

29th Virtual Meeting of the Canada/Mexico/United States Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and
Ecosystem Conservation and Management
May 12-15, 2026
Migratory Birds Working Table



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

Migratory Birds

May 12– 15, 2026

<https://trilat.org/>

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All Times Eastern Time Zone and Subject To Change

Working Table: Migratory Birds

Co-Chairs:

- **Natalie Savoie**, Manager, Migratory Birds and Wildlife Health, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), 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;
- **Jo Anna Lutmerding**, Biologist, Branch of Bird Conservation, Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (*standing in for Eric Kershner, Acting 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:

- **Jake Russell-Mercier**, Conservation Biologist, Migratory Birds Conservation Unit, Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Environment and Climate Change Canada

Virtual Meeting Connection Information:

A Zoom meeting link will be shared via email with registered participants.

Interpretation support

Simultaneous interpretation from English to Spanish and Spanish to English will be provided with the support of AI.

Migratory Birds Table Priorities:

- Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
- Mainstreaming species conservation
- 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 Birds Working Table (MBWT)			
Tuesday May 12	Wednesday May 13	Thursday May 14	Friday May 15
<p><i>All times EDT</i></p> <p>12:00 – 2:00 pm</p> <p><i>All Delegates</i></p> <p>Trilateral Committee welcome remarks from CAN, MX & US</p> <p>Plenary theme: 30th anniversary of Trilateral Committee</p>	<p>12:00-12:05 pm Welcome and Reminders</p> <p>12:05-2:00 pm Trilateral Collaboration on Data and Information on Birds</p> <p>12:05-12:25 pm A vision for avian trait data that supports research and conservation</p> <p>12:25-12:45 pm Efficient and Effective Avian Conservation Collaboration Through the Avian Knowledge Network</p> <p>12:45-1:05 pm Partners in Flight Conservation Assessment Reveals Broad-scale and Regional Patterns of Vulnerability in North and Central American Birds</p> <p>1:05-1:25 pm U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) ECOSphere System</p> <p>1:25-1:40 pm Migratory Nongame Bird Conservation in the U.S.: The 2026 Birds of Conservation Concern Report</p> <p>1:40-1:55 pm The State of Canada’s Birds (SoCB)</p>	<p>12:00-12:05 pm Welcome and Reminders</p> <p>12:05-12:50 pm North American Bird Banding Program (NABBP) Update: U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory and the Canadian Bird Banding Office Activities and Progress</p> <p><i>Current information needs and cooperative modernization</i></p> <p>Updates from Canada, Mexico and the US</p> <p>12:50-1:00 pm Discussion</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Grasslands - Joint Session with the Ecosystems Conservation Table</p> <p>1:00-1:30 Advancing Trilateral Grassland Conservation Through the Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative</p> <p>1:30-2:00 Indigenous Kinship Circle</p>	<p>12:00-12:05 pm Welcome and Reminders</p> <p>12:05-12:30 pm Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - Updates from Canada and Mexico</p> <p>12:30-12:45 pm Southern Wings: Shared Birds, Shared Responsibility</p> <p>12:45-1:00 pm U.S. NABCI Exploratory Restatement of Vision</p> <p>1:00-2:00 Open discussion, review of action items and meeting closeout</p>

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Tuesday May 12	Wednesday May 13	Thursday May 14	Friday May 15
2:15-3:15 pm Welcome and Introductions (10 min)	1:55-2:00 pm Open Discussion		
	BREAK 2:00-2:15		
MBWT Action Item Report (10 min) Country Updates (25 min) Mexico Conservation Strategy (15 min)	Trinational Collaboration on Data and Information on Birds (cont) <i>Communicating species conservation needs and status across their North American range</i> 2:15-2:30 pm CONABIO <u>nexus</u> among ENCA, R2R-NABCI US 2:30-2:45 pm CanAvian: the Canadian Network of Open Avian Data 2:45-3:05 pm Management of Bird Conservation Region (BCR) shapefiles 3:05-3:15 pm Open Discussion	Grasslands - Joint Session with the Ecosystems Conservation Table - Continued 2:15-2:35 pm JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative 2:35-2:55 pm A partnership to strengthen binational collaboration: Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas 2:55-3:05 pm Grasslands, on the ground case study - Mexico 3:05-3:15 pm Grasslands of Mexico: National Efforts within the CGRI and IYRP International Initiatives	2:15 pm-3:15 pm Closed session – MBWT co-chairs prepare for Executive Table report-out
BREAK 3:15-3:30			

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Tuesday May 12	Wednesday May 13	Thursday May 14	Friday May 15
<p>3:30-3:45 pm Next steps for a Trinational Vision for Bird Conservation (15 min)</p>	<p>3:30-3:45 pm 2002 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan Revision: progress to date and call for Canada/Mexico/U.S. trilateral engagement</p> <p>3:45-4:05 pm Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Trinational Marine and Coastal Bird Working Group</p> <p>3:30-3:50 pm Trilateral Bycatch Working Group (TBWG): Outcomes and Next Steps from the Seabirds Bycatch Reduction Strategies Workshop</p> <p>3:50-4:10 pm Trinational Marine and Coastal Bird Working Group, Marine Debris Subgroup: Update on activities and future directions</p>	<p>3:30-4:30 pm Executive Table Session</p>
<p>3:45-4:45 pm Community science tools and long-term monitoring efforts</p> <p>3:45-4:15 pm Breeding Bird Survey updates from the U.S. and Canada</p> <p>4:15-4:30 pm From Observations to Action: Using eBird and Status & Trends to</p>	<p>4:05-5:00 pm Open Discussion</p>	<p>4:10 - 4:40 pm Bird Collisions</p> <p>4:10-4:25 pm Recent actions by the Government of Canada to address bird mortality due to window collisions</p> <p>4:25-4:40 pm Multi-Sector Partnership to Address Light Pollution and Bird Collisions: Bird Collision Prevention Alliance</p> <p>4:40-4:50 pm Convention on Migratory Species Americas Flyways Framework updates & Waterbird population estimates: A renewed global effort</p>	<p>4:30-5:00 pm Closed - MBWT closeout</p>

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Tuesday May 12	Wednesday May 13	Thursday May 14	Friday May 15
Advance Migratory Bird Conservation 4:30-5:00 pm Open Discussion		4:50-5:00 pm Waterbird population estimates: A renewed global effort	
End of Day	End of Day	End of Day	End of Day

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TUESDAY, May 12, 2026

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<p>2:15-2:25 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Welcome, Introductions, Adoption of the Agenda</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Natalie Savoie (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), and Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Welcome and introductions of new and returning participants to the working table. Approval and adoption of the agenda.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard item to build consensus and ensure full participation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Approval of any changes to the agenda. ▪ Adoption of the agenda
<p>2:25-2:35 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> 2024-26 Action Item Report (AIR)</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Natalie Savoie (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), and Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Report on major accomplishments or challenges from the Action Item Report (AIR) (particularly those that are not on this year’s agenda) and any outstanding actions from the previous meeting.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Table uses the AIR to record decisions and monitor progress on work. Working tables review the previous year’s AIR at the beginning of each annual meeting.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Monitor progress on action items and agreements. Identify issues and challenges in accomplishing action items.</p>
<p>2:35-3:00 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Country Updates</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Natalie Savoie (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), and Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Each country co-chair presents a short country report with relevant information to the MBT.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Standard agenda item to present and underline relevant events that have occurred in each of the three countries.</p>

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	REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Information and identification of priority topics for further discussion.
3:00-3:15 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Mexico Conservation Strategy</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Humberto Berlanga and Vicente Rodríguez – Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico, Pronatura Noreste, Audubon Mexico,</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Pronatura Noreste, Audubon Mexico, and CONABIO are coordinating the development of the National Bird Conservation Strategy (ENCA), with participation from academia, regional experts, and multiple government offices. The strategy aims to align with existing conservation tools and ongoing initiatives and is expected to be finalized in 2027.</p>
BREAK - 3:15-3:30 pm	
3:30-3:45 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Next steps for a Trinational Vision for Bird Conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs –Natalie Savoie (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), and Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: As we look ahead to the next several years, the Migratory Birds Working Table’s work can build on the longstanding trilateral commitment to migratory bird conservation by advancing a coordinated strategy. Addressing anthropogenic threats to birds will require more integrated monitoring, shared mitigation tools, and stronger partnerships with industry and communities; parallel efforts to counter seabird decline should emphasize collaborative research on marine pressures, improved fisheries engagement, and expanded conservation actions at key colonies and foraging zones. Increased attention to grasslands offers an opportunity to collectively advance Canada–U.S.–Mexico priorities around habitat protection, partnerships, and cross-border investments that support declining grassland bird species. Work on flyways can further enhance hemispheric conservation by improving flyway-scale conservation planning, improving data-sharing, and aligning priority species and sites across jurisdictions. Finally, strengthening trinational bird banding coordination and broader trinational conservation planning will help standardize methodologies, support hemispheric population assessments, and ensure that conservation decisions reflect a shared scientific foundation. Together, these themes position the partners to modernize and operationalize a next-generation, trilateral, ecosystem-scale approach to migratory bird conservation that meets emerging challenges while building on past successes.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The 2016 Letter of Intent was created during the centennial of the original 1916 Migratory Bird Treaty, marking a renewed commitment by the United States, Canada, and Mexico to develop a shared long-term vision for</p>

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	<p>migratory bird conservation. This vision emphasizes coordinated action across borders, building on decades of cooperative frameworks such as the Trilateral Committee, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, and multiple flyway-based partnerships. It calls for strengthened scientific collaboration, improved habitat conservation, expanded monitoring and research, and greater engagement with governmental, Indigenous, NGO, and private-sector partners. Together, these elements formed the foundation for a modernized, hemispheric approach to conserving migratory birds amid increasing environmental pressures.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Renewed commitment to identify shared actionable priorities for the next several years. Identify which collaborative efforts (e.g., flyways planning, seabird conservation, grassland protection, coordinated banding) should be elevated, aligned, or newly developed.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: MBWT co-chairs</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</p>
<p>3:45-4:15 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Breeding Bird Survey updates from the U.S. and Canada</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Shannon Skalos (skalos@usgs.gov), Antonio Celis-Murillo (acelis-murillo@usgs.gov), Mikey Lutmerding (mlutmerding@usgs.gov), Willow English (Willow.English@ec.gc.ca), Marie-Anne Hudson (marie-anne.hudson@ec.gc.ca), Adam Smith (Adam.Smith@ec.gc.ca) , Charles Francis (Charles.Francis@ec.gc.ca)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item provides an update on recent progress and current priorities of the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), a cornerstone of North American bird population monitoring and conservation. The presentation will highlight ongoing efforts to sustain and modernize survey operations, including data management improvements, system replatforming, and enhanced user access to BBS data. It will also summarize progress in expanding partnerships, strengthening analytical capacity, and integrating BBS data with complementary monitoring efforts to support full annual cycle population assessments and conservation decision-making across North America.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), established in 1966, is a long-term, large-scale, collaborative monitoring program that provides essential data on the status and trends of breeding bird populations across the United States and Canada. The program is jointly administered by the U.S. Geological Survey and Environment and Climate Change Canada and is supported by a network of skilled volunteers who conduct standardized roadside surveys across thousands of routes annually.</p>

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	<p>As demands for data-driven conservation continue to grow, the BBS has prioritized the modernization of its data infrastructure, improved accessibility of data products, and explored integration with other monitoring programs. These efforts aim to enhance the utility of BBS data for science, management, and policy, while maintaining strong coordination with trinational partners to support continental-scale bird conservation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide an update on BBS operations and modernization efforts · Share progress on data accessibility, analytical capacity, and system improvements · Reinforce trilateral coordination in bird population monitoring across North America · Identify opportunities for collaboration in program delivery, data integration, and full annual cycle assessments <p>SUBMITTED BY: Shannon Skalos, Eastern Ecological Science Center, United States Geological Survey and Marie-Anne Hudson, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</p>
<p>4:15-4:30 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> From Observations to Action: Using eBird and Status & Trends to Advance Migratory Bird Conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p> <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>This presentation will provide an update on recent advances in eBird, highlighting how millions of bird observations contributed by people across the Americas are being transformed into decision-relevant information for conservation. We will share new developments in data volume, geographic coverage, modeling approaches, and outputs that support conservation planning across the full annual cycle of migratory birds.</p> <p>We will also demonstrate how these tools are being applied to identify priority areas, understand population changes, and support flyway-scale coordination. The session will emphasize practical applications for agencies and partners in Canada, Mexico, and the United States, and explore opportunities to better align monitoring, data integration, and conservation action across borders.</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>eBird has become one of the largest biodiversity data resources in the world, with over two billion observations contributed by a global network of participants. These data, combined with advanced statistical modeling, underpin the eBird Status & Trends products, which provide high-resolution information on species distributions, relative abundance, and population trends across the full annual cycle.</p> <p>Recent efforts, including collaborations supporting flyway-scale initiatives such as the Americas Flyways Atlas, have demonstrated the value of integrating eBird-derived products into conservation planning and policy. At the same time, there is growing interest among Trilateral partners in strengthening coordination around monitoring frameworks, filling geographic and taxonomic gaps, and ensuring that data products are directly usable for management and decision-making.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify priority opportunities to align eBird and S&T products with Trilateral conservation priorities and existing monitoring frameworks • Gather input from partners on key data gaps, priority species, and decision needs across the three countries • Explore pathways for improved coordination and data sharing to support full annual cycle conservation • Discuss potential collaborative actions (e.g., pilot projects, regional summaries, or decision-support tools) that could be advanced through the Trilateral framework • Inform potential inclusion of a coordinated monitoring/data integration action in the Trilateral Action Item Plan <p>SUBMITTED BY:</p> <p>Chris Wood – Director of eBird, Program Director Center for Avian Populations Studies, Cornell Lab of Ornithology</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas · Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
4:30-5:00 pm	Open Discussion
End of Day	

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WEDNESDAY, May 13, 2026

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<p>12:00-12:05 pm</p>	<p>Welcome and Reminders</p>
<p>12:05-12:25 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> A vision for avian trait data that supports research and conservation</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: (include names and organizations)</p> <p>Brian Sullivan, Cornell Lab of Ornithology (bls42@cornell.edu)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: (1-2 paragraph description of agenda item)</p> <p>The Cornell Lab of Ornithology, in partnership with leading trait database developers and research institutions worldwide, is exploring the development of a Birds of the World (BOW) Data Engine -- a collaborative system that could provide structured avian life history data at scales comparable to eBird. eBird has enabled us to track where and when bird populations are changing with unprecedented precision, but understanding why these changes occur requires integrating fragmented trait and demographic datasets currently housed across multiple institutions and research programs. Partners are investigating how to combine species-level trait databases, individual-level demographic data from banding and monitoring programs, and AI-extracted information from published literature into a unified, machine-readable framework that could support mechanistic analyses of population change drivers.</p> <p>This vision depends on close collaboration among the global ornithological community, including trait database developers (AVONET, BIRDBASE), long-term monitoring programs (MAPS, NestWatch), and research institutions that have been collecting these critical data for decades. Rather than replacing existing efforts, the goal is to explore how standardized data sharing and integration frameworks could amplify the impact of everyone's work while ensuring proper attribution and mutual benefit. If successful, this collaborative approach could help move conservation planning from correlation-based decisions to more evidence-informed strategies, enabling managers to better understand which interventions are most likely to succeed for specific species and situations. We're in early discussions about how to make this vision a reality while respecting the diverse needs and contributions of all partners involved.</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND: Avian trait data, including morphological characteristics, life history parameters, ecological requirements, and demographic rates, are fundamental to understanding how bird species respond to environmental change. Species with similar traits often respond similarly to threats: ground-nesting birds face different risks than canopy nesters, long-distance migrants encounter different challenges than residents, and species with small clutch sizes recover from population declines more slowly than those with high reproductive rates. However, most trait data remain scattered across individual research projects, published literature, and institutional databases in formats that make large-scale comparative analyses difficult. This fragmentation limits our ability to move beyond simply documenting population trends to understanding the mechanistic drivers behind why some species thrive while others decline under similar environmental pressures.</p> <p>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)</p> <p>We'd like to make sure that key stakeholders are aware of this effort, and can take part and plug in as desired.</p> <p>We'd also like to ensure that the data we produce is of the highest relevance to the research and conservation goals of the key stakeholders, so feedback in this area would be good.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: (include name and organization)</p> <p>Brian Sullivan, Cornell Lab of Ornithology</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: (choose from below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas· Mainstreaming Biodiversity· Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation
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12:25-12:45 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Efficient and Effective Avian Conservation Collaboration Through the Avian Knowledge Network</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Sam Veloz, Point Blue Conservation Science, sveloz@pointblue.org · Elizabeth Neipert, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center - Environmental Lab Chair, National AKN Steering Committee, US Coordinator, Partners in Flight, Elizabeth.S.Neipert@erdc.dren.mil <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>Important recent enhancements in the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) now better support collaborative avian conservation across scales, including full life cycle monitoring and related actions. We will provide an overview of the AKN, highlight new system enhancements and show how the AKN is being used to support avian conservation across North America and beyond.</p> <p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>The Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) is a partnership composed of over 100 federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations who have shared informatics priorities and needs for biodiversity conservation and management. The AKN is a powerful and secure cloud computing system that government agencies, NGOs and others are using to enter, manage, analyze, and share avian monitoring data.</p> <p>The AKN facilitates data sharing across jurisdictions and locations, enhancing the power and reliability of bird monitoring data. This collaborative approach empowers avian data collected across agencies and improves guidance for habitat and species management, contributing to effective conservation actions.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Trilateral agencies commit to using the AKN to manage and share all avian monitoring data · Trilateral committee provide input on priorities on new tools or system enhancements that can be developed in the AKN that will support Trilateral priorities. <p>SUBMITTED BY:</p> <p>Sam Veloz Point Blue Conservation Science</p>
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	<p>Elizabeth Neipert, US Army Engineer Research and Development Center - Environmental Lab</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
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12:45-1:05 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Partners in Flight Conservation Assessment Reveals Broad-scale and Regional Patterns of Vulnerability in North and Central American Birds</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Marcel Gahbauer, Environment and Climate Change Canada; Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Randy Dettmers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Adam C. Smith, ECCC; Allison Shaw, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies; Jeffrey A. Hostetler, U.S. Geological Survey; Wendy E. Easton, ECCC, Luis Sandoval, Universidad de Costa Rica; Vicente Rodriguez Contreras, CONABIO; Dean W. Demarest, USFWS, Anthony Roberts, USFWS.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>The Partners in Flight (PIF) conservation assessment (2024) identifies 720 Watch List species and 55 Common Birds in Steep Decline, or 45% and 3% percent of the continental avifauna, respectively. The proportion of Watch List species increases from north to south, comprising 26%, 40%, and 44% of species occurring in the U.S. & Canada, Mexico, and Central America, respectively. Among bird groups, shorebirds have the highest percentage of species on the Watch List (54%), followed by landbirds (46%), waterbirds (38%, primarily seabirds) and waterfowl (10%). Considering taxonomic, geographic, and ecological associations, the most vulnerable species groups include arctic-nesting shorebirds, oceanic and island-nesting seabirds, grassland birds, and both resident and migratory species dependent on various types of tropical forest. Future steps for the ACAD include incorporation of novel data products, including expanded climate-change models, updated trends, population estimates and relative abundance, as well as expert input (especially for seabirds and tropical species), website enhancements, and expanded connectivity with other websites and databases, such as the Avian Knowledge Network. However, U.S. federal funding for this database has been eliminated, and future updates and maintenance of this database are in jeopardy.</p>
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	<p>BACKGROUND: PIF has produced a standardized, data-driven assessment of each North and Central American bird species' vulnerability to future declines, at both regional and continental scales. This assessment is based on the latest available data on population size, trends, distribution, threats and regional importance for each species compiled from various surveys and other data sources, curated and distilled into 1-5 scores for direct comparability across species, and made available via the Avian Conservation Assessment Database (ACAD). The ACAD houses the data used and generated by the PIF assessment and serves as a tool for identifying and coordinating avian conservation priorities across nations, federal/state/provincial agencies, and conservation NGOs. The ACAD includes conservation assessments for 1,613 regularly occurring species, and regional assessments of the seasonal avifaunas in 54 regions across North and Central America, and the Caribbean. The ACAD has been used to inform the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Birds of Conservation Concern list (since 2002), Canadian Wildlife Service's Bird Conservation Region Plans, U.S. and Canada's State of the Birds Reports, State Wildlife Action Plans (incl. updates) in all 50 U.S. states, various PIF conservation plans, and even the latest North American Waterfowl Management Plan update</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: (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>SUBMITTED BY: (Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies)</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
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1:05-1:25 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) ECOSphere System</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Michaelle Shultz, FWS; Meghan Sadlowski, FWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: To introduce the ECOSphere system, its current status, and future vision. The presentation content will specifically focus on the system’s role in providing a single source for species information and species information delivery and management tools for the FWS that may also have relevance and applicability for Trilateral partners in facilitating tri-national migratory bird conservation efforts.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The FWS ECOSphere system, is the successor to the FWS Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS), which housed a number of modules containing data and workflows owned by various FWS programs. The ECOS system was officially retired in 2025 and replaced by the ECOSphere system. The new ECOSphere is built on a cloud-based integrated platform that greatly improves upon its predecessor by taking advantage of cross-workflow integrations (integrating different FWS program workflows, where appropriate), cross-system integration (including systems outside of FWS), and state-of-the-art technologies (including AI). For the past 4 years, the ECOSphere team has mobilized program staff across FWS to help plan detailed requirements for multiple phases of development. The different phases (starting with the basic framework – the Species Workflow - which is nearly complete) target system functionality that will vastly improve how FWS species information, including migratory bird information is managed, shared, connected within and outside the system, and delivered to various users of the system (including through public applications like the Information for Planning and Consultation, or IPaC tool).</p> <p>Migratory birds are a trust resource responsibility for FWS from a cross-program perspective. There are a wealth of data and information resources across different FWS programs, as well as across our important partnerships with other agencies and organizations with bird conservation interests (including international agencies and organizations). However, this data and information is not often made accessible and leveraged in the most useful ways. Furthermore, tools and information may exist that are accessible to groups that may benefit from them; but were never made aware of them. This in mind, it is possible the FWS ECOSphere system, along with the appropriate integrations with other systems and data like the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), Birds of the World and others, has the capacity to meet some needs for tri-national migratory bird conservation efforts. It would be prudent to explore these possibilities with the trilateral group as the system moves into planning for its next phases of development.</p>
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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Help trilateral partners understand the basics of the ECOSphere system and the plan for its future development, especially those pieces pertaining to the centralization of migratory bird information, and its use in tools such as IPaC, and the potential this has for facilitating migratory bird conservation at various scales.· Determine applicability and interest in various planned components of the ECOSphere System by Trilateral partners.· Determine potential areas for collaboration and support from Trilateral partners in accomplishing cross-cutting goals for data management and delivery to facilitate migratory bird conservation. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Michaëlle Shultz, Chief, Division of Budget and Technical Support</p> <p>Ecological Services</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas● Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
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1:25-1:40 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Migratory Nongame Bird Conservation in the U.S.: The 2026 Birds of Conservation Concern Report</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Dan Blake, USFWS</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Efforts are underway to provide a 2026 Birds of Conservation Concern report on migratory nongame birds. The report will include a list of species that are at risk of Endangered Species Act listing without additional conservation effort and will also describe threats facing those species, monitoring, conservation actions, and lands and waters that need conservation. The report is intended to include some key themes of successful nongame bird conservation such as the cost-effectiveness of proactive conservation over regulatory intervention; the power of community science and technological innovation to stretch limited dollars; and the essential role of our partnerships. There is interest in sharing more about this effort and working on alignment with Canada and Mexico and assessing what conservation efforts can be improved in the range of these species.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with partners, to undertake actions to conserve migratory nongame birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, to prevent these species from becoming candidates for listing under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and to report to Congress every five years on the status of these efforts. The most recent report was released in 2021; that report and several additional reports that date back several decades generally focused on the list of birds needing conservation attention and provided less information about threats, monitoring, conservation actions, and lands and waters for conservation. The current iteration of the report will share this additional information, which opens opportunity for discussion and coordination on conservation efforts with other groups, including internationally.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Greater understanding about how the United States approaches efforts for migratory nongame birds, including a current effort to develop a 2026 report. Based on the information shared, there is interest in exploring opportunities for aligning on priority species and finding synergies for additional action.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Dan Blake, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
1:40-1:55 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: The State of Canada’s Birds (SoCB)</p>

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<p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Marie-Anne Hudson, Marcel Gahbauer, and Charles Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada), Catherine Jardine, Denis Lepage, Kyle Horner (Birds Canada)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Following the successful launch of The State of Canada’s Birds website in 2024, Environment and Climate Change Canada and Birds Canada have been working on developing the next iteration of the site, which will include updated trend and status information for all species, and a refreshed report based on the new species assessments. For the first time, the site will also include information related to national and regional priorities to better support strategic conservation action and impact assessment, as well as information on species that occur irregularly in Canada (i.e., vagrants). We will present an overview of the work to date, and a preview of the prioritization process.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Developed by Environment and Climate Change Canada and Birds Canada and launched in 2024, The State of Canada’s Birds web platform provides accessible, scientific insight into the population status of 463 bird species that occur regularly in Canada. For each species, the platform includes population status, distribution, trends, goals, threats, and conservation actions to protect them. The report includes long-term population goals for all native bird species found in Canada that have sufficient data. These goals help measure progress in maintaining and restoring bird species across the country, and in halting and reversing biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The State of Canada’s Birds 2024 report is hosted on the NatureCounts website. This user-friendly, authoritative, and dynamic platform incorporates the best available data for each species, incorporating both professional survey data (particularly for waterfowl and seabirds) and citizen science programs, such as the Breeding Bird Survey, the Christmas Bird Count, and many others. The species accounts offer detailed overviews of the status of each bird species regularly occurring in Canada. Most of the raw data are also available through NatureCounts, which is one of the world’s largest biodiversity databases and helps inform many conservation efforts in Canada.</p> <p>The report also provides a high-level overview, updating previous reports from 2012 and 2019. Results from 2024 show significant declines in Arctic birds, long-distance migrants, shorebirds, aerial insectivores, and grassland birds. In particular, grassland birds have declined by 67% since 1970 and continue to decline. The situation is so severe that several grassland species are at risk of disappearing from Canada. 31% of Canada’s bird species have increased since 1970, with some of strongest recoveries seen in waterfowl and birds of prey. 12% of species are not yet well monitored. There is limited population information for many Arctic-nesting birds, pelagic seabirds, and cryptic or very rare birds.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide an update on The State of Canada’s Birds site

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforce trilateral coordination in bird population monitoring and reporting across North America • Identify opportunities for collaboration in data integration and reporting <p>SUBMITTED BY: Marie-Anne Hudson (Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada)</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</p>
1:55-2:00 pm	Open Discussion
2:00-2:15 pm	BREAK
2:15-2:30 pm	AGENDA ITEM: CONABIO nexus among ENCA, R2R-NABCI US

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<p>2:30-2:45 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> CanAvian: the Canadian Network of Avian Data</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Denis Lepage, Senior Director, Data Science and Technology, Birds Canada, dlepage@birdscanada.org · Catherine Jardine, Associate Director, Data Science and Technology, Birds Canada, cjardine@birdscanada.org · Corrina Copp, Information Centre Director, Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, corrina.copp@ualberta.ca · Elly Knight, Boreal Avian Modelling Centre Operational Director, Biodiversity Pathways, ecknight@ualberta.ca <p>DESCRIPTION: CanAvian is a national data space for bird data in Canada. It brings together a collaborative community to harmonize avian data from diverse sources, develop shared standards, and build tools that make bird data in Canada easier to find, access, and interpret to support stronger research, understanding, and conservation of birds.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Established in 2022, the Canadian Network of Avian Data (CanAvian) is a collaboration of software service providers and a community of over 800 organizations, and thousands of researchers, conservation actors, and volunteer scientists who collect, manage, interpret and share avian data in Canada. Its collaborators include the Alberta Biodiversity Monitoring Institute, Birds Canada, the Boreal Avian Modelling Centre, and Environment and Climate Change Canada. They manage some of Canada’s largest biodiversity data platforms: NatureCounts (naturecounts.ca), Motus (motus.org), and WildTrax (wildtrax.ca).</p> <p>In 2026, with funding from the Digital Research Alliance of Canada, CanAvian will advance its efforts towards creating a national data space for bird data in Canada. It aims to build a community with established governance, harmonized data standards, technical tools and bridges, and long-term sustainability to ensure that avian data in Canada is findable, accessible, and interoperable now and into the future. It will advance data exchange and interoperability between the CanAvian service providers and international data initiatives such as AKN, MoveBON and GBIF.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Identify existing initiatives, particularly around shared data standards and policy, for potential integration with CanAvian. · Raise awareness and literacy of available data collection, management, and access software tools and how they can help improve information sharing.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increase collaboration and knowledge exchange between AKN and CanAvian. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Catherine Jardine, Birds Canada</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
<p>2:45-3:05 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Management of Bird Conservation Region (BCR) shapefiles</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Denis Lepage, Catherine Jardine (Birds Canada), Marcel Gahbauer, Marie-Anne Hudson, and Charles Francis (Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Following the 2023 Trilateral meeting where changes to select Bird Conservation Region boundaries were approved for both Canada and Mexico, we would like to provide an update on this work and discuss next steps for maintaining the associated documents.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: BCRs were developed by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) to define ecologically distinct regions with similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues, with the intent of facilitating landscape level bird conservation planning and assessment. BCRs have become a valuable framework for reporting and managing bird populations.</p> <p>At the 2022 Trilateral Committee meeting, there was confirmation that in the absence of an active tri-national NABCI forum, the Trilateral Migratory Birds Table would take on the role of reviewing and making decisions on any proposed BCR changes.</p> <p>The process to update, refine, and approve Mexican BCRs, led by CONABIO, was completed in 2023. A similar process was undertaken by Canada, which focused on subdividing four of the largest BCRs and adjusting boundaries in Quebec, so that they better reflect the meso-scale ecoregional divisions with fairly homogeneous avifaunas. The splits conform to existing ecoregional hierarchies defined by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), while the adjustments in Quebec are based on accepted forest region delineations. These changes are already being used to guide some conservation implementation actions, given they reflect clear and relevant ecological boundaries. Collectively, these revisions enable more accurate predictions of presence, abundance and trends of species within these BCRs.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide an update on recent BCR changes and products

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	<p>· Agree on a governance mechanism for maintaining BCR maps and accessing/sharing new layers and associated files, and for discussing any future changes</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Marie-Anne Hudson (Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Climate Change Canada)</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas</p>
3:05-3:15 pm	Open Discussion
3:15-3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30-3:45 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: 2002 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan Revision: progress to date and call for Canada/Mexico/U.S. trilateral engagement</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Sara Schweitzer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, sara.schweitzer@ncwildlife.gov Ruth Boettcher, Virginia Dept. of Wildlife Resources, ruth.boettcher@dwr.virginia.gov</p> <p>OTHER COLLABORATORS: Atlantic, Mississippi, Central and Pacific Flyways The Waterbird Society Road to Recovery Initiative The US Fish and Wildlife Service Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: We will explain the need to revise the 2002 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan and describe current efforts underway to begin the revision process. We will present a brief history of the Waterbird Conservation for the Americas Initiative and its achievements and explain the Initiative’s inactivity since 2014. We will convey the importance of resurrecting this Initiative and describe recent progress made on gaining support from waterbird biologists and managers, governmental and non-governmental bird conservation agencies, and other subject matter experts. Lastly, we will provide an update on efforts to support a National Waterbird Coordinator who will oversee the revision of the 2002 North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: During the 1980s and 1990s, four unprecedented bird conservation initiatives were created: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), Partners in Flight (PIF) Landbird Conservation Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP), and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas (previously known as the</p>

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	<p>North American Waterbird Conservation Plan; hereafter referred to as NAWCP). Over the years, all four bird conservation initiatives have undergone changes in leadership and levels of support. The NAWMP, PIF Landbird Conservation Plan, and USSCP initiatives have remained relatively active and functional over the past 20 years, whereas the NAWCP Initiative has been inactive and has received no support since the loss of its Coordinator in 2014 and the subsequent disbandment of the Waterbird Conservation Council (WCC). In addition, the 2002 NAWCP has not been updated or undergone any revisions.</p> <p>The geographic scope of the 2002 NAWCP is North America and the Caribbean. Many governmental and non-governmental conservation agencies have invested considerable resources to conserve waterbirds that spend some portion of their life cycle in their jurisdictions under the auspices of the 2002 NAWCP. However, since the loss of its Coordinator and the WCC many of the NAWCP's achievements have languished or are no longer active. To promote full annual cycle waterbird conservation, reverse population declines, and offset the rapid loss of key habitats throughout the Caribbean and Americas, there is an urgent need to (1) include Central and South American countries in the revised plan, (2) update waterbird population estimates and identify data gaps and priority species, (3) reassess existing and emerging threats, (4) evaluate existing conservation efforts, and (5) develop and implement new conservation and management strategies.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: (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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Gain support from the Trilateral Committee for the effort to revise the 2002 NAWCP. · Receive input on developing a process to inventory existing waterbird data from the Americas and the Caribbean. · Receive input on developing a process to identify and recruit waterbird biologists and managers and other subject matter experts who can help update waterbird population estimates, assess current and emerging threats, and develop conservation strategies. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Sara Schweitzer, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas · Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
<p>3:45-4:05 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Trilateral Island Initiative: Conservation and Restoration of the Islands of Canada, the United States, and Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Annie Little (NPS), Annie_little@nps.gov Federico Méndez Sánchez (Conservación de Islas), federico.mendez@islas.org.mx</p>

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	<p>Gregg Howald (Advanced Conservation Strategies), grhowald@gmail.com Patty Baiao (Island Conservation), patty.baiao@islandconservation.org Nick Holmes (The Nature Conservancy), nick.holmes@tnc.org Eric VanderWerf (Pacific Rim Conservation), eric@pacificrimconservation.org</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item focuses on a collaborative trilateral effort to conserve and restore marine island ecosystems, including seabird populations. Following the signing of the Letter of Intent (LOI) at the 2014 Trilateral Committee meeting, the three countries have been collaborating on multiple issues of shared interest related to island conservation. The Trilateral Island Working Group will update the Ecosystem Conservation 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 2026 Trilateral Committee priorities.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Over the last decade, multiple bilateral and trilateral island restoration projects have been initiated. In order to further encourage coordination and collaboration on island projects, a Trilateral Island Working Group was created in 2012. This group developed the LOI that was signed by the three countries at the 2014 Trilateral Meeting in Querétaro, Mexico. The LOI documents that the three countries intend to engage in cooperative bilateral and trilateral activities to promote sustainable environmental policies and practices in support of island conservation. The Working Group will discuss achievements, priorities, and updates of recent collaborative efforts related to island conservation.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: We seek continued endorsement by the Trilateral Committee of collaborative conservation efforts on islands in Canada, United States, and Mexico.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Annie Little, Channel Islands National Park</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation</p>
4:05-5:00 pm	Open Discussion
End of Day	

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THURSDAY, May 14, 2026

Times provided in Eastern Time Zone

<p>12:00-12:05 pm</p>	<p>Welcome and Reminders</p>
<p>12:05-12:50 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: North American Bird Banding Program (NABBP) Update: U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory and the Canadian Bird Banding Office Activities and Progress</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Antonio Celis Murillo, United States Geological Survey (acelis-murillo@usgs.gov), Lesley Howes (lesley.howes@ec.gc.ca– Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Wildlife Service Bird Banding Office. Humberto Berlanga and Vicente Rodríguez – Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CONABIO), Mexico</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This agenda item provides an update on recent progress and current priorities of the U.S. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) and the Canadian Bird Banding Office within the broader North American Bird Banding Program (NABBP). The presentation will highlight ongoing efforts to support the collection, management, long term archiving, and dissemination of banding and encounter data, including the rapidly expanding use of electronic marking technologies and associated data streams. Emphasis will be placed on ensuring data integrity, interoperability, and appropriate public access to banding and tracking data in support of science, conservation, and management.</p> <p>The update will describe continued coordination among partners in the U.S., Canada and Mexico as well as broader international collaborations that support migratory bird research across their annual cycle. Progress across key NABBP focus areas will be summarized, including evaluation of scientific contributions, assessment of economic and societal value, internal program review, and initial steps toward developing a trinational strategic plan. Additionally, updates will be provided on efforts to improve data consistency, strengthen operational capacity, and enhance coordination across the program to meet emerging scientific and policy needs.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The North American Bird Banding Program (NABBP) represents a long-standing trinational collaboration between the United States and Canada, with continued efforts to support the development of banding capacity in Mexico. Since 1923, the USGS Bird Banding Laboratory and the Canadian Bird Banding Office have jointly administered the program, supporting the collection and use of bird banding data for research, conservation, and management across North America. In recent years, the NABBP has recognized the need for a comprehensive program review and the development of a forward-looking strategic plan. Efforts initiated in</p>

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	<p>2022 have focused on evaluating the scientific contributions of banding data, assessing economic and societal benefits, reviewing program operations and capacity, and planning for a trinational strategic framework. These efforts are ongoing and provide the foundation for continued coordination and program development.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Provide an update on BBL operations and NABBP progress across key focus areas · Share status of ongoing efforts related to scientific evaluation, economic valuation, and program review · Reinforce trilateral coordination and alignment across the North American Bird Banding Program · Identify opportunities for continued international collaboration in program development and strategic planning <p>SUBMITTED BY: Antonio Celis Murillo, United States Geological Survey and Lesley Howes, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing</p>
12:50-1:00 pm	Open Discussion
	Theme: Grasslands - Joint Session with the Ecosystems Conservation Table (1:00-3:15pm)
1:00-1:30 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Advancing Trinational Grassland Conservation Through the Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Rogelio Maciel, ProNatura, Diana Doan Crider, Indigenous Kinship Circle Coordinator, Ali Duvall, Jv8 Coordinator, USFWS, NGOs, academic institutions</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) is a voluntary, partnership-driven effort to conserve one of North America’s most imperiled ecosystems—the central grasslands biome spanning Canada, the United States, and Mexico. This presentation will highlight how CGRI aligns conservation actions, funding, and science across borders to achieve durable outcomes for grasslands, wildlife, and the communities that depend on them.</p>

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	<p>We will share recent progress, including the development of decision-support tools for grassland birds, expansion of cross-border partnerships, and upcoming initiatives such as the CGRI Summit in Chihuahua, Mexico. The session will emphasize how coordinated, landscape-scale approaches can improve habitat connectivity, enhance biodiversity, and support working lands.</p> <p>The presentation will also explore opportunities for deeper trilateral collaboration under the Trilateral Committee, including aligning priorities, leveraging investments, and supporting locally led conservation delivery. CGRI offers a scalable model for integrating science, policy, and community engagement across jurisdictions.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: North America’s central grasslands have experienced significant loss and fragmentation, making them one of the most threatened ecosystems globally. These landscapes support migratory birds, native biodiversity, and rural livelihoods across all three countries.</p> <p>The Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative was established to bring together diverse partners to coordinate conservation efforts across this biome. By focusing on shared priorities, such as habitat connectivity, sustainable grazing, and species conservation, CGRI provides a framework for collaborative, cross-border action.</p> <p>The Trilateral Committee presents a unique opportunity to strengthen alignment among national efforts and accelerate conservation outcomes at a continental scale.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Increase awareness and engagement of Trilateral Committee members in grassland conservation efforts ● Identify opportunities for alignment between CGRI and national/regional conservation priorities ● Strengthen cross-border collaboration and information sharing ● Support integration of science and decision-support tools into conservation planning ● Explore mechanisms to leverage funding and policy support for grassland conservation
<p>1:30-2:00 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Indigenous Kinship Circle</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Paulette Fox, Harmony Walkers Inc., Diana Doan Crider, Animo Partnership</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Indigenous Kinship Circle (IKC) is a community of practice working across the grasslands of Turtle Island to strengthen relationships between Indigenous peoples, communities, and the lands that sustain and nourish us. The IKC grew out of the Central Grasslands Roadmap (CGR) as a way to help bring Indigenous voices, knowledge systems, and priorities alongside grassland</p>

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	<p>conservation and stewardship efforts across Canada, the United States, and México. For many of us, grasslands are much more than ecosystems. They are connected to language, identity, cultural memory, responsibility, and long-standing relationships with Mother Earth and all our relations. Together, we developed a framework that outlines our shared priorities and commitments. Including how we support willing partners and agencies, such as the CGR and other grassland conservation efforts to build much needed awareness and understanding, broadly, as well as how to connect to communities where knowledge systems are place-based. This presentation provides an overview of the IKC shared priorities. Including opportunities to connect to the collective work of the Trilateral Committee.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: IKC has presented previously at Trilateral meetings on projects across the grasslands biome in Canada, U.S.A. and Mexico. Paulette Fox in particular has been instrumental in advancing the Grasslands and Bison LOIs, as well as other engagement over the past 5 years.</p>
2:00-2:15 pm	BREAK
	Theme: Grasslands - Joint Session with the Ecosystems Conservation Table (1:00-3:15pm) - Continued
2:15-2:35 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture; Andy Bishop, FWS; Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Ali Duvall, JV8 Manager; Mara Erickson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture; Lauri Hanauska-Brown, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture; Robert Perez, Oaks and Prairies Joint Venture; Rich Schultheis, Playa Lakes Joint Venture; Barry Robinson, Prairie Habitat Joint Venture and Catherine Wightman, Northern Great Plains Joint Venture</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative (JV8) brings together eight Migratory Bird Joint Ventures working to address the decline of grassland habitat, wildlife species, and the impacts to communities and economies across the Central Grasslands from Canada to Mexico. In 2025 we published 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, creating a bold and ambitious blueprint that supports and scales up grassland habitat collaboration. JV8 has since focused on putting the Business Plan into action, including conducting step-down planning to achieve Business Plan goals, developing an app to track investments and outcomes across JVs, designing and launching https://jv8.org, bringing partners together from Canada, the U.S., Mexico, and Indigenous Nations to discuss shared interest and opportunities for collaboration, and received funding to scale up successful JV conservation actions. For the coming year JV8 will focus on continuing to develop and implement a unified, transparent, trusted system for tracking JV conservation outcomes across the Central Grasslands,</p>

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	<p>increasing conservation delivery capacity across JVs, reducing duplication of efforts by strengthening relationships and sharing capacity, expanding funding streams, including corporate and non-traditional sources, and undertaking clear, compelling, and strategic communications that demonstrates collective impact and attracts new support and engagement.</p> <p>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> <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>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss opportunities for collaboration on scaling up successful grassland conservation efforts, including financial and institutional support, across Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, including Indigenous Nations. • Continued support by the parties of the Trilateral Committee and Work Groups for collaborative conservation efforts for the Central Grasslands of North America.
<p>2:35-2:55 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: A partnership to strengthen binational collaboration: Migratory Bird Joint Ventures and the National Commission for Protected Natural Areas</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Jennie Duberstein, Sonoran Joint Venture, Celene Moncayo, Sonoran Joint Venture, José Feliciano González Jiménez, CONANP, Angélica Narváez Casillas, CONANP, Carlos Alberto Sifuentes, CONANP, Héctor Antonio Pérez Hernández, CONANP, Karen Chapman, Rio Grande Joint Venture, Jesús Franco, Rio Grande Joint Venture</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: For many years, the National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP), the Rio Grande Joint Venture, and the Sonoran Joint Venture have collaborated on binational conservation efforts, though often in informal and inconsistent ways. Recently, these entities expressed their intention to coordinate efforts more formally through the development of an institutional agreement—a Letter of Intent (LOI)—to establish a clear framework for participation and collaboration.</p>

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	<p>The draft LOI, now in its final stages of review and approval, underscores the importance of binational collaboration in the following priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● conservation and restoration of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems;● conservation and/or monitoring of priority species;● research and/or application of scientific knowledge;● capacity building, outreach, and environmental awareness; and● environmental variability. <p>Examples of proposed collaboration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● formal participation of a CONANP representative on the Management Board of each Joint Venture;● capacity building to strengthen the conservation and restoration of federal protected areas;● exchange of information and data related to conservation and restoration; and● development of outreach and environmental awareness programs. <p>Institutional collaboration will be coordinated to develop conservation plans that guide the implementation of mutually beneficial priority activities.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The National Commission for Natural Protected Areas (CONANP) is primarily responsible for conserving Mexico’s natural heritage through a system of federally designated protected natural areas. Its core responsibilities include promoting and managing the establishment of these areas, as well as fostering and developing activities aimed at conserving their ecosystems and their biodiversity.</p> <p>The Rio Grande Joint Venture and the Sonoran Joint Venture are transboundary regional alliances that work to conserve birds and their ecosystems in the southern United States and northern Mexico. Within their geographic scope in Mexico, there is a significant number of protected natural areas.</p> <p>Strengthening efforts to effectively conserve and restore Mexico’s protected natural areas directly supports the conservation and management goals shared by these three organizations.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Inform the Ecosystem Conservation Working Table and the Trilateral Committee about this binational initiative.● Generate discussion and ideas regarding additional collaboration opportunities for the conservation of shared ecoregions and migratory bird species.● Confirm the commitment of the three institutions to signing the Letter of Intent and to undertaking the necessary actions to achieve measurable success.● Formally recognize the importance of coordinated collaboration for the conservation of shared priority natural protected areas.
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2:55-3:05 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Grasslands, on the ground case study - Mexico: Two Decades of Grassland Bird Research and Conservation in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Irene Ruvalcaba Ortega, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Ricardo Canales del Castillo, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Arvind Panjabi, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, José Juan Flores Maldonado, Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, Antonio Moreno Talamantes, Especies, Sociedad y Hábitat, Brandt Ryder, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Angela Dwyer, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Salvador Narvaez, Pronatura Noreste, Alberto Macías Duarte, Universidad Estatal de Sonora.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Research on grassland birds overwintering in the Chihuahuan Desert of Mexico has progressed through several phases aimed at answering key questions to inform conservation planning and actions. The first collaborative monitoring effort, conducted between 2007 and 2013, documented important variation in migratory grassland bird densities among sites and years, while also identifying habitat characteristics associated with higher bird densities. Subsequent radio-telemetry studies found that taller shrub cover and low temperatures negatively affected overwinter survival. Research has also revealed geographic patterns in the male-to-female ratios of grassland specialists, while functional genetic diversity in migratory and endemic species remains high but correlated with population size. More recently, migratory connectivity has become a focus through collaborations with the Motus and Bird Genoscape Project initiatives.</p> <p>Particular monitoring and research efforts have also been conducted within the GPCA El Tokio, a distinctive region that includes shortgrass prairies maintained by the endemic Mexican prairie-dog (<i>Cynomys mexicanus</i>), mixed grasslands, arid scrublands, and agricultural habitats such as potato fields and fallow lands. This area is especially important for shortgrass specialists and supports unique resident populations of grassland birds, including Mountain Plover, Savannah Sparrow, Cassin’s Sparrow, Botteri’s Sparrow, Horned Lark, and Loggerhead Shrike, as well as the Chihuahuan Desert endemic Worthen’s Sparrow.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Grassland birds in North America have experienced severe population declines for more than half a century, mainly due to the loss and degradation of grassland ecosystems. Because most breeding grassland birds of the Great Plains overwinter in the Chihuahuan Desert (CHD), large-scale research efforts began in the region, particularly in Mexico, in 2006 and continue to this day. These efforts have required transboundary collaboration and the participation of numerous institutions and organizations. In addition, focused regional initiatives have continued in key areas such as the Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) El Tokio and other important grasslands in Mexico, addressing not only migratory grassland birds, but also resident populations, as well as endemic and endangered species.</p>

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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss opportunities and strategies to strengthen and sustain research collaboration, including mechanisms for long-term financial and institutional support. ● Discuss strategies to improve the communication and dissemination of research findings among landowners, decision-makers, and policymakers in order to elevate the importance of grassland conservation in Mexico. ● Highlight the importance of including and supporting the long-term monitoring and research of resident and endemic grassland bird populations in Mexico.
<p>3:05-3:15 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Grasslands of Mexico: National Efforts within the CGRI and IYRP International Initiatives</p> <p>COLLABORATORS and CONTACTS: Rogelio Maciel, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative / Pronatura Noreste, Javier Ochoa, International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists, Maggie Hanna, Central Grasslands Roadmap Initiative, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Vicente Rodríguez, Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: This presentation outlines the strategic efforts of the Mexican working group within the Central Grassland Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) and its mission to secure the future of North America’s central grasslands. We will discuss the specific priorities established for the Mexican territory, highlighting the upcoming Summit in Chihuahua scheduled for November 2026. This summit is designed as a pivotal collaborative space where diverse stakeholders, including ranchers, scientists, and policymakers, will converge to share best practices and strengthen regional conservation networks.</p> <p>Furthermore, we will explore how these efforts are strategically aligned with the global framework of the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP). By linking the CGRI’s actions with the IYRP’s international agenda, it is being demonstrated how intersectoral collaboration networks are necessary and can multiply the results of conservation efforts in an ecosystem as vulnerable as grasslands.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Grasslands are among the most ecologically vital yet critically endangered biomes on the planet, providing essential ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, water filtration, and a unique habitat for specialized biodiversity. Despite their importance, these landscapes face unprecedented threats from land-use conversion, climate change, and unsustainable management, leading to rapid degradation. In Mexico, these ecosystems are particularly vulnerable, making their preservation a matter of both environmental urgency and national heritage.</p>

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	<p>To address these challenges, the Central Grassland Roadmap Initiative (CGRI) and the International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP) serve as international frameworks designed to elevate the conservation practice and promote the value of the grassland ecosystem, sustainable rangeland management and pastoralist livelihoods. Specifically in Mexico, these initiatives have cemented a robust conservation community focused on the country's most threatened grasslands. By fostering international collaboration and adopting international goals into local impact, these efforts unite ranchers, scientists, and policymakers in a shared mission to restore ecological health and ensure the long-term resilience of Mexico's landscapes.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Network Expansion: Identify and engage new partners to join the Mexican conservation network, broadening the collaborative reach of both the CGRI and IYRP. ● Visibility and Advocacy: Increase global awareness of Mexico's specific grassland challenges and successes ● Collaborative Synergy: Formalize strategic alliances with academic, governmental, and private institutions to strengthen transboundary cooperation for the Chihuahua 2026 Summit. ● Funding and Resource Mobilization: Identify and discuss mechanisms to leverage international funding and direct financial resources toward Mexican grassland conservation projects. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Irene Ruvalcaba Ortega, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas ● Mainstreaming Biodiversity ● Emphasizing actions to mainstream grassland bird and island conservation ● Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
3:15-3:30 pm	BREAK
3:30-3:50 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Trilateral Bycatch Working Group (TBWG): Outcomes and Next Steps from the Seabirds Bycatch Reduction Strategies Workshop</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p>

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	<p>TBWG Co-Chairs: Roberta Swift (USFWS), Vicente Rodríguez (CONABIO), Jake Russell-Mercier (ECCC)</p> <p>TBWG Members: Alfredo Castillo (University of Guadalajara), Alicia Aztorga (Conservación de Islas), 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), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Jennie Duberstein (USFWS), Julie Bourque (ECCC), Bill Montevecchi (MUN), Julio Hernández Montoya (Conservación de Islas), Ken Morgan (Retired from ECCC), Laurie Wilson (ECCC), Lee Benaka (Retired from NOAA; Contractor), 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)</p> <p>Other: Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative (AMBC), Kathy Kuletz (Retired from USFWS), Laurie Rounds (USFWS), Luis Ramos Vazquez (USFWS), Lynne Carbone & Associates (Lynne Carbone, David Bidwell), Robert Blackmore (MUN)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>This agenda item provides an update on the outcomes and recommended next steps from the Seabird Bycatch Reduction Strategies virtual workshop, convened by the Trilateral Bycatch Working Group and the Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative on February 11–12, 2026. The workshop brought together more than 140 participants who work in the Pacific, Atlantic, Indian and Arctic oceans, representing the fishing industry, government agencies, academia, and NGOs, to share knowledge on seabird bycatch mitigation approaches across three focal gear types (longline, trawl, and gillnet). Discussions highlighted effective technical measures, outreach strategies, and incentives to support adoption of best practices, as well as opportunities for collaboration and partnership.</p> <p>Building on gear-specific presentations, panels, and breakout discussions, participants identified potential actions and project ideas aimed at advancing on-the-water implementation of bycatch reduction measures. Key themes included the importance of fisher-led solutions, voluntary and bottom-up engagement approaches, region-specific and adaptive research, improved monitoring, and coordination across jurisdictions and taxa.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Incidental take in fisheries (bycatch) is a global conservation concern for seabirds. International collaboration is necessary 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</p>
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	<p>priorities among Mexico, the U.S., and Canada regarding this important topic. One of the actions that the Bycatch Working Group identified was to support the Seabird Bycatch Reduction Strategies workshop.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: This agenda item will summarize the key recommendations emerging from the workshop and invite discussion on potential roles, partnerships, and next steps for the Trilateral Bycatch Working Group in supporting seabird bycatch reduction efforts.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Roberta Swift (USFWS), Vicente Rodríguez (CONABIO), Jake Russell-Mercier (ECCC)</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas ● Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats ● Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
<p>3:50-4:10 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Trinational Marine and Coastal Bird Working Group, Marine Debris Subgroup: Update on activities and future directions</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Caleb Spiegel, Subgroup Co-Chair (US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds Program, caleb_spiegel@fws.gov)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: In early April, 2026 a small team from the Marine Debris Subgroup (Ingrid Pollet; Contractor, hired by ECCC; Jennifer Provencher, Ecotoxicology and Wildlife Health Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada Headquarters; Lisa Shender, National Park Service, Biological Resources Division; and Caleb) completed a manuscript, Assessing the impact of macrodebris entanglement on seabird populations, and submitted it to the journal Environmental Review. This manuscript was previously identified as a priority action for the Marine Debris Subgroup and was encouraged by the MB Working Table Chairs during prior meetings. Although the full Subgroup has not met for around two years, Subgroup members from Canada, Mexico, and the US reviewed and provided input in a draft manuscript before submission. Caleb will provide an overview of the manuscript and discuss ways that results can be shared.</p> <p>As of April, Caleb is the only chair of the Subgroup. Mexico has not been able to provide a chair for this group for over three years, and the long-time co-chair from Canada, Jennifer Provencher stepped down in April due to a shift in her job duties with ECCC. As mentioned above, the full Subgroup has not met regularly since late 2023. In addition to summarizing manuscript writing activities, Caleb will introduce challenges in participation and leadership and solicit input from the MBWT Chairs on future directions for the Subgroup.</p>

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	<p>BACKGROUND: The Marine Debris Subgroup formed in November 2022, with 14 individuals from all three Trilateral countries. A subset regularly attended monthly Subgroup calls. The Subgroup established an informal workplan and prioritized a few actions that the group could engage in, including “Carry out a review of what data on debris (litter & gear) - bird interactions are available across the three countries, and how to best align/improve future data collection efforts”. In late 2023, the Subgroup stopped meeting regularly as a whole, in part due to dwindling participation. At that time, the Subgroup formed a smaller report-drafting breakout team, which was tasked with producing a report (see above) to meet a major objective of the Subgroup. The report has been completed, reviewed by Subgroup members from all three countries and submitted to a journal as a manuscript. However, we have not met as a full team in over two years, and there is now only one co-chair. So the Subgroup is looking for input on what’s next.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of Marine Debris Subgroup accomplishments by MBWT Chairs • Input/ideas from MBWT Chairs on circulating findings in the manuscript described above • Input/ideas from MBWT Chairs on potential new Co-Chairs (Canada, Mexico) and/or pausing this Subgroup until more capacity is available <p>SUBMITTED BY: Caleb Spiegel (USFWS)</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: (highlighted below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas · Mainstreaming species conservation · 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
<p>4:10-4:25 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Recent actions by the Government of Canada to address bird mortality due to window collisions</p>

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	<p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maurine Mikhail, Fisheries and Oceans Canada • Krista De Groot, Environment and Climate Change Canada <p>DESCRIPTION: We will discuss and highlight different categories of efforts that have been employed by the GoC in recent years to address window collisions, including development of standards (Greening Government Strategy, Canadian National Master Construction Specifications, National Building Code of Canada) and collaborations with partners.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: It is estimated that between 16-42M (Canada-2013 estimate) and 365-988M (US-2014 estimate) birds die each year due to collisions with windows. Migratory birds are a federal responsibility and there is therefore a vested interest for the Government of Canada (GoC) to address this important anthropogenic threat.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The goal of this presentation is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • update the members on recent actions by the Government of Canada on the issue of migratory bird collisions • receive suggestions on opportunities for international collaboration in minimizing window collisions • present short, medium and long-terms plans <p>SUBMITTED BY: Julie Bourque PhD Migratory Bird Conservation and Regulations Biologist Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division Environment and Climate Change Canada Government of Canada</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats
4:25-4:40 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Multi-Sector Partnership to Address Light Pollution and Bird Collisions: Bird Collision Prevention Alliance</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Joelle Gehring and the Bird Collision Prevention Alliance (BCPA)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Every year more than one billion birds in North America collide with glass and lit facilities. Birds are attracted to non-flashing lights, such as building lights and tower obstruction lights. Once attracted to structures, birds can collide with structures and cannot distinguish reflective glass from the surrounding landscape and sky. Simultaneously, our dark skies are increasingly lit at night. The world is</p>

	<p>experiencing a 10% increase in night sky illumination every year. Effective and economical solutions are available to building managers. Extinguishing or minimizing lights significantly reduces night sky illumination, bird attraction and subsequent collisions. Marking glass with a 2-inch by 2-inch pattern on external surfaces significantly reduces bird collisions with glass. By incorporating bird-friendly measures into buildings and facilities we can reduce bird collisions across the Americas, which will reduce one of the leading causes of bird mortality.</p> <p>The Bird Collision Prevention Alliance (BCPA) is a coalition of agencies, conservation groups, scientists, architects, industry leaders, healthcare professionals, and engaged community members committed to making our built environment safer for birds and dark skies. Through innovative glass treatments, responsible lighting practices, and collaborative action, we can dramatically reduce bird fatalities and light pollution, thereby create a world where wildlife and human spaces coexist harmoniously.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Most glass collisions (99%) occur at low-rise buildings and at urban and rural residences, less than 1% of collision mortality is at high-rise buildings (Loss et al. 2014). Designing or retrofitting facilities to be bird safe and enhancing public education efforts on how to reduce collisions can further increase the bird conservation impact. Much work has been done in North America in the past few years, through actions to retrofit or design bird-friendly buildings, and changes to policies and regulations. For example, the U.S. GSA changed the standards for new federal buildings to be bird friendly in 2021, and Canada published Bird-Friendly Design Standards in 2019. Many of the bird species colliding with facilities and glass are also facing significant population declines.</p> <p>Simultaneously, the 10% annual increase in night sky illumination is a result of inefficiency, and threatens human health, cultural preservation, and ecosystems. Many entities work to reduce light pollution and BCPA works to unite efforts and amplify shared and overlapping messages. This session will provide an opportunity for sharing information and best practices, as well as invitations for collaboration.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Engage and support entities within and beyond the U.S. to support and assist in outreach to reduce lighting and retrofit glass.· Understand the status of addressing night sky illumination and bird collisions with building glass and lit facilities throughout the full annual cycle of birds.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Foster commitments to adopt bird-friendly and dark sky standards for federal wildlife agency buildings beyond the U.S., including monitoring and mitigating bird collisions, and · Share information on monitoring, mitigating, and reducing night sky illumination and bird collisions with building glass and lit facilities. <p>SUBMITTED BY: Joelle Gehring, USFWS and BCPA</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas, or · Coordination of advancements in reducing priority threats
<p>4:40-4:50 pm</p>	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> CMS Initiative for Americas Flyways</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: R. Clay, Manomet Conservation Sciences Ana María Monge, Ministerio de Ambiente y Energía, Costa Rica Patricia Serafini, Centro Nacional de Pesquisa e Conservação de Aves Silvestres, Brazil</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: At the recent 15th Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), CMS Parties in the Americas committed to establish the Initiative for Americas Flyways (IRMA) to support implementation and monitoring of the Americas Flyways Framework and Action Plan. This presents a significant opportunity for range states and other stakeholders in the Americas to improve and increase coordination of flyway-scale conservation of migratory birds.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: The Americas Flyways Framework was originally adopted by CMS Parties at COP11 (Quito, 2014), followed by the adoption of an Action Plan at COP12 (Manila, 2017). At the recent COP15 (Campo Grande, 2026) Parties agreed to establish the Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IRMA, acronym in Portuguese), in close coordination with all Americas Flyways Range States, other stakeholders, and any existing multilateral frameworks, under the umbrella of CMS and as an institutional framework to support the implementation and monitoring of the Americas Flyways Framework and Action Plan.</p> <p>Until the establishment of the Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IRMA), expected at COP16, the Americas Flyways Task Force will continue to coordinate the</p>

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	<p>development and implementation of the Americas Flyways Framework and the Americas Flyways Action Plan, developed in full alignment with the CMS Samarkand Strategic Plan for Migratory Species. During the coming triennium, the Task Force will be developing the text of a resolution to establish the Initiative, in addition to updating the Framework and developing a revised Action Plan.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: The Trilateral is invited to consider ways that it may be able to engage in the development of the Initiative for the Americas Flyways (IRMA), in addition to the update of the Americas Flyways Framework and revised Action Plan.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: R. Clay, Manomet Conservation Sciences WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
<p>4:50-5:00 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Waterbird population estimates: A renewed global effort</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: R. Clay, Manomet Conservation Sciences (rclay@manomet.org)</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: The Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP) has been established to ensure that reliable, up-to-date information on the sizes and trends of waterbird populations is available to Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands and other instruments and initiatives.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: At the 15th Conference of the Contracting Parties (COP15) of the Convention on Wetlands (the Ramsar Convention) in 2025, the Contracting Parties adopted Resolution XV.11, which established the Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GEWP) and set out the arrangements for the delivery of the 2027 edition of Waterbird Population Estimates (WPE).</p> <p>The Global Waterbird Estimates Partnership (GWEP) has been established to ensure that reliable, up-to-date information on the sizes and trends of waterbird populations is available to Contracting Parties of the Convention on Wetlands and other instruments and initiatives. GWEP will also analyze and assess population trends to provide relevant technical advice to Convention Contracting Parties and other stakeholders, contributing to evidence-based conservation actions and decision-making.</p> <p>GWEP, in consultation with the Convention on Wetlands's Secretariat and the Scientific and Technical Review Panel (STRP), has been tasked to deliver the 2027</p>

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	<p>edition of the WPE (WPE2027) with a focus on the regions, flyways and populations most requiring updates. This includes the Nearctic (North American) region, as a priority to update relevant information in the global database.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Inputs are sought from the Trilateral regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What's needed to provide updated waterbird population estimates from North America.• The potential role of the Trilateral in providing updated waterbird population estimates.• North American representation on GWEP (in particular, potential permanent members of the GWEP). <p>SUBMITTED BY: R. Clay, Manomet Conservation Sciences</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas
End of Day	

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FRIDAY, May 15, 2026

Times provided in Eastern Time Zone

12:00-12:05 pm	Welcome and Reminders
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12:05-12:15 pm	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Virus (HPAIV) in Migratory Birds in Canada - Surveillance Update and Impacts</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cynthia Pekarik, Trevor Thompson, Mike Brown, Émilie Bouchard: Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Becky Whittam, Rob Ronconi, Laura McFarlane Tranquilla: Regional Operations- Atlantic Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Matthieu Beaumont, Nathalie Forget: Regional Operations- Quebec Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Chris Sharp, Heather Braun: Regional Operations- Ontario Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Frank Baldwin, Pauline Bloom: Regional Operations- Prairie Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Megan Willie: Regional Operations- Pacific Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Philippe Galipeau, Myra Robertson: Regional Operations- Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada ● Jennifer Provencher, Jolene Giacinti: Ecotoxicology and Wildlife Health Division, Science and Technology Branch, Environment and Climate Change Canada <p>DESCRIPTION:</p> <p>This presentation will provide an update on the current status of HPAIV (H5N1) in Canada, including recent surveillance results and key trends in migratory birds. It will highlight Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) role in national wildlife surveillance, including efforts to track virus distribution, evolution, and exposure in wild bird populations through coordinated, interagency sampling.</p> <p>The presentation will also summarize observed impacts on wildlife, including species of conservation concern, and outline how surveillance data are used to support risk assessment, situational awareness, and evidence-based decision making within a One Health framework.</p> <p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>Since late 2021, HPAIV has had significant impacts in Canada, affecting at least 50,000 wild birds and resulting in the loss of over 17 million domestic birds. While detections and large-scale mortality events in wild birds decreased after 2022, more recent data indicate an increase in detections in 2025, with virus activity observed across multiple taxa (e.g., waterfowl, seabirds, raptors, and corvids). HPAIV remains a persistent threat to wildlife conservation, domestic animal health, and broader ecosystem stability.</p>
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	<p>ECCC plays a central role in detecting and understanding HPAI in wild birds through its leadership in Canada’s Interagency Surveillance Program for Avian Influenza Viruses in Wildlife. Since the start of the outbreak, tens of thousands of samples have been collected from live, hunter-harvested, and dead birds (and mammals to a lesser extent) to monitor active infection and prior exposure. This work supports a One Health approach by informing interdepartmental risk assessments, guiding response measures, and contributing to national and international reporting. Sustained, adaptive surveillance in wild birds remains a cornerstone of Canada’s preparedness and response to HPAI.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES: Canada is committed to working with the United States and Mexico to support ongoing collaboration on surveillance, data sharing, and risk assessment related to this transboundary wildlife health issue. Environment and Climate Change Canada will continue to contribute to a One Health approach to HPAI and welcomes continued engagement with trilateral partners to strengthen preparedness and response across North America.</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Émilie Bouchard, Acting Head - Wildlife Health Unit, Wildlife Management and Regulatory Affairs Division, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Wildlife Health
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<p>12:15-12:25 pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza - Updates from Mexico</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Armando García-López, Mario Solís-Hernández, Mitzunari Zalapa-Hernández, Ana Victoria Fonseca-Delgado, Jorge Elías De la Torre-Miguel.</p> <p>DESCRIPTION: Highly pathogenic avian influenza H5 viruses (HPAIV clade 2.3.4.4b) were first detected in North America in late 2021, initiated a multi-year outbreak in various geographic regions of Mexico.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: From late 2021 to March 2025, we synthesize epidemiological patterns, and genomic trends to inform continued One Health preparedness and response efforts.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 5,198 live and harvested birds, 48 of which were H5 positive, and another 19 tested positive for HPAIV. · 2,527 sick or dead wild birds (11 families and 9 orders), all tested positive for HPAIV · From 2022 to 2024 had negative effects on approximately 7 million susceptible commercial birds. · Mexico reported its first confirmed human infection with HPAI A(H5N1) in a young child from Durango in early April 2025, consistent with regional transmission patterns of clade 2.3.4.4b. <p>As a debate point may include the zoonotic potential of HPAIV H5</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Héctor Enrique Valdez-Gómez</p> <p>WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: Wildlife Health (with potential zoonotic costs)</p>
<p>12:25-12:30 pm</p>	<p>Open Discussion - Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza</p>

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12:30-12:45 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> Southern Wings: Shared Birds, Shared Responsibility</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Deb Hahn, AFWA dhahn@fishwildlife.org; Bradley Wilkinson, AFWA/NABCI, bwilkinson@fishwildlife.org</p> <p>AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S): Deb Hahn and Bradley Wilkinson, AFWA</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY: Deb Hahn, AFWA</p> <p>PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION: Southern Wings is a collaborative partnership of state fish and wildlife agencies dedicated to full annual cycle conservation. The Southern Wings Advisory Committee is kicking off an outreach initiative and steps to growth the program and its impact. The presentation will share information about where the program is and what it hopes to accomplish in partnership with colleagues across the hemisphere for share migratory birds. Southern Wings is modeled off successful waterfowl conservation between the US and Canada.</p> <p>BACKGROUND: Since 2009, 42 state fish and wildlife agencies have contributed over \$4.5 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 provides a strategic mechanism for states to support high-priority conservation projects in Latin America and the Caribbean. By focusing on the specific nonbreeding and migratory habitats of the birds that breed in or migrate through our states, the program ensures that local conservation efforts are protected. Ultimately, Southern Wings is a tool for professional stewardship. It allows state agencies to manage their migratory bird populations with the same strategic foresight they apply to resident wildlife, protecting the biological and economic value of these species for the citizens they serve.</p> <p>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>PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO EXECUTIVE TABLE? (yes/no) Yes in 2019</p> <p>BINATIONAL/TRINATIONAL: (specify one) Projects are Binational with Mexico but coordination about shared species conservation is Trinational.</p> <p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AND PROJECT GOALS: Increase knowledge about the program, share information about projects and partners, and learn about new collaboration opportunities.</p>
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	<p>SPECIFIC REQUEST OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE CO-CHAIRS: Be aware of the program and how it might overlap with and add value to the work of the Table.</p> <p>TRILATERAL COMMITTEE PRIORITY:</p> <p>STRATEGIC CONSERVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Facilitating animal movemento Mitigating barriers to connectivity, including barrier removal and translocation across barriers <p>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Working with landowners <p>INTEGRATING HUMAN DIMENSIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Habitat restoration <p>TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION FOR CONSERVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Remote sensing and satellite imagery, and GPS for species monitoring. <p>MIGRATORY BIRDS WORKING TABLE PRIORITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas· Mainstreaming Biological diversity· Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharing
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12:45-1:00 pm	<p><u>AGENDA ITEM:</u> U.S. NABCI Exploratory Restatement of Vision</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS (include name, email, and agency): Bradley Wilkinson, bwilkinson@fishwildlife.org, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies/NABCI</p> <p>AGENDA ITEM PRESENTOR(S) (include name and agency): Bradley Wilkinson, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</p> <p>SUBMITTED BY (include name and agency): Bradley Wilkinson, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</p> <p>PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION: (up to 250 words, please)</p> <p>The presentation will brief the Working Table on exploratory discussions to restate the original U.S. NABCI Committee ‘Vision’ document, given its original publication in 2000 and the changes to the bird conservation committee in the past twenty-six. A restatement of vision is intended to reflect the conservation as it currently stands while continuing to deliver on the original purpose of the U.S. NABCI Committee. It is valuable to present to the Working Table as the U.S. NABCI Committee was, and is, intended to coordinate with NABCI Canada and NABCI Mexico Committees.</p> <p>BACKGROUND:</p> <p>One of the first documents put forward by the forming U.S. NABCI Committee was entitled ‘The North American Bird Conservation Initiative in the United States: A Vision of American Bird Conservation’, published in September, 2000. Unlike the Charter, which established the terms of reference and operations of U.S. NABCI, the Vision document laid out a framework for broad-scale avian conservation with the goal ‘to deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driver, landscape-oriented partnerships’. Key to this effort was the coordination of individual bird initiatives, specifically NAWMP, PIF, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, and North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan. In the intervening years, the landscape of bird conservation initiatives has changed dramatically. New initiatives have arisen, while other have lost their own coordination, momentum, or funding.</p> <p>PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED TO EXECUTIVE TABLE? (yes/no)</p> <p>No</p> <p>BINATIONAL/TRINATIONAL: (specify one)</p> <p>Trinational</p>
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	<p>REQUESTED SPECIFIC OUTCOMES AND PROJECT GOALS:</p> <p>Assess the status of NABCI Mexico and NABCI Canada to ascertain how these Committees may fit into a potential restatement of the U.S. NABCI Committee Vision document.</p> <p>SPECIFIC REQUEST OF ACTION ON THE PART OF THE CO-CHAIRS:</p> <p>Continue to engage in any effort to restate the 2000 U.S. NABCI Committee Vision document for the current time.</p> <p>TRILATERAL COMMITTEE PRIORITY:</p> <p>STRATEGIC CONSERVATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Advancing conservation strategies · INTEGRATING HUMAN DIMENSIONS o Ensuring Human Dimensions are reflected in conservation planning and partnerships <p>Migratory Bird WORKING TABLE PRIORITY: (choose from below)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Implementing next steps for bird conservation for the Americas · Improved Coordination of Monitoring and Information Sharin
<p>1:00-2:00pm</p>	<p>AGENDA ITEM: Close-out open discussion about highlights from the week, action items for the Action Item Plan, and next steps.</p> <p>COLLABORATORS & CONTACTS: Co-chairs – Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Jo Anna Lutmerding (FWS), Natalie Savoie (CWS)</p>
<p>2:00-2:15 pm</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>2:15-3:15</p>	<p>Closed Session: Working table co-chair session closeouts and Co-chairs Prep time for ET report out.</p>
<p>3:15-3:30 pm</p>	<p>BREAK</p>
<p>3:30-4:30</p>	<p>Report Out to the Executive Table</p>
<p>4:30-5:00</p>	<p>Closed Session: Working Table Closeout</p>
<p>End of Day</p>	