

## **U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership Teleconference Agenda/Notes**

27 April 2015

Recent Activity (since 27 February 2015 Bird Partnership Workshop action summary)

1. Brad Andres participated in JVC calls in March and April.
2. Bill Vermillion participated in TriST/PIF Science meeting in April. Brad Andres called in for part of discussion.
3. AFWA PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group was attended by Joel Jorgensen and Sara Schweitzer. Update on the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy and the USSCP actions in the 27 February 2015 report. Outputs from the meeting have been distributed.
4. Brian Smith forwarded the final report of the January 2015 Bird Partnership Workshop.
5. Brad Andres attended March and April calls of the JV coordinators. JV-NRCS meeting is re-scheduled for July. Brad will remind JVCs of the notes we sent previously on the operational relationship.

Hopefully new quick items

1. Need to move forward on standardizing survey protocols for non-breeding shorebirds.
2. Letter to support USFWS support for the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting.
3. Time to meet at the WHSG.

Following up the actions identified from the Bird Partnership Workshop

1. Structural Change Action: Pursue increased communication and collaborative via current (e.g., TriST) or enhanced channels (e.g., NABCI Science Team), and  
Immediate Action 5: Consider additional participants for USSCP Council.

Both NABCI and the JV/BCP/NABCI meeting called for more integration and cooperation among bird conservation actors. Below is an attempt to identify the various hemispheric and continental scale opportunities and our role in these efforts. We need to 1) prioritize the list given current capacity, and 2) develop a strategy to grow the shorebird sisterhood (e.g., more USSCP Council members, other structures, increased communication).

Continental and Hemispheric Scale Activities for USSCP/Shorebird Engagement.

Scale/Group	Position	Role	Lead	Priority
<i>Hemispheric</i>				
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network	Councilor	Provide overall direction	?	
Western Hemisphere Migratory Species Initiative (Convention on Migratory Species)	Participant	Bring shorebird issues to table	USFWS (Northeast) /WHSRN	
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act	Reviewer	Review proposals; technical assistance; program direction	Coordinator	
Atlantic Shorebird Flyway Initiative	Steering Committee; Strategy lead	Provide overall direction; work with strategy teams to develop proposals and track progress	Numerous Partners	
Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy	Steering Committee; Strategy lead	Provide overall direction; oversee strategy development	Audubon, Point Blue, Coordinator	
East Asian Australasian Flyway Partnership	Council, Working Groups	Provide overall direction, develop specific actions	USFWS (Alaska), Audubon Alaska	
Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative	Working Group	Develop and implement actions for Arctic-breeding birds	USFWS (Alaska), WHSRN	
Ramsar Convention	US Committee	Recommend US sites; implement convention actions in US	AFWA	
Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group	Organizers, funders	Plan and deliver meetings	USFWS, Manomet	
<i>Continental</i>				
US North American Bird Conservation Initiative				
US NABCI Committee	Member	Overall direction	Point Blue	
State of the Birds/Birds as Indicators Team	Member	Technical assistance, report development	Coordinator	

Scale/Group		Position	Role	Lead	Priority
	Monitoring Subcommittee	Member	Technical assistance, report development	USGS	
	Private and Working Lands Subcommittee	?	Technical assistance, Farm Bill guide development	?	
	National Communications Team	?	To be formed	?	
	National Human Dimensions Team	?	To be formed	?	
	Bird Education Alliance for Conservation	?	Raiser shorebird issues	?	
	AFWA PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group (and four regional FWAs)	Member/Chair	Engage states, meet states' needs, regional groups?	State Reps, Coordinator	
	TriST/JVs				
	Integrated Science Team	Member	Technical assistance, develop integrated products	Coordinator, JV Science Staff	
	All-Taxa Species Assessment Database	Member	Technical assistance, develop integrated products	Coordinator	
	JV Coordinator communication	Participant	Provide link to JVCs	Coordinator	
	North American Wetland Conservation Act	Reviewer	Proposal benefits review, technical assistance	Coordinator	
	Flyway Council Nongame Technical Committee	Member/Participant	Bring shorebird issues to states, technical assistance	USFWS (regions), Point Blue, States	
	Executive Order 13186 Federal Agency Council	Organizer/Participant	Develop conservation measures to meet EO	USFWS, Other Federal Agencies	
	National Wildlife Refuge System Inventory and Monitoring National Bird Team	Member	Shorebird technical assistance to NWRS	Coordinator	
	National Wildlife Refuge System Acquisition Priority Team	Participant	Shorebird priority sites for NWRS acquisition	Coordinator	
	US WHSRN Committee	Members	Re-invigorate relative to WHSRN strategic plan?	Partners beyond USSCP	
	PRISM Committee	Members	Meet more regularly on integration of protocols	Partners beyond USSCP	
	Shorebird Population Sizes and Trends Team	Members	Establish as standing group, include Canada	Partners beyond USSCP	

Immediate Action 3: Re-assess technical capability and management representation of JVs to plan and deliver shorebird habitat conservation, starting with JV/BP matrix exercise for the meeting. Strategically identify biological priority, need, and opportunity among Joint Ventures to deliver effective shorebird conservation. Work with JVs to build capacity if needed.

Below is the assessment the JVs provided on their progress toward elements of the desired conditions matrix for shorebirds. Besides the visual depiction, I score elements (1-3) to provide an overall assessment for the JV and each performance element. We need to develop a strategy to 1) prioritize JVs with the most importance for shorebird conservation, 2) identify JV-specific needs related to the matrix elements, and 3) find ways to meet the JV needs through the USSCP. Below is a summary of a series of questions posed to the JVs relative to shorebird conservation.

### *JV Accomplishments*

1. Where have you made the most progress with respect to the Matrix for shorebirds?  
Progress in at least 9 JVs. Focused in biological planning, monitoring, research; conservation design and habitat delivery secondary.
2. What enabled your JV to build that capacity (e.g. 1234 funds; partner funds; partner capacity) and what has the JV accomplished as a result for each of these bird groups?  
JV 1234 Funds: primary source for all  
Partner Contributions (cash and in-kind): 11 JVs  
FWS DMBM Funds: 2  
NAWCA Grants: 4  
Research partnerships (e.g. w/ universities, research stations, USGS): 2  
NRCS partnerships: 3 (AMJV, IWJV, LMVJV, but likely more)

### *Needed JV Capacity*

1. What do you see as your greatest need with respect to the Matrix to further conservation for shorebirds? Are there needs that are common across the bird groups?  
Population Objectives: 6  
Biological Planning: 2  
Limiting Factors: 3, includes full life cycle  
Conservation Design: 3, includes species/habitat relationships  
Habitat Delivery: 4, includes implementation capacity (i.e. boots on the ground)  
Human Dimensions: 2  
Monitoring: 6  
General Capacity (staff and funds): 3
2. What capacity does your JV need to meet each of these greatest priority needs?  
Additional funds/capacity: 6  
Improved engagement with/from partners: 5, includes LCCs, existing JV partners, new partners  
GIS/Remote sensing capacity: 3  
Science capacity (coordinator): 2

Monitoring capacity (funds to implement): 2

*Bird Conservation Plans*

1. What are your priority needs and expectations of the BCPPs to help your JV move forward with the elements of the matrix to advance the conservation of shorebirds?

Population & habitat objectives/priorities (developed with JV staff and partners): 10, includes maintaining and updating national/continental population objectives; national/continental species prioritization; helping to step down/refine at JV/BCR scale

Maintaining info at global/national scale: 3

Non-breeding limiting factors: 3

Greater dissemination of current research: 2

Improved development/integration of region-wide DSTs and monitoring tools: 3

Priority species assigned by BCR: 2

Improved consistent dialog between JVs and BCPPs: 6, includes providing general technical/science expertise

*Thoughts on NABCI and BCPs*

Increase and better coordinate among NABCI partners its ability to serve as an advocate for JVs, BCPs to federal agency directors and Congress for greater capacity: 7

Advocating for bird-centric conservation programs within federal agencies (e.g. NRCS): 11

Desired Characteristics for Habitat Joint Venture Partnerships: An Evaluation of Progress w/Respect to the U.S. Shorebird Plan																
Element	Sub-Element	LM	AC	CV	GC	PL	PC	RB	UM	SF	SN	CH	EG	AM	OP	SUM
Organizational Performance (average = 32.0)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	3	3	3	3	0	3	2	3	0	2	3	2	33
	Management Board	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	0	2	0	2	2	2	31
	Budgeting/Granting/Admin Funding	3	3	2	3	3	2	3	3	1	2	0	2	3	2	32
	Technical Community	2	2	3	3	3	1	3	3	3	3	0	2	2	2	32
Biological Planning (average = 32.5)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	2	3	3	2	0	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	33
	Biological Planning Unit	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	0	1	0	2	3	2	31
	Priority Species	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	2	38
	Population Objectives	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	2	2	30
	Limiting Factors	2	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	2	2	30
	Species/Habitat Relationships	2	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	1	2	2	33
Conservation Design (average = 27.7)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	3	3	3	2	0	3	3	2	2	1	3	2	33
	Landscape/Habitat Characterization & Assessment	2	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	33
	Assessment of the Conservation Estate	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	0	0	2	2	2	1	28
	Decision Support Tools	1	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	25
	Habitat Objectives	2	1	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	28
	Integration of Avian Decision-Support Tools	1	1	2	1	3	2	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	1	19
Habitat Delivery (average = 25.8)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	3	2	3	3	0	3	3	0	1	2	2	2	28
	Program Objectives	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	0	1	2	1	1	25
	Conservation Actions	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	3	2	0	1	2	2	1	27
	Delivery Capacity	2	3	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	23
Monitoring (average = 25.0)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	3	2	2	2	0	3	0	3	1	2	2	2	28
	Conservation Tracking System	3	1	2	2	3	2	3	2	0	0	1	1	3	1	24
	Habitat Inventory and Monitoring Programs	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	2	2	0	1	1	2	1	24
	Population Monitoring Program	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	1	24
Research (average = 26.0)	Coordination/Partnerships	3	3	3	3	3	2	0	3	2	3	1	3	2	1	32
	Species/Habitat Model Assumptions	3	2	3	3	3	2	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	2	29
	Conservation Treatment Assumptions	3	2	3	3	2	1	2	3	2	0	1	1	2	2	27
	Sensitivity Analyses	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	18
	Spatial Data Analyses	2	2	2	3	3	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	2	1	24
Communication, Education and Outreach (average = 23.5)	Coordination/Partnerships	2	3	2	3	3	0	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	24	
	Priority Audiences and Objectives	2	3	2	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	26
	Tactics and Products	1	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	22
	Audience Assessment	1	2	1	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	22
	SUM	74	78	82	75	92	62	64	90	57	41	36	49	69	47	
No data from:	PPJV, NGJV, IWJV, RGJV	Average for all JVs: 65														
		No Content				1	Minimal Content				2					
		Comprehensive Content				3										