



**XXVIII Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/U.S. Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem  
Conservation and Management**

**Migratory Birds**

**April 29 – May 2, 2024**

DRAFT

## All Times Pacific Time Zone and Subject To Change

### Working Table: Migratory Birds

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#### Co-Chairs:

- **Natalie Savoie**, Manager, Migratory Bird 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;
- **Eric L. Kershner**, Chief, Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (standing in for Ken Richkus, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service), United States

#### Associate Co-chairs:

- **Charles Francis**, Manager, Wildlife Monitoring and Assessment, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada;
- **Vicente Rodriguez**, Subcoordinador de Información y Análisis, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico

#### Coordinator:

- **Jo Anna Lutmerding**, Biologist, Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, United States, [jo\\_lutmerding@fws.gov](mailto:jo_lutmerding@fws.gov)

#### Virtual Meeting Connection Information:

This has been included in a separate attachment in the email sharing the agenda.

#### Translation support

#### Trilateral Committee Priorities for 2024

- Climate Change (Connectivity)
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Integrating Human Dimensions
- Technology Innovation for Conservation
- Zoonotic Diseases

#### Migratory Birds Table Priorities:

- Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
- Integrating Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility
- Mainstreaming Biodiversity
  - Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation
- Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats
- Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
- Wildlife Health

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**Summary Agenda  
Migratory Bird Working Table**

<b>Monday April 29</b>	<b>Tuesday April 30</b>	<b>Wednesday May 1</b>	<b>Thursday May 2</b>
<i>All times PDT</i>			<b>7:30 – 8:30 am</b> AFWA-States Coffee & Conversation
<p><b>9:00am–12:30pm</b> San Diego Mission Valley Conf. Room</p> <p><i>All Delegates</i></p> <p>Plenary Session – Theme:</p> <p>Panel of Speakers, followed by fielded discussion.</p>	<p><b>9:00am – 10:15am</b> Conf. Room</p> <p><a href="#">1. Welcome and Introductions (10 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">2. MBWT Action Item Plan (10 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">3. Country Updates (55 min)</a></p>	<p><b>9:00am – 10:15am</b></p> <p><b>Hemispheric-scale Conservation</b></p> <p><a href="#">12. Improving the language of migratory bird science in North America (20 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">13. Americas Flyways Framework Overview and Next steps (60 min)</a></p>	<p><b>9:00 – 10:15 am</b></p> <p><b>General Monitoring</b></p> <p><a href="#">26. Nested Hexagon Framework (15 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">27. Hold space for monitoring item from MX (15 min) *(agenda item pending)</a></p> <p><b>Trinational Monitoring Coordination</b></p> <p><a href="#">28. eBird updates and emerging tools (45 min) *(agenda item pending)</a></p>
<b>BREAK 10:15am – 10:30am</b>	<b>BREAK 10:15am – 10:30am</b>	<b>BREAK 10:15am - 10:30am</b>	<b>BREAK 10:15am -10:30 am</b>
<p><b>10:30am – 12:30pm</b> Conf. Room</p> <p><a href="#">4. Trilateral Priorities (60 min) – *(agenda item pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">5. JEDIA Presentation and Discussion: (60 min) Language of conservation is dynamic and powerful</a></p>	<p><b>10:30 am – 12:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">14. Conservation Investment Strategies for Implementing Hemispheric-Scale Bird Conservation (60 min)</a></p> <p><b>Anthropogenic Threats to Birds</b></p> <p><a href="#">15. Updates on approaches to Incidental Take (15 min) (CA and US) *(agenda item pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">16. Marine Debris Project Updates (45 min)</a></p>	<p><b>10:30–12:30pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">29. Discussion: Trilateral consideration of eBird data in decision-making (60 min) *(agenda item pending)</a></p> <p><a href="#">30. Discussion (60 min): Recap of the week, confirm action items and next steps</a></p>	

**Summary Agenda  
Migratory Bird Working Table**

<b>Monday April 29</b>	<b>Tuesday April 30</b>	<b>Wednesday May 1</b>	<b>Thursday May 2</b>
<b>LUNCH 12:30 – 2pm</b>	<b>LUNCH 12:30 – 2:00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH 12:30pm – 2:00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH 12:30 – 2:00pm</b>
<p><b>2:00pm–4:00pm</b> Hotel lobby meet <i>All Delegates</i></p> <p>Plenary Field Trip – Location TBD</p>	<p>2:00 pm – 3:15pm</p> <p><b><i>Joint Session with Ecosystems Working Table</i></b></p> <p><b>Grassland Conservation (75 min)</b></p> <p><i>*(confirm if can extend session 5 min or with presenters if one of presentations can be 15 min)</i></p> <p><a href="#">6. Drivers of Grassland Change in Canada (20 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">7. Applying the Waterfowl Model to Conservation of Grassland Birds (20)</a></p> <p><a href="#">8. Economic Valuations for Grassland Conservation in Canada (20 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">9. Tamaulipan Brushland Conservation Investment Strategy (RGJV) (20 min)</a></p>	<p><b>2:00 pm – 3:15pm</b></p> <p><a href="#">17. Trilateral Bycatch Working Group Work Plan Advancement (30 min)</a></p> <p><b>General Conservation Updates</b></p> <p><a href="#">18. Southern Wings: Connectivity Across the Americas (15 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">19. Islands Initiative (15 min)</a></p> <p><a href="#">20. Black-footed Albatross Translocation (15 min)</a></p>	<p><b>2:00–3:15 pm</b> Conf. Room <i>Closed Session: Working table co-chair session closeouts and Co-chairs Prep time for ET report out.</i></p>
	<b>BREAK 3:15pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>BREAK 3:15 pm – 3:30pm</b>	<b>BREAK 3:15pm – 3:30pm</b>
	<p><b>3:30pm – 5:00pm</b></p> <p><b><i>Joint Session: Ecosystems Working Table</i></b></p> <p><a href="#">10. JV8 Business Plan (20)</a></p>	<p><b>3:30pm – 5:00pm</b></p> <p>3:30 – 4:30 <i>*(Agenda items and plan for session pending)</i></p> <p><b><i>Joint session: Species of Special Conservation Concern Working Table</i></b></p>	<p><b>3:30-5:00 pm</b> Conf. Room Report Out to the Executive Table</p>

**Summary Agenda  
Migratory Bird Working Table**

<b>Monday April 29</b>	<b>Tuesday April 30</b>	<b>Wednesday May 1</b>	<b>Thursday May 2</b>
	<a href="#">11. Grasslands LOI Working Group: How to support the recommendations made in the Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent (60 min)</a>	<p><b>*One Health or Wildlife Disease</b></p> <p><a href="#">21. The Zoonotic Potential of Avian Influenza Virus H5 (20 min)</a></p> <p>22. <i>*(Agenda item pending)</i></p> <p>23. <i>*(Agenda item pending)</i></p> <p><a href="#">24. 4:30- 5:00 Binational Lower Colorado river Marsh Bird Working Group –</a></p>	
<p><b>6:00 – 8:00pm</b> Opening Reception</p>	<p><i>*Birding and/or group dinner?</i></p>	<p><b>5:30 - 6:30 pm</b> – U.S. ET Co-chair &amp; US Co-chairs/ Facilitators Meeting</p> <p><b>7:00 – 8:30 pm</b> - ET Co-chairs Meet &amp; Greet (time TBC)</p>	<p><b>6:30 – 8:30 pm</b> – Closing Ceremony</p>

**Tuesday, April 30, 2024**

**Times provided in Pacific Time Zone**

<b>9:00 - 9:05</b>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 1: Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eric Kershner (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Standard item to build consensus and ensure full participation.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda.</li><li>▪ Adoption of the agenda</li></ul>
<b>9:05 – 9:15</b>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 2: 2023-24 Action Item Report (AIR)</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eric Kershner (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> 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><b>BACKGROUND:</b> 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><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</p>
<b>9:15 – 10:15</b>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 3: Country Updates (20 minutes each)</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eric Kershner (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the MBT.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Information and identification of priority topics for further discussion.</p>

10:15 – 10:30	<b>BREAK</b>
10:30 – 11:30	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 4: Conservation opportunities for shared priorities among Trilateral countries</u></b></p> <p>Identifying shared priorities in bird conservation among the Trilateral countries and opportunities for alignment</p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eric Kershner (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b></p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b></p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p>
11:30 – 12:30	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 5: The Language of Conservation is Dynamic and Powerful</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b>  Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture  Andrea Grosse, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  Tatiana Sánchez, CONABIO  Natalie Savoie, Canadian Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b>  Language is the foundation for understanding. Words have power. The language we use to discuss migratory bird conservation impacts the partnerships we build and the capacity of those involved to fully understand, create ideas, and engage. An English language monopoly in science and conservation decreases creativity, increases power asymmetries, and reduces our ability to build effective international collaborations.</p> <p>We will identify and discuss barriers and inequities created by making English the de facto language of bird conservation, identify strategies for overcoming/removing them, and think about how we can most effectively engage with one another and our partners to increase understanding and collaboration for migratory bird conservation.</p>



**BACKGROUND:**

How often do you find yourself in work-related meetings, calls, or conferences where your preferred language is not the primary language being spoken? For many people working in migratory bird conservation in the region of the Trilateral, this occurs daily. English is the default language of migratory bird conservation in North America, limiting participation and access to everything from meetings to publications to those who speak at least some English.

The threats facing migratory birds are vast. To address them, we need as many people and as much creativity as involved as possible. Limiting discussion to only those with the ability to communicate in English decreases justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, along with engagement and creativity. While not always easy, working towards greater equity in language access will improve the work of the Trilateral Migratory Bird Table.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

- Table co-chairs and participants gain an improved understanding of what is gained/lost when someone can speak (or prevented from speaking) in their preferred language and recognize the impacts to the work of the Migratory Bird Table.
- Table co-chairs and participants understand the value of simultaneous interpreters and translators (and the difference between the two).
- Table co-chairs commit to providing simultaneous interpretation, and to translating the agenda into French, English, and Spanish.
- Table co-chairs and participants identify additional action points and commit to addressing barriers to improve multilingual communication and collaboration at the Migratory Bird Table.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture  
Ella Bowles, Canadian Wildlife Service  
Tatiana Sánchez, CONABIO  
Jo Anna Lutmerding, US Fish and Wildlife Service

	<p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</li> </ul>
12:30 – 2:00	LUNCH
	<i>Grassland Bird Conservation Joint Session with Ecosystems Table</i>
2:00 - 2:15	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 6:</u> Understanding drivers of grassland change in Canada</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b>  Ronnie Drever, Senior Conservation Scientist, Nature United (<a href="mailto:cdrever@tnc.org">cdrever@tnc.org</a>)</p> <p>Cedric MacLeod, Executive Director, Canadian Forage and Grassland Association (<a href="mailto:executivedirector@canadianfga.ca">executivedirector@canadianfga.ca</a>)</p> <p>Carolyn Seburn, Manager of Priority Sectors Initiative, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (<a href="mailto:carolyn.seburn@ec.gc.ca">carolyn.seburn@ec.gc.ca</a>)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b>  Under the Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund, ECCC is funding foundational science to develop baselines and projections for the grassland ecosystem in Canada. Through partnerships with organizations such as Nature United and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association, we are bringing together grassland experts to evaluate grassland inventories to identify historical baselines for grasslands and develop projections of grassland change, drawing from historical baseline data, along with socio-economic, behavioural and policy data. The intent is to improve the state of knowledge on natural climate solutions in Canada and identify where and how best to implement greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation activities to support Canada’s GHG emissions reduction target while gaining biodiversity benefits.</p> <p>Nature United and the Canadian Forage and Grassland Association will present on research and collaboration efforts to date and future work plans.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b>  ECCC’s Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund (NSCSF) is a \$1.4 billion ten-year fund (2021-2030) to reduce 5-7 megatons of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions annually by reducing ecosystem conversion, improving management of natural areas and increasing restoration. Activities funded under NSCSF are expected to achieve co-benefits for biodiversity and human well-being. Targeted ecosystems include grasslands, wetlands, peatlands and forest.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness of grassland research and monitoring efforts in Canada</li> <li>• Identify potential to share information and learnings with partners in the US and Mexico, including through the Central Grasslands Roadmap</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  Carolyn Seburn, Manager of Priority Sectors Initiative, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (<a href="mailto:carolyn.seburn@ec.gc.ca">carolyn.seburn@ec.gc.ca</a>)</p> <p>Erika Bachmann, Policy Advisor, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) (<a href="mailto:Erika.bachmann@ec.gc.ca">Erika.bachmann@ec.gc.ca</a>)</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats</b></li> <li>• <b>Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</b></li> </ul>
<p>2:15 – 2:30</p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 7: Applying the Waterfowl Model to Conservation of Grassland Birds</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Neal Niemuth, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (<a href="mailto:neal_niemuth@fws.gov">neal_niemuth@fws.gov</a>); Kevin Barnes, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (<a href="mailto:kevin_barnes@fws.gov">kevin_barnes@fws.gov</a>); Heath Hagy, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (<a href="mailto:heath_hagy@fws.gov">heath_hagy@fws.gov</a>); Mike Estey, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The 2019 “Billion Birds Report” demonstrated that population trends for North American bird groups 1970-2017 are bookended by grassland birds, which showed the greatest loss of individuals from ten breeding biome groups, and waterfowl/wetland birds, which were the only breeding biome group to show a population increase during the analysis period. Positive trends for waterfowl populations were attributed to management actions, leading multiple scientists and conservation leaders to advocate waterfowl management as a model for conservation of other species, particularly grassland birds.</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Species richness and abundance of both breeding waterfowl and breeding grassland birds are highest in the northern Great Plains, affording a unique opportunity to assess the response to conservation efforts by two bird groups with different population trajectories and levels of conservation delivery. Largest increases in populations of breeding waterfowl occurred in areas of the Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (PPJV) with high levels of waterfowl conservation delivery. Population trends for grassland birds in the PPJV were inconsistent, but changed dramatically when population trends were considered separately for dryland species and species associated with moist soils and wetland margins. Dryland species showed uniform declines across the PPJV, but grassland birds associated with moist soils and wetland margins showed substantial increases in</p>

	<p>the same geographies where duck populations increased. Additional analyses show that proportions of populations in the PPJV that are protected are highest for grassland bird species that use moist soils and wetland margins and that waterfowl conservation has benefitted millions of individuals of grassland birds. Our findings suggest that conservation of grassland birds across the continent would benefit from the same efforts that have benefitted waterfowl populations: high levels of focused, long-term conservation delivery that are guided by use of species-specific, population-based spatial models and decision-support tools that consider biological value, cost, risk of habitat loss, and intended treatments. For most breeding species, current monitoring, planning, and modeling efforts are sufficient to identify species and geographic areas in need of additional conservation delivery and to support targeted delivery of specific conservation treatments. The waterfowl conservation model provides extensive infrastructure, expertise, and experience that can greatly benefit conservation efforts for grassland birds, but improved communication and integration of efforts are necessary to improve outcomes for both species groups.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support proven strategies and tools that can guide conservation delivery for grassland birds</li> <li>• Support the need to transition grassland bird conservation efforts from planning to delivery</li> <li>• Identify people and organizations responsible for successful waterfowl conservation whose insights can benefit conservation of grassland birds</li> <li>• Promote further communication and demonstration of proven concepts and tools to support conservation delivery for grassland birds</li> <li>• Support development of conservation funding and delivery systems in areas of high risk, high biological value, and low levels of protection to benefit breeding grassland birds across North America</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Neal Niemuth, USFWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team (neal_niemuth@fws.gov)</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Mainstreaming Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:30 – 2:45</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 8: Improving economic valuations for protection and stewardship of prairie grasslands of Canada</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b></p>

- Stewardship Unit, Prairie Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada (contact Karl Zimmer)
- Office of the Chief Appraiser of Canada
- Canadian Cattle Association
- Alberta Beef Producers
- Southern Alberta Land Trust
- Alberta Conservation Association
- Rural Municipality of Reno
- Saskatchewan Stock Growers Foundation

**DESCRIPTION:**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), alongside its partners, have been working to provide a greater suite of options that better represent the true economic costs related to both voluntary avoidance of habitat conversion and voluntary stewardship actions that support species at risk. This includes an exploration of novel economic valuation approaches that align better with land manager’s daily economic considerations and decision making. It is hoped this would enable enhanced economic incentives that increase cooperation and participation in land securement and management of private and public grasslands.

Specifically, ECCC would like to share information related to several economic valuation approaches it is investigating under two new pilot programs. These include:

- examining policy options that support short-term conservation easements that support increased payments for irreplaceable habitats under a sales approach appraisal framework;
- exploring alternative land appraisal techniques including 1) the income approach to determine easement value based on the potential income a piece of property could generate if not restricted; 2) the cost approach where lands are valued based on the expected cost it would take to replace habitat to its current condition if it was lost to conversion; and
- Testing land stewardship reimbursements to high performing land managers based on established municipal land tax mill rates and rangeland community descriptions.

**BACKGROUND:**

Federal data sources indicate Canada is losing on average 1% of native grasslands annually to conversion to more intensive land uses like annual cropping. Native grasslands are now identified as the most endangered ecosystem in North America which is implicated in the severe declines of many grassland species including several already listed as “threatened” or “endangered” under the *Species at Risk Act* in Canada.

	<p>Perpetual conservation easements have been successful in other parts of the country to reduce the threat of land conversion, but there has been very low uptake of these traditional conservation easements by landowners in the grasslands ecoregion of Canada. ECCC research suggests one reason for this is current valuation methods, generally using the sales comparison approach, are perceived by landowners to undervalue the impact easement restrictions have on either current or future economic opportunities. Likewise, landowners are hesitant to accept permanent restrictions over concerns the restrictions will impede them or subsequent owners from accessing economic opportunities that may be required to sustain their operations. Additionally, stewardship and management of these lands are resulting in public benefits that are often coming at a cost to the private land managers. ECCC, alongside its partners, have been working to provide a greater suite of options that better represent the true economic costs related to voluntary avoidance of habitat conversion. This also includes development of tools with greater flexibility in order to increase the uptake of conservation easements while also supporting strong stewardship of habitat to accelerate long term protection and management of privately and publicly owned grasslands.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sharing of alternative models for incentivizing species at risk and grassland conservation</li> <li>- Seeking shared alignment with other jurisdictions to improve access to non-government funding sources</li> <li>- Learn from other jurisdictions regarding their success and failures of similar programs.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> (include name and organization) Karl Zimmer, Canadian Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b> Ecosystem Conservation</p>
<p><b>2:45 – 3:00</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 9:</u> A conservation investment strategy for grassland-dominated habitats of the binational Tamaulipan Brushlands ecoregion.</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Jesús Franco (jfranco@abcbirds.org), Rebekah Rylander, Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture / American Bird Conservancy; Carlos Barriga, Pronatura Noreste.</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> In the Tamaulipan Brushlands ecoregion native grasslands are more and more uncommon. Most of this habitat is a mosaic of non-native grasses, woody plants and native grasses. The grasslands, as well as properly managed prairies on</p>

working lands, of this ecoregion are a critical wintering habitat for migratory grassland birds including Long-billed Curlew, Sprague's Pipet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper and Mountain Plover. A coalition of U.S. partners (state, federal, NGO, academics, and private landowners) have joined forces with Mexican partners (NGO, state government, and private landowners) on the development of a conservation investment strategy - an overarching, landscape-level initiative that can be used by regional partners to help guide their grassland management efforts and investment in south Texas and northeast Mexico. This strategy will allow partners improve their ability to prioritize, implement, and evaluate grassland habitat conservation actions in this ecoregion.

**BACKGROUND:**

Linking the U.S. and Mexico across the Rio Grande this ecoregion is one of the most biologically diverse regions in North America. It is mostly flat to gently rolling with higher hills and cliffs along the Rio Grande and is covered mostly with a dense growth of low to medium thorny trees and brush. In some areas live oak woodlands are interspersed with grasslands and brushlands. Impacts of humans have been severe on these habitats effectively reducing the quality, quantity, and connectivity of grassland and grassland-dominated habitats of the ecoregion, key resources for migratory bird species as well as for other grassland dependent wildlife.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** Inform the Committee about this binational initiative, consider how to increase participation by Mexican partners for the conservation of shared ecoregion and migratory bird species, and discuss potential additional collaboration opportunities. More specifically: 1) commitment from the two countries to elevate grasslands of this ecoregion as a binational priority and signing of an MOU to formally recognize this shared priority, and 2) when the Strategy is complete, endorsement and dedication of staff and resources to achieve measures of success.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture / American Bird Conservancy

**WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:**

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

3:00 – 3:15

**AGENDA ITEM 10: The JV8 Business Plan to Recover North America’s Central Grasslands**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:**

Andy Bishop, Rainwater Basin Joint Venture (andy\_bishop@fws.gov)  
Mike Carter, Playa Lakes Joint Venture (mike.carter@pljv.org)  
Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture (rchapman@abcbirds.org)  
Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture (jennie\_duberstein@fws.gov)  
Ali Duvall, JV8 Manager (manager@JV8.org)  
Jim Giocomo, American Bird Conservancy (jgiocomo@abcbirds.org)  
Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (lauri\_hanauska-brown@fws.gov)  
Robert Perez, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture (rperez@abcbirds.org)  
Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. (jeff.raasch@tpwd.texas.gov)  
Barry Robinson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (barry.robinson@ec.gc.ca)  
Catherine Wightman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (cwightman@ducks.org)

**DESCRIPTION:**

The [JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative](#) (JV8) is one of multiple efforts in the Central Grasslands working to address the loss of grassland habitat, wildlife species, and the impacts to communities and economies, to maintain this iconic biome. The *JV8 Business Plan to Recover North America’s Central Grasslands: Strategies, Funding, and Partnerships Needed to Save One of the World’s Most Endangered Ecosystems* is a bold and ambitious blueprint that supports and scales up grassland habitat collaboration. This collaboration includes the [Central Grasslands Roadmap](#), the biome-wide effort that is bringing together eight sectors with a shared vision, common principles, and collaborative priorities for the many people and organizations living and working on the Central Grasslands.

The purpose of the business plan is to:

1. Orient and enhance wide-ranging and diverse JV partnerships across multiple nations to address grassland habitat and migratory bird loss.
2. Identify conservation outcomes, geographic focus, and implementation strategies to address cropland conversion and woody shrub encroachment.
3. Communicate the costs and funding required to scale up effective conservation of the Central Grasslands through an iterative process of learning and adaptation.

**BACKGROUND:**

The JV8 vision is that the grasslands from Canada to Mexico support stable, thriving, and diverse communities of birds, other wildlife, and people into the future. Our mission is to engage and expand [Migratory Bird Joint Venture](#) (JV) partnerships across North America for the stewardship of native grassland ecosystems.



	<p>JV8’s role is to support stewards and stakeholders working across the Central Grasslands to deliver proactive, voluntary grassland habitat conservation using western science and Indigenous knowledge. JV8 focuses on supporting and strengthening local and regional partnerships to stem grassland habitat loss and negative impacts to migratory birds.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss potential sources of financial and institutional support across Canada, the U.S.A., and Mexico for Business Plan implementation and for scaling up successful grassland conservation efforts among Joint Venture partners and beyond.</li> <li>• Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the central grasslands of North America.</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture (jennie_duberstein@fws.gov)  Jeff Raasch, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (jeff.raasch@tpwd.texas.gov)  Barry Robinson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture (barry.robinson@ec.gc.ca)</p>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:30</b></p>	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>
<p><b>3:30 – 4:15</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 11: How to support the recommendations made in the Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b>  Katie Nuessly, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Adam Hanson, WILD  Alaine Camfield, Canadian Wildlife Service  Amanda Gonzales, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  Christian Artuso, Canadian Wildlife Service  David Borre González, Programa México, USDA Forest Service  Debbie DeVore, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Jo Anna Lutmerding, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Kristin Madden, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Irene Ruvalcaba Ortega, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León  Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap  Margaret Francis, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Paulette Fox, President of Harmony Walkers Inc.  Rob Doster, US Fish and Wildlife Service  Tammy VerCauteren, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies  Valencia Richardson, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p>

	<p>Vicente Rodriguez, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad Xiomara Labiosa, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Provide recommendations on how to support the recommendations made in the Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent. Discuss opportunities to support the communities and the partnerships doing grassland conservation work.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> After the Trilateral Committee Grasslands Conservation Letter of Intent was signed, a team of grassland conservation professionals was gathered to find and detail ways to support the recommendations outlined by the letter. The Grasslands LOI Implementation Team met over the past six months and have compiled a list of actions that support the communities and partnerships engaging in grassland conservation.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share recommendations with co-chairs and other Trilateral meeting participants</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Katie Nuessly, US Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</li> </ul>
4:15 – 5:00	

**WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2024**

**Times provided in Pacific Time zone**

9:00 – 9:20	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 12: Improving the language of migratory bird science in North America</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Steven Albert, The Institute for Bird Populations</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Several long-accepted terms are widely misused in ornithology and have led to a misperception of important concepts in the ecology of migratory birds in this</p>
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hemisphere. The term “North America” is widely used by conservation professionals to refer to the United States and Canada, when in fact it should include all of the continent from the Arctic through Panama. In a similar vein, the terms “wintering” and “over-wintering”, “spring migration”, and “fall migration” are inappropriate for Nearctic–Neotropical migrants because they explicitly reference conditions in the temperate zone of the continent, even as most such species spend the majority of their annual cycle elsewhere, where these terms are inaccurate and unhelpful. Most of tropical Latin America does not experience and many do not experience spring or fall, the definition of what is winter differs greatly by region. In this presentation, I will discuss the pitfalls of using these terms for those working for the conservation of migratory birds, and suggest several alternatives and replacements.

**BACKGROUND:**

The language we use shapes the way we think about important concepts, and of course, vice-versa: When we think about things in a certain way, we choose language that reflects that view. For decades, conservation scientists and lay people in the U.S. and Canada have referred to the ecology of migratory birds using terms that are inaccurate, confusing, and biased toward a perspective of their home countries. In particular, the terms “North America” and “wintering” or “over-wintering” have become an entrenched part of the ornithological lexicon. But these terms are usually misapplied.

From a strictly geographical/geological viewpoint, North America includes land mass from the Arctic through the Panamanian isthmus, though thousands of books and articles in the scientific literature, and all of the most widely used field guides, use that term to refer only to the region’s northernmost two countries. Similarly, the term “wintering” refers to the season in the temperate north when colder temperatures set in and hundreds of millions of birds migrate south to Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean. But once the birds leave northern Mexico, it’s not necessarily “winter” anymore. The term is most widely used in Latin America to refer to the rainy time of year, which varies widely across the region. And of course, once the birds cross the equator into temperate South America, as hundreds of species do, the term “winter” is completely wrong: it’s the austral summer. Just as importantly, using terms that have no meaning or relevance to our colleagues working in Latin America perpetuates a biased view of conservation ecology.

This should not be viewed as a scolding from the language police, and changing these terms is not an attempt to parse semantics: The terms are simply unscientific or wrong and should be abandoned in the contexts we described. In their place, we will offer several more accurate alternatives.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:** (bulleted or short paragraph of requested outcomes from presentation and discussion, *including, if applicable, an action item* that may be discussed for inclusion in the Action Item Plan)

- An open discussion on the applicability of the new terms.

	<p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Steven Albert, The Institute for Bird Populations</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrating Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility</li> </ul>
<p><b>9:20 – 10:15</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 13: Re-invigorating the Americas Flyways Framework Taskforce to Support Hemispheric-scale Conservation</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Dr. Rob Clay (Director, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and Vice President of Flyways at Manomet, <a href="mailto:rclay@manomet.org">rclay@manomet.org</a>), Natalie Dudinszky (Grasslands Program Manager, BirdLife International, <a href="mailto:natalie.dudinszky@birdlife.org">natalie.dudinszky@birdlife.org</a>), Krishna Barros Bonavides (Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change – Brazil, <a href="mailto:krishna.bonavides@mma.gov.br">krishna.bonavides@mma.gov.br</a>), Co-chairs –Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Ken Richkus (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS), Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Participants in the CMS CoP 14 side event, Americas Flyways Framework: A Grassland Migratory Bird Perspective and the MBWT co-chairs will discuss desired outcomes of a second AFF Task Force meeting and opportunities for the MBWT co-chairs to be engaged with meeting planning and participation.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The <a href="#">Americas Flyways Framework (AFF)</a> was developed under the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and the <a href="#">AFF Task Force met in 2018</a> to develop an <a href="#">action plan for the Americas Flyways</a> that spanned 2018-2023. At the 2024 CMS Conference of Parties, there was a side event hosted by members of Manomet, BirdLife International, Brazil Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Trilateral Migratory Bird Working Table, that discussed amplifying grassland conservation efforts using the AFF as a mechanism to build connections among governments and non-government organizations across the Western Hemisphere. Brazil is planning to organize a joint meeting among the Americas Flyways Framework Task Force and signatories to the <a href="#">Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Southern South American Migratory Grassland Bird Species and Their Habitats</a>.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Discussion and summary of MBWT co-chair engagement and support for Trilateral participation in the AFF Task Force meeting.</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:15 – 10:30</b></p>	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>

10:30 – 11:30

**AGENDA ITEM 14: Conservation Investment Strategies for Implementing Hemispheric-Scale Bird Conservation**

**COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:**

Guy Foulks (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Program, USFWS)  
Randy Dettmers (Northeast Region Migratory Bird Biologist, USFWS)  
Dr. Rob Clay (Director, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network and Vice President of Flyways at Manomet)  
Becky Stewart (Migratory Bird Conservation, Canadian Wildlife Service)

**DESCRIPTION:**

This hour-long session includes a series of presentations on Bird Conservation Investment Strategies (BCIS) followed by discussion. Presentations include:

1. Updates on the status of draft BCISs.
2. Implementation case study.
3. Potential mechanisms to disseminate, coordinate, track and evaluate BCIS progress.

Discussion topics are:

1. Need for a mechanism to disseminate, coordinate, track and evaluate BCIS (e.g., online portal).
2. How to best support and enable broad scale implementation.
3. Promoting BCISs via the Migratory Bird Working Table, Convention on Migratory Species, and Americas Flyways Framework.
4. Opportunities to promote BCISs to new partners.

**BACKGROUND:**

Bird Conservation Investment Strategies are partner co-created sets of well developed, scientifically based actions designed to address the factors limiting migratory bird populations throughout their annual cycles. These strategies target investments towards prioritized actions with measurable conservation outcomes that investors can use to gauge the effectiveness of their conservation investments over time. Bird Conservation Investment Strategies create a unified vision for action for priority migratory birds across the Western Hemisphere.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

- Committee advise, input and support as several plans move from planning to implementation
- Commitment from committee to use plans as a mechanism to guide and integrate migratory bird goals, priorities and actions across the 3 countries
- Assistance from the committee in bringing CISCs to hemispheric scale planning tables

	<p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> </ul>
	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Addressing Anthropogenic Impacts to Birds</i></p>
<p><b>11:30 – 11:45</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 15: Updates on Approaches to Incidental Take of Migratory Birds</b></p>
<p><b>11:45 – 12:30</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 16: Trilateral Marine Debris Team Project Status</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> <i>Current Co-Chairs:</i> Jennifer Provencher (ECCC), Caleb Spiegel (USFWS), Yuri Albores (Universidad Autonoma Baja California Sur; Past-chair until January 2024)</p> <p><i>Current Working Group Members:</i> Dalila Aldana Aranda (Cinvestav, Unidad Mérida), Sarah Da Silva (ECCC), Eva DiDonato (NPS), Scott Flemming (ECCC), Ingrid Pollet (ECCC), Pete Leary (USFWS), Steve Morrison (NOAA Marine Debris Program), Brendan Moynahan (NPS), Horacio Pérez España (Universidad Veracruzana), Marina Petrovic (Fisheries and Oceans Canada), Lisa Shender (NPS), Cecilia Soldatini (CICESE), Vincente Rodriguez (CONBIO)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b></p> <p>As an outcome of an invited presentation during the 2022 Trilateral, the Migratory Birds Working Table co-chairs approved the formation of a marine debris focus team as part of a Trinational Marine and Coastal Bird Working Group (also includes a fisheries bycatch focus group). The debris team, formed in late 2022, meets monthly and includes members from the Mexico, Canada, and the U.S. In early 2023, debris team members drafted a document outlining a set of consensus-derived objectives and priorities (‘Objectives Document’) that can benefit from tri-national collaboration. The Objectives Document was shared with the MB Working Table co-chairs in late March 2023 for initial feedback, which was generally supportive of objectives and priorities outlined. Chairs suggested a concerted focus on a small number of actions for one to two objectives the team could advance. Team members have since leads and carried out actions on these projects.</p> <p>First, members from Mexico have developed a survey that will be administered to explore and map the debris programs, projects and data that currently exist within this region. Second, a team from ECCC has been guiding the group through an exercise the identify litter and bird databases in North America, and explore which of these</p>

	<p>have entanglement data that could be used to assess which species and regions may be most vulnerable to entanglement issues. Third, colleagues from the US have been leading on ways that the group can align and contribute to international debris discussions via dissemination of communication products, including at the upcoming Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastics Pollution under UNEP taking place in Canada April 23-29, 2024.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b>  Negative interactions between debris and marine and coastal birds are increasingly documented throughout the world, as inputs of waste into the environment increase. Despite mounting evidence of impacts, the scale and effect of debris on bird populations remain largely understudied, and associated conservation actions (such as clean-ups) are not always focused on maximizing benefits. In order to address gaps in information and improve effectiveness of mitigation efforts across Trilateral nations, a marine debris team was formed under the Migratory Birds Working Table in late 2022 to foster collaboration and explore shared priorities among Mexico, the U.S., and Canada. The debris team has developed a set of objectives and priorities that have the support of MB Table co-chairs and will serve as the foundation of a trinational debris scoping document and implementation plan.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation of the draft products from the work to date</li> <li>- Discussion with the co-chairs of where to target these products in order to further coordination and develop projects with partners</li> </ul> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  Yuri Albores (Universidad Autonoma Baja California Sur; Past-chair until January 2024), Jennifer Provencher (ECCC), and Caleb Spiegel (USFWS)</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b> (choose from below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats</li> <li>• Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</li> <li>• Wildlife Health</li> </ul>
12:30 – 2:00	<b>LUNCH</b>
2:00 – 2:30	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 17:</u> Trilateral Bycatch Working Group Work Plan Advancement</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b></p>

*Co-Chairs:* Roberta Swift (USFWS), Vicente Rodríguez (CONABIO), Jake Russell-Mercier (ECCC)

*Working Group Members:* Alfredo Castillo (University of Guadalajara), Alicia Aztorga (Conservación de Islas), Allison Anholt (UNB), Annette Henry (NOAA), April Hedd (ECCC), Brad Keitt (ABC), Caleb Spiegel (USFWS), Caroline Fox (ECCC), Cecilia Soldatini (CICESE), Clement Chevallier (ECCC - CWS), Dan Anderson (UC Davis), Doug Bertram (ECCC), Eduardo Palacios (CICESE), Elizabeth Labunski (USFWS), Enriqueta Velarde (Centro de Ecología y Pesquerías), Francisco Fernandez (Comunidad y Biodiversidad), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Jennie Duberstein (USFWS), Julie Bourque (ECCC), Julio Hernández Montoya (Conservación de Islas), Ken Morgan (Retired from ECCC), Laurie Wilson (ECCC), Lee Benaka (NOAA), Mark Mallory (Acadia University), Martin Enrique Hernandez Rivas (Instituto Politécnico Nacional), Roberta Swift (USFWS), Sabina Wilhelm (ECCC), Scott Hall (NFWF), Tom Good (NOAA), Yuliana Bedolla (Conservación de Islas)

**DESCRIPTION:**

As an outcome of the 2021 Trilateral, the Migratory Birds Working Table co-chairs approved the formation of a Bycatch Working Group in 2022, which is co-chaired by and includes members from the US, Mexico, and Canada. The Working Group has since worked to identify short-term and medium to long-term actions, which may benefit from tri-national collaboration, for inclusion in a work plan. Proposed work actions were identified through meetings (both with the full working group, and through sub-national discussions), and subsequently ranked through an online survey weighted by country. Based on the survey and according to the work plan, national subgroups are focused on identifying monitoring programs, databases and general information related to bycatch at national levels, and exploring options for data sharing. Information needs are being identified as well.

**BACKGROUND:**

Incidental take in fisheries (bycatch) is a global conservation concern for seabirds. International collaboration is necessary in order to address the threats posed by fisheries bycatch to shared migratory bird species. As such, following discussions during the 2021 Trilateral, a Bycatch Working Group was formed under the Migratory Birds Working Table to foster collaboration and explore shared priorities among Mexico, the U.S., and Canada regarding this important topic. In 2022 the Bycatch Working Group was tasked with developing a Work Plan which includes 1-2 achievable actions.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

The Bycatch Working Group presents progress towards the top ranked action item to develop an inventory of needs (science, data, etc.) for each country, with special attention on identified needs that may be advanced by trinational collaboration. In addition, we ask the Migratory Bird Working Table to consider if there are ways in which we may be able to strengthen ties with ACAP regarding fisheries bycatch.



	<p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  Roberta Swift (USFWS), Jake Russell-Mercier (ECCC), Vicente Rodríguez (CONABIO)</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b> (choose from below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats</li> </ul> <p>Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</p>
<p>2:30-2:45</p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 18: Southern Wings: Connectivity Across the Americas</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Deb Hahn, AFWA; Bradley Wilkinson, AFWA/NABCI</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> (1-2 paragraph description of agenda item) 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 ongoing program for the State agencies with partnerships with Mexican and Canadian partners. We have presented about this program at previous meetings.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> (1-2 paragraph background on topic) The Program started in 2009. Since 2009 41 state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed over \$4 million to projects in the Colorado River Delta, Chihuahuan Desert grasslands, Laguna Madre, Sierra Madre Occidental, and Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico; Costa Rica; Honduras, 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, conservation investment strategies, implementing next steps for bird conservation in the Americas and the discussions about the America’s Flyways Framework.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> (bulleted or short paragraph of requested outcomes from presentation and discussion, <i>including, if applicable, an action item</i> that may be discussed for inclusion in the Action Item Plan)</p> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Deb Hahn and Bradley Wilkinson, AFWA</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Mainstreaming Biodiversity</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation</li> <li>● Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats</li> </ul>
<p><b>2:45-3:00</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 19: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</u></b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> (include names and organizations)</p> <p>Annie Little (NPS), Gilles Seutin (Parks Canada), Federico Méndez Sánchez (Conservación de Islas), Gregg Howald (Advanced Conservation Strategies), Patty Baiao (Island Conservation), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Nick Holmes (The Nature Conservancy), Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation), Lindsay Young (Pacific Rim Conservation)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> (1-2 paragraph description of agenda item)  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, new priorities, and efforts to further the LOI. We will highlight island conservation efforts that in particular relate to the 2024 priorities, particularly Mainstreaming Biodiversity for island conservation. This year also represents the 10-year anniversary since the signing of the Letter of Intent.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> (1-2 paragraph background on topic)</p> <p>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><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Annie Little, NPS (Channel Islands National Park; formerly with FWS)</p>

	<p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b> (choose from below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstreaming Biodiversity</li> <li>• Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:00-3:15</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 20:</u> Translocation of Black-footed Albatrosses from Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge, USA to Create a Breeding Colony on Guadalupe Island Biosphere Reserve, Mexico</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Eduardo Ponce Guevara (CONANP), Humberto Berlanga García (CONABIO), Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation), Robby Kohley (Pacific Rim Conservation), Federico Alfonso Méndez Sánchez (Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas), Julio Hernández Montoya (Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas), Israel Popoca Arellano (CONANP), Annie Little (National Park Service), Jared Underwood (USFWS, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument), Jonathan Plissner (USFWS).</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> In collaboration with many partner agencies in the USA and Mexico, under the CAN/USA/MEX Trilateral Island Initiative (TII), during 2020 we developed a 4-year program (2021-2024) to translocate Black-footed Albatross (<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>) from Midway Atoll to Guadalupe Island, Mexico to create a new breeding colony. Up to mid-January 2024, we have conducted four years of translocations as follows; 2021: 21 eggs and 12 chicks, with a total of 27 fledged chicks; 2022: 36 eggs, with 34 fledged chicks; 2023: 36 eggs, with 32 fledged chicks; 2024: 36 eggs currently being incubated by foster Laysan Albatross parents. With this, we expect a total of ca. 125 chicks will have fledged from Guadalupe Island by mid-July 2024.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The Black-footed Albatross (<i>Phoebastria nigripes</i>) has a total breeding population of about 57,500 pairs, 95% of which nest on low atolls in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Inundation of breeding colonies from sea level rise and storm surge associated with climate change is its most serious long-term threat. Protection of suitable nesting habitat and creation of new colonies on higher islands are among the highest priority conservation actions. Guadalupe is a large, high island that is protected as a Biosphere Reserve and already supports a thriving colony of Laysan Albatrosses. Black-footed Albatrosses already forage in the cold waters of the California Current around Guadalupe, which are less likely to be affected by climate change than most other regions of the Pacific. Creation of a breeding colony in the eastern Pacific would increase the breeding range of the species and enhance its resiliency to climate change.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> To report on the progress of four years (2021-2024) of Black-footed Albatrosses translocations from Midway Atoll to Guadalupe Island. In mid-January we transported 36 fertile eggs to Guadalupe Island; we expect that between 32-34 chicks will fledge and leave the island by mid-July 2024. This year marks the end of this conservation translocation. Based on the return</p>

	<p>rate of translocated chicks of projects in Hawaii by PRC, we expect that chicks from the first cohort that fledged from Guadalupe in 2021 might be returning to the island during the breeding season 2024-2025.</p> <p>We ask the Co-Chairs to kindly report the Executive Working Table on the outcomes thus far of this 4-year bi-national program of conservation translocations. We seek continued support and endorsement to the project as further outcomes are achieved: (1) translocated birds returning to the island in 3-5 years; (2) translocated birds breeding on the island in 5-8 years.</p> <p>We also want to recognize and acknowledge all the support from the Trilateral. Thank you!</p> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b> Federico Alfonso Méndez Sánchez (Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas - GEI) and Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation - PRC)</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Mainstreaming Biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats</li> </ul>
<p><b>3:15 – 3:30</b></p>	<p><b>BREAK</b></p>
	<p><b><i>One Health/Wildlife Disease/Wildlife Health</i></b></p>
<p><b>3:30 – 3:50</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 21:</u> The Zoonotic Potential of Avian Influenza Virus H5</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b>  Hector E Valdez  Coordinator of Epidemiological Surveillance in Wild Birds CPA – DGSA – SENASICA</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b>  Highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 has caused important impacts to poultry industry in North America as well as wild bird populations. In this item I discuss several implications regarding its zoonotic potential under the scheme of one health.</p> <p><b>BACKGROUND:</b>  Mexico’s strategy of wild bird epidemiological surveillance has been applied for 10 years now. Our goal is to describe not only the avian influenza (AI) viral diversity but understanding pivotal interactions that take place in the interface Wild bird – Human settlements – Poultry farms.</p>

	<p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b>  In this presentation, I provide clue elements highlighting the role of synanthropic birds in the dispersion of viral strains such as highly pathogenic AI H5, that eventually can cause a major pandemic scenario. This forum is an opportunity to integrate a surveillance protocol among North American counterparts.</p> <p><b>SUBMITTED BY:</b>  Hector E Valdez / CPA – DGSA – SENASICA.</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b>  Zoonotic Diseases</p>
<p><b>3:50 – 4:10</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 22:</b> <i>pending agenda item</i></p>
<p><b>4:10 – 4:30</b></p>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 23:</b> <i>pending agenda item</i></p>
<p><b>4:30 – 5:00</b></p>	<p><b><i>Joint session with Species of Common Conservation Concern Table</i></b></p> <p><b>AGENDA ITEM 24: Establishment of a Binational Lower Colorado River Marsh Bird Working Group</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Chris Dodge, CDodge@usbr.gov (Bureau of Reclamation), and Eduardo Soto, esoto@pronatura-noroeste.org (Pronatura Noroeste), Rebecca Chester, rebecca_chester@fws.gov (USFWS-NWRS), Nichole Engelmann, nichole_engelmann@fws.gov (USFWS-ES), Jennifer Pitt, jennifer.pitt@audubon.org (National Audubon Society), Jennie Duberstein, jennie_duberstein@fws.gov (USFWS-SJV)</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> A renewed and more pressing need for collaboration exists for work on the endangered Yuma Ridgway's rail (<i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>) and other marsh birds along the Colorado River in Mexico and the Unites States. Continuing multi-decadal drought in the southwest US has reduced water inputs into the Colorado River watershed, resulting in lower water levels and a reduction in suitable emergent marsh habitat.</p> <p>We aim to establish an inclusive, multi-partner international Lower Colorado River (LCR) Marsh Bird Working Group to facilitate seamless communication and regular meetings for information sharing and partnering on projects. Increased capacity for conservation work will be realized as various entities become aware of the LCR Marsh Bird Working Group and can easily participate from either country. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun the Species Status Assessment (SSA) for the Yuma Ridgway's rail. Thorough information coordinated from both countries will be essential to produce a comprehensive SSA of this secretive migratory species. It will include current and predicted future needs, inferring what conservation efforts are most critical and will have the most impact.</p>

	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b> The species exists in marshes along the lower Colorado River and its major tributaries in the southwest US, and primarily in the Colorado River delta and marshes along the Golfo de California in Mexico. Some birds are migratory within and between countries, although specifics are not well understood. Migration and habitat use studies are underway. A comprehensive, long-term project to maintain quality marsh habitat on 4 LCR National Wildlife Refuges using prescribed fire has begun in conjunction with water infrastructure adjustments to supply marshes. Marsh habitat is created and managed partly through the LCR Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP), administered by Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and involves 52 other entities. In Mexico, conservation work in the delta includes long-term monitoring and restoration within the critical habitat of the Cienega de Santa Clara, Rio Hardy, etc. Multiple agencies in both countries conduct marsh bird monitoring and submit data to the AKN.</p> <p><b>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</b> Establishment of a binational Lower Colorado River Marsh Bird Working Group.</p>

**THURSDAY, May 2, 2024**

**Times provided in Pacific Time Zone**

	<b>Data Tools</b>
<p><b>9:00 – 9:15</b></p>	<p><b><u>AGENDA ITEM 26:</u> The Nested Hexagon Framework and Landscape Summary Database as a spatial index to summarize data layers, facilitate data access, and inform decisions.</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> The NHF and LSDB has a growing list of partners and applications, with the Information Network of Kansas continuing to fund development of NHF/LSDB web application, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada currently working to utilize the grid in relation to their Species at Risk Open Data products. Past users include the Midwestern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA) along with 15 state wildlife agencies that used the NHF for rangewide greater prairie chicken, sharp tailed grouse, and black tailed prairie dog projects. Recently, this project has been discussed with personnel within the USFWS and NRCS to track conservation efforts.</p> <p><b>DESCRIPTION:</b> Spatial datasets are an increasingly abundant and critical part of the research and decision making process, yet finding and processing the right pieces of useful information can be a difficult and time-consuming process. The Nested Hexagon</p>

Framework (NHF) is a hierarchical multiscale grid (1, 7, 49, 343 sq km) covering all North America that can be used as common data summarization units, while the Landscape Summary Database (LSDB) is a database with thematic data tables of information related to species, landscapes/habitat, land management/conservation, and weather/climate as summarized by the NHF grid cells. Together, the NHF and LSDB can make information from existing datasets readily available in a standardized format to help with preliminary environmental assessments, site planning, and facilitating interdisciplinary research.

To date, there are over one hundred datasets summarized into the LSDB related to landcover proportions, landscape conditions, land management and conservation efforts, energy development, and weather data across Kansas. A web map and custom tools are being improved to provide users better a way to identify what the characteristics are at a given site and enable users to query the database to identify areas that meet custom criteria. Tools are also being developed that will allow users to reference their own in-house data to the NHF grid and then submit the summarized data for inclusion into the LSDB.

**BACKGROUND:**

At the 2019 Trilateral meeting, the University of Kansas shared the concept of a Nested Hexagon Framework (NHF) to integrate information from a wide range of datasets into a hierarchical grid and associated database to facilitate data discovery and research. The nested hexagon grid has now been built and thanks to a grant from the Information Network of Kansas, the LSDB has been constructed, and a web interface provides users with the ability to query locations or query the LSDB to find locations that match desired criteria. The current development has been focused on Kansas, but with the framework built and operating as a successful proof of concept, the next goal is to expand the functional spatial coverage across North America.

**REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:**

I am seeking recognition from the Trilateral Committee that the NHF could be a useful tool for regional and continental conservation efforts and am looking for collaborations with people interested in utilizing the NHF/LSDB.

The NHF grid is openly and freely available for download. The grid can be used to summarize and convey information at resolutions of 1,7,49 or 343 sq km cell to providing useful landscape information while not revealing and sensitive spatial/attribute details. As more projects and regions reference data to the NHF, the spatial extent of data integrated will expand and the number of datasets available for a given cell (data depth) will increase.

**SUBMITTED BY:**

	<p>Michael Houts, Kansas Biological Survey and Center for Ecological Research, mhouts@ku.edu</p> <p><b>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</li> <li>• Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</li> </ul>
<b>9:15 – 9:30</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM 27 (Hold for pending item from Mexico)</b>
<b>9:30 – 10:15</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM 28 (Hold for pending item from Cornell)</b>
<b>10:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>10:30 – 11:30</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM 29 (Hold for pending item from co-chairs)</b>
<b>11:30 – 12:30</b>	<p><b>AGENDA ITEM 30: Close-out open discussion about highlights from the week, action items for the Action Item Plan, and next steps.</b></p> <p><b>COLLABORATORS &amp; CONTACTS:</b> Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Eric Kershner (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p>
<b>12:30 – 2:00</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>2:00 – 3:15</b>	Closed Session: Working table co-chair session closeouts and Co-chairs Prep time for ET report out.
<b>3:30 – 5:00</b>	Report Out to the Executive Table
<b>6:30 – 8:30</b>	Closing Ceremony