a comprehensive, flyway approach is the only way to effectively conserve long-distance migrants.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek the support and endorsement of the Trilateral governments to develop and implement a flyway-scale approach to the conservation of migratory shorebirds along the Pacific coast of North America and the entire Western Hemisphere. Specific actions planned for 2015 include:

1. Convene a small international steering committee with representation from Canada, United States, Mexico, and Latin America to manage the project and plan process.

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2. Mine existing plans, such as regional shorebird conservation plans, Joint Venture implementation plans, and WHSRN site assessment tools, to refine threats, develop strategies, and identify potential projects.
3. Convene an international planning committee with representation from Canada, United States, Mexico, and Latin America and develop a core conceptual model using Miradi as a foundation for the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Business Plan.
4. Hold two larger workshops (Central and South America; North America (northern Mexico, United States and Canada) for U.S. and non-U.S. stakeholders in refining the key targets, threats and conceptual model, building explicit results chains, and identifying potential projects.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Brad Andres, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Partnership.

**11:00 – 11:15 Convention on Migratory Species, Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Scott Johnston and Brad Andres, US Fish and Wildlife Service

**DESCRIPTION:** Collaborators will discuss the recently adopted Americas Flyway Framework from the Convention of Migratory Species.

**BACKGROUND:** In Quito, Ecuador, November 4-9, 2014 more than 900 delegates and observers attended the Eleventh Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COoP) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS). The CMS CoOP meets every 3 years, bringing together leaders and experts from around the world to negotiate conservation actions for the future welfare of migratory species that connect the Parties' countries. At this most recent meeting, the CMS COoP approved several initiatives that were strongly supported by the U.S., including an Action Plan for the Americas Flyways Framework (Framework) for migratory bird conservation, which grew out of the U.S.- sponsored Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (WHMSI). The Atlantic Flway Shorebird Initiative and the Pacific Shorebird Business Plan provide examples flyway wide conservation of priority species, and are being considered as the first examples for how to implement the Framework.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about how we can use this approach to increase trinational conservation planning effectiveness for the conservation of shared migratory bird species.

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**SUBMITTED BY:** Scott Johnston, USFWS R5 and Brad Andres, USFWS HQ

**11: 15 – 11:45: Improving Engagement between the Joint Ventures, Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships, and NABCI**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Todd Fearer (Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture), Ken Kriese (USFWS), Allison Vogt (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies), Brad Andres (USFWS), Carol Beardmore (Sonoran Joint Venture), Andy Bishop (Rainwater Basin Joint Venture), Jim Giocomo (Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture), Keith McKnight (Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture), David Pashley (American Bird Conservancy), Tammy VerCauteren (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory)

**DESCRIPTION:** The collaborators listed above represent a planning team that organized a summit among the Joint Ventures (JVs), the Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships (BCPPs), and the US NABCI Committee to establish mechanisms for improving their communications and engagement. We will provide background information regarding the need for such a summit and summit outcomes.

**BACKGROUND:** Improving JV engagement with all the nongame bird conservation plan partnerships (landbird, waterbird, shorebird) was discussed initially at the summer 2013 US NABCI meeting at the request of some JV Coordinators who would like to see a reporting process established similar to NAWMP for the other 3 bird plans (with NABCI possibly serving as the facilitating body for this reporting). The NABCI Committee expressed interest and asked that Todd Fearer (AMJV Coordinator, representing the Migratory Bird JVs on the US NABCI Committee) discuss this further with all of the JVs to better gauge interest and support. Todd surveyed the JV Coordinators to gain more information about needs and expectations and then followed that up with a discussion among the JV Coordinators during JV Coordinators meeting in January. All agreed improved communications and engagement with the BCPPs and NABCI was desirable, but the JVs differed in how they wanted that to occur. Some want a formal reporting process to facilitate better accountability; others just want improved communications and engagement with the BCPPs and NABCI to assist with JV capacity. A consensus was reached that a "summit" or workshop is needed between JVs, NABCI, and BCPPs that would inform all parties of their respective work and needs, establish goals and expectations between the JVs, BCPPs, and NABCI, and then develop several mechanisms for improving engagement that address the range of needs expressed by the JVs.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform attendees of the discussions on this topic, the desire of the JVs, BCPPs, and NABCI to improve their engagement and communication, and the outcomes of the summit. We would welcome any input and feedback from the Migratory Bird Table Co-chairs or others attending.

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**SUBMITTED BY:** Todd Fearer, Ken Kriese, David Gordon

**11:45-12:00: Landscape Conservation Cooperatives: Collaboration between U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Management (Alaska) and Landscape Conservation Cooperatives in Alaska**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Eric J. Taylor, Richard B. Lanctot, and Julian B. Fischer, USFWS-Alaska Region

**DESCRIPTION:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management Division (Alaska) has been actively engaged in Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC). The Arctic LCC provided funds to: (i) generate predicted distribution patterns of abundant shorebird species on the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska, (ii) support the initiation of the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network, and (iii) investigate climate effects on wetlands, invertebrates and shorebirds. The Aleutian and Bering Sea Islands LCC supported an investigation into hazards to seabirds associated with shipping materials through the Aleutian Archipelago. The Western Alaska LCC supported the development of waterfowl habitat suitability models for use in vulnerability assessments including how tidal storm surges, which have increased with sea level rise and storm frequency, will affect waterbirds nesting on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska. This area supports many species of birds including brant, semipalmated sandpiper and the American golden-plover that migrate spectacular distances from their tundra breeding sites to Mexico and other Latin America countries. Finally, the Northwest Boreal LCC worked with Migratory Bird Management to identify surrogate species and consolidate datasets for inclusion in the Boreal Ecosystems Analysis for Conservation Networks (BEACONS) Project intended to provide adaptive resource management across large regions.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about this approach as a tool, and how we can use this approach to increase the effectiveness of tri-national conservation planning of shared migratory bird species.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Eric J. Taylor, Richard B. Lanctot and Julian B. Fischer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management, Alaska

\*\*\*\*\***Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00pm**\*\*\*\*\*

**AFTERNOON SESSION: CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR BIRDS**

**1:00 -3:45: Conservation Planning for Birds: Discussion**

A half-day workshop to discuss how we can make the various existing initiatives work more efficiently together, and refine the role of the trilateral regarding: 1) Conservation business plans, 2) Landscape-scale Conservation, including coordination via JVs, LCCs,

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conservation business plans, BCR plans and other existing landscape cooperatives, 3) NABCI trilateral committee, and 4) the North American / Western Hemisphere Flyway System

- 1:00 – 2:00: Identify (or have co-chairs present) the short-term (1-year) and long-term (4-year) MBWT Goals, given our priorities
- 2:00 – 3:45: Considering our strengths, weaknesses, and current opportunities, explore how we can use the conservation vehicles discussed in the morning more effectively towards achieving these goals

**3:45 – 4:00: Break**

**4:00 – 5:00: Migratory Bird Working Table Conservation Planning for Birds Action Plan.** Given discussion, define objectives for 2015 and identify the action items necessary to accomplish them.

**TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2014**

**9:00 – 10:00: Welcome Ceremony**

**10:00 – 10:15: Break**

**MORNING SESSION: HUMAN INDUCED MORTALITY MANAGEMENT**

**10:15 – 10:30: Overview of Priority Needs re: Human Induced Mortality Management (Tom Will? Scott Loss? Pete Marra?)**

**10:30 – 10:45: Evolution of Bird-safe Standards for Trilateral Consideration (Charisa Morris and Charles Francis)**

**10:45 – 12:00: Discussion**

Given discussion, define objectives for 2015 and identify the action items necessary to accomplish them. Add these to the MBWT Action Plan.

- What conservation actions that can be taken to reduce the impacts of human-related mortality, especially for the areas of highest mortality. This would include windows and cats.
- What actions appear to be effective?
- How do we monitor their effectiveness?
- How do we roll them out at a continental scale?

**\*\*\*\*\*Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00pm\*\*\*\*\***

**AFTERNOON SESSION 1 OF 2: MONITORING, DATA MANAGEMENT, AND REPORTING**



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**1:00 – 1:10: Co-chair vision for Trilateral Data Management and Monitoring shared**

**1:10 – 1:30: Tri-national Management of Migratory Bird Data – Status and Shared Needs**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Emily Silverman, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; [emily\\_silverman@fws.gov](mailto:emily_silverman@fws.gov); Charles Francis, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Canada; [Charles.Francis@ec.gc.ca](mailto:Charles.Francis@ec.gc.ca); Vicente Rodriguez, CONABIO, Mexico; [vicente.rodriguez@conabio.gob.mx](mailto:vicente.rodriguez@conabio.gob.mx).

**DESCRIPTION:** Tri-national coordination of information management is a critical component of successful avian conservation. Data must be discoverable, accessible, and easily integrated. We need to collaborate to ensure the compatibility of critical avian data and develop a common framework for data management and sharing. We will present a summary of the current status of migratory bird data management in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, and recommend areas for the development of shared processes and standards.

**BACKGROUND:** With technology for data collection, management, and access evolving rapidly, there are growing opportunities for data-based conservation and decision making. New data collection efforts (e.g., satellite telemetry, expanded banding programs, digital and remote imagery) are underway in all three countries and the open data initiatives of the U.S. and Canadian governments are accelerating the development of data sharing platforms. To respond effectively to these developments, we must identify data and information management priorities, issues and needs by country and tri-nationally, and clarify areas where collaboration will be most efficient and of the greatest benefit to avian conservation and management.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Identification of shared and particular resources and needs. Prioritization of the areas for collaborative effort on data management that have been brought to the table. Recommendations for additions to the list.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Emily Silverman, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; [emily\\_silverman@fws.gov](mailto:emily_silverman@fws.gov)

**1:30 – 1:50: Coordination, management and visualization of monitoring data in the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:**

Michael Fitzgibbon, Point Blue Conservation Science; [mfitzgibbon@prbo.org](mailto:mfitzgibbon@prbo.org)\*  
Leo Salas, Point Blue Conservation Science; [lsalas@prbo.org](mailto:lsalas@prbo.org)

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Katie Koch, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds; [katie\\_koch@fws.gov](mailto:katie_koch@fws.gov)  
David Hanni, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory; [david.hanni@rmbo.org](mailto:david.hanni@rmbo.org)  
Troy Wilson, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds; [troy\\_wilson@fws.gov](mailto:troy_wilson@fws.gov)  
Ed Laurent, Connecting Conservation; [edlaurent@connectingconservation.org](mailto:edlaurent@connectingconservation.org)  
John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory; [jda@klamathbird.org](mailto:jda@klamathbird.org)  
Michael Green, USFWS Division of Migratory Birds; [michael\\_green@fws.gov](mailto:michael_green@fws.gov)

\*We request that Michael be allowed to attend and present in-person.

**DESCRIPTION:** We will address how AKN nodes across North America describe and manage monitoring data, how this technology can be shared, how it can be extended to non-bird taxa, and how it is being used by a multitude of organizations throughout the continent. We will illustrate how a new project is created by the user and how s/he can then manage the data, set sharing levels, and visualize the data. We will then provide links to resources to help additional North American partners begin using the AKN.

**BACKGROUND:** The AKN is a large partnership of many institutions that use web technologies and best data management practices to breach the gap between data, science and management. In previous presentations to the Trilateral, we have illustrated the extent and richness of AKN datasets and how these are being used to understand conservation challenges at multiple spatial and temporal scales. We will now show how to get started using the AKN and what resources are available to new partners.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We politely request that an AKN representative be invited to participate in the Trilateral migratory bird data management and monitoring team that was proposed at the 2014 Trilateral (being headed up by Emily Bjerre). Additionally, we request that Trilateral Migratory Bird Table members distribute AKN helpful resources and encourage their constituents to begin using the AKN.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Michael Fitzgibbon, Leo Salas, and Katie Koch

**1:50 – 2:10: NABCI Monitoring Committee Update**

**2:10 – 2:30: International Cooperation Through Monitoring The Full Annual Cycle of Birds and Migratory Connectivity.**

Steven Albert, Assistant Director, The Institute for Bird Populations, Point Reyes Station, CA, tel: 505-870-3735.

**DESCRIPTION:** IBP would like to present an overview of the MAPS and MoSI international avian monitoring programs, which have operated more than 1,300 stations in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico; and to describe the programs' utility for studying the full annual cycle of birds and migratory connectivity.

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**BACKGROUND:**

What factors limit bird populations? Answering this is a key to implementing effective conservation. Without understanding the “What, Where, and Why” of population change, it’s often impossible to target the factors most affecting a species. For many birds, researchers are not yet sure if they are most at risk on their wintering or breeding areas.

In 1989, IBP started the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) Program to examine the life history demographics of U.S. and Canadian landbirds. Recognizing that many species spend more than half the year south of the U.S. border, in 2002 IBP began the Monitoreo de Sobreviviencia Invernal (MoSI) Program to look at migrants in Mexico and the northern Neotropics. Our partners have operated more than 1,300 stations in Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. Our data can provide insight into questions such as:

- What factors drive population declines?
- Are problems most acute on the breeding or non-breeding grounds?
- Are birds in particular habitats or regions faring better than others?
- What is the relationship between population change and climate or habitat loss?
- What can we do to reverse declines?

In addition, MAPS and MoSI stations have been used as a platform for research on migratory connectivity and the full annual cycle of many species.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** A discussion of how the MAPS and MoSI programs could help the Trilateral Committee further its goals of international cooperation and the protection of migratory species.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Steve Albert

**2:30 – 2:50: Griffin Groups as a communication platform for coordination of work planning and implementation**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Edward J. Laurent, PhD, Executive Director, Connecting Conservation; [elaurent@connectingconservation.org](mailto:elaurent@connectingconservation.org); 404-669-6397

**DESCRIPTION:** Griffin Groups (<https://griffingroups.com>) is a free-to-use online platform for connecting conservation knowledge and projects in a network of public and private online communities. Using a single log in, members can join or start one or more groups to organize information and communications and customize how they receive group notifications. Group members can interact by email, archive their discussions within a group, and access a suite of collaboration tools. **Content** can be explored and searched within groups and across the site.

**BACKGROUND:** [Connecting Conservation](http://Connecting Conservation) designed Griffin Groups to address the

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need for integrated knowledge transfer across disciplines, organizations, tools, and geographies in order to assist the transformation of natural resource conservation as a practice from independent to coordinated activities that address strategic public-private partnership goals. Over the past three years, Griffin Groups has increasingly become a major communications nexus for many conservation workflows. Examples of existing Griffin Groups include those dedicated to PIF Business Plans, NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee, Tri-Bird Plan Partnership and Joint Venture Science Team, as well as several groups dedicated to specific bird species across their life-cycle (including Central and South American partners) and state Wildlife Action Plan revisions.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Identify specific Migratory Bird Table Strategy groups and their objectives that can be supported by Griffin Groups.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Edward J. Laurent, PhD

**2:50 – 3:45: Data Management and Monitoring Discussion**

Given discussion, define objectives for 2015 and identify the action items necessary to accomplish them. Add these to the MBWT Action Plan.

- Migratory bird data management – a discussion of how we can work together most effectively to share migratory bird data within our various organizational data management situations.
- Monitoring planning – need to discuss ways to work together to enhance effectiveness / efficiency of joint monitoring programs, including reporting and analysis. Could include links between EC Avian Monitoring Committee efforts, U.S. NABCI monitoring subcommittee and Mexican efforts.

**3:45 – 4:00: Break**

**AFTERNOON SESSION 2 OF 2: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS**

**3:45 -4:00: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Annie Little (USFWS), Patrick Nantel (Parks Canada), Alfonso Aguirre (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eduardo E. Inigo-Elias (Cornell)

**DESCRIPTION:** This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore island ecosystems. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been jointly developing a Plan of Action for the trilateral island initiative. We will present the progress to date on the Plan of Action including goals, objectives, priorities, and strategies. In addition, we will update the Migratory Bird Working Table on: 1) the status

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of current collaborative island restoration projects, and 2) our efforts to promote the LOI and seek funding for future projects.

**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 LOI identifies the development of a Plan of Action aimed at strengthening cross coordination, setting priorities, and identifying collaborative projects. The Working Group is currently focused on developing the Plan of Action.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** We seek support of the Plan of Action and continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, the United States, and Mexico.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Annie Little, USFWS

**4:00 – 4:30: USGS Bird Banding Lab and Bird Banding Coordination in North America**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Lesley Howes (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Roberto Aviña Carlín (DGVVS), Bruce Peterjohn (U.S. Geological Survey)

**DESCRIPTION:** Provide an update on collaborative efforts between the Canadian Bird Banding Office (BBO) and the USGS Bird Banding Lab (BBL) to manage bird banding activities in the United States and Canada. Update recent coordination activities within Mexico regarding the development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program, including finalizing the Letter of Intent between the three countries to support the development of the Mexican Bird Banding Program. Explore opportunities for developing collaborative efforts between the BBL, BBO and Mexico regarding bird banding activities across North America.

**BACKGROUND:** The BBO and BBL are operating under a signed MOU providing the administrative framework to coordinate bird banding activities across the United States and Canada. Biologists in Mexico are continuing coordination activities designed to define the structure and function of a proposed Mexican Bird Banding Program. The development of an operational Mexican Bird Banding Program can be facilitated through technical assistance provided by the BBL and BBO. A Letter of Intent has been crafted to provide the framework for this assistance. Until the Mexican banding program becomes operational, coordination is necessary with the BBL to facilitate ongoing banding efforts in Mexico. The future coordination of bird banding efforts in Mexico may eventually

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require the creation of a cooperative agreement between Mexico, the BBL, and BBO.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** The desired outcome is Trilateral Committee approval of the Letter of Intent by CONABIO, DGVS, CWS, and USGS that outlines the cooperative framework for supporting development of a Mexican Bird Banding Program.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Bruce Peterjohn (U.S. Geological Survey)

**4:30 – 5:15:** Integrated Population Monitoring and Migratory Connectivity for Grassland Birds

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:** Arvind Panjabi (Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory - RMBO), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Viviana Ruiz-Gutierrez (RMBO), Erin Strasser (RMBO), Irene Ruvalcaba (Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo Leon), Jose Hugo Martinez Guerrero (Universidad Juarez del Estado de Durango), the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), North Dakota Game and Fish (NDGF), Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV), Environment Canada (EC), U.S. Forest Service International Program (FSIP), World Wildlife Fund-Carlos Slim Foundation (WWF-CSF) and The Nature Conservancy.

**DESCRIPTION:** Development of an integrated population monitoring program and model to inform full annual cycle conservation of grassland birds under a structured decision making framework.

**BACKGROUND:** Grasslands have been a priority ecosystem for the Trilateral for many years due to steep, long-term population declines in high-priority migratory species that are shared between Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Despite increased attention in all three countries, it is unclear whether factors on the breeding, wintering or migration grounds are contributing equally to population declines or if certain seasonal demographic rates are having a disproportionate effect.

Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and its partners are continuing to build on the scientific foundation established for grassland bird conservation over the last decade by developing a full annual cycle integrated population monitoring program to inform conservation decision-making and evaluation by stakeholders. This trilateral project aims to integrate demographic, abundance and migratory connectivity data from across the breeding and wintering range to evaluate the effects of various demographic rates on population growth and identify seasonal bottlenecks and limiting factors across the full annual cycle. For our 2015 pilot effort we are focusing on collecting baseline demographic rates (i.e., reproduction, juvenile survival, adult breeding and non-breeding survival), seasonal abundance and migratory connectivity data for two steeply declining bird species that are representative of the Great Plains-Chihuahuan Desert migratory grassland bird guild, the Baird's Sparrow and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus bairdii* and *A. savannarum*). These parameters are the building blocks for integrated

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population models, currently the best tool for estimating the sensitivity of population change to specific demographic rates.

Threats to grassland birds are increasing in all three countries, especially Mexico, where limited flat grasslands are rapidly being replaced by croplands. Greater strategic investment in grassland conservation is urgently needed, but the science to guide this investment is incomplete. By understanding which demographic rates have the greatest effect on population growth over time, and where in the annual life cycle these populations are being limited, we will be able to better target resources and other conservation actions to improve success and maximize returns on investments.

Currently we are implementing this project (fully or in part) in 3 Mexican states, 2 U.S. states, and 1 Canadian province. Through additional partnerships we hope to expand this effort in all three countries in the near future. Ultimately, we aim to frame the collection of information for grasslands conservation decision-making, and apply results from the full annual cycle model to evaluate outcomes and trade-offs, under a structured decision-making framework with broad stakeholder participation.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** This trilateral project requires significant funding and partnerships to carry out the existing and planned activities. We respectfully request endorsement of this project by the MBT to assist partners in generating the required support to implement this project at the scale needed.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Arvind Panjabi and Humberto Berlanga

**5:15 – 5:30: Catch up and Adjourn**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2014**

**9:00 – 11:00: Joint Session: Monarch Butterfly Conservation**

**11:00– 12:00:** ET & Working Table Co-chairs Meeting. AND Pre Field Visit / Program Highlights (SPLIT SESSION)

\*\*\*\*\***Lunch: 12:00 – 1:00pm**\*\*\*\*\*

**1:00- 5:30:** Field Trip

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2014**

**9:00 – 9:15: Co-Chairs review week, revisit priorities and action items, and present wrap-up plan**

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**9:15 – 9:30: State of the Birds Report**

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs; Allison Vogt, Association of Fish and Wildlife Association (PRESENTER); Basile Van Havre, CWS (PRESENTER)

DESCRIPTION: Collaborators will discuss progress to date on the 2015 US State of the Birds and the development of a 2016 State of the Birds of North American report.

BACKGROUND: This item follows discussion and ideas shared for the development of such reports during the 2013 and 2014 Trilateral meetings.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: To provide feedback on a draft outline for the report.

SUBMITTED BY: Charles Francis, CWS

**9:30 – 10:00: 2016 Centennial of U.S./Canada treaty Celebration Planning**

COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: TBD

DESCRIPTION: Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial Update

BACKGROUND: A representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Migratory Bird Program will provide an update on the strategic framework and implementation planning for the 2016 campaign honoring the Centennial of the first Migratory Bird Treaty between the U.S. and Canada.

REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Review and comment on the strategic framework and proposed actions. Pledge support for campaign implementation.

SUBMITTED BY: Rachel Penrod, Outreach and Education Coordinator, Division of Bird Habitat Conservation, Jennie Duberstein, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Sonoran Joint Venture

**10:00 – 10:15: Break**

**10:15 - 11:00:** Finalize Action Plan for Trinational Cooperation on Bird Conservation  
OPEN

**11:00 – 11:15: Break**

**11:15 – 1:00: Finalize Report**

\*\*\*\*\*Lunch 1:00 – 2:00pm\*\*\*\*\*



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**2:00 – 3:45pm: Report out to Executive Table**

**3:45 – 4:00: Break**

**4:00 – 5:15pm: Working tables adjourned / ET prepares response to the reports from the WTs**

**7:00 – 9:00pm: Closing Dinner: Remarks from the Heads of Delegation/Signature of Cooperation Declaration/Special Recognition**