



24th Annual - Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting

Yukon Room

Westmark Fairbanks Hotel and Conference Center
813 Noble St. (off 10th Ave.)
Fairbanks, Alaska

March 4, 2019 1:30–4:30pm

Call number = 866-619-8417 and passcode = 4202884#

Monday, 4 March 2019

1:30–2:45 Welcome, Announcements and updates (≤4 min each)

- Welcome and opening announcements – *Chris Harwood, Chair, ASG*

Chris Harwood welcomed the group and a round of introductions was made. Rick Lanctot provided a summary of where to find information about the Alaska Shorebird Group in a powerpoint presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates”. This powerpoint and information referenced therein can be found at

www.fws.gov/alaska/mbsp/mbm/shorebirds/workinggroup.htm (hereafter referred to as the “website above”). The presentation included where to find information on the group’s term of reference, members of the executive committee, posting of presentations of the most recent meeting, meeting minutes dating back to 2002, and the annual summary of shorebird projects dating back to 2002.

- Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan, V3 – *Chris Harwood et al.*

Chris Harwood described the third version of the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan that will be completed shortly (see also information in presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above). He developed a poster of the plan entitled “Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan, Version III” that can be found on the website above. The group discussed how to distribute the plan, and consensus was that we would have an executive summary version and a full version. Both versions will be on the website above. There was also talk about whether the group should print hard copies (@ roughly \$30 each) but for now the group decided to allow individuals to print their own copies.

- Pacific America Shorebird Conservation Strategy – *River Gates*

Rick Lanctot, sitting in for River, described recent activities for this strategy in a presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above.

- International Wader Study Group (IWSG) – *Dan Ruthrauff and Colleen Handel*
 - *Workum, The Netherlands, 28 Sept – 1 Oct 2018*
 - *Next meeting: Morecambe, Lancashire, UK, 20–23 Sept 2019*

Dan Ruthrauff and Colleen Handel described the most recent IWSG meeting in Workum. It seems the whole town turned out for activities for this event. This is a small two day meeting that is attended by Europe’s premier shorebird researchers. At the meeting, there are talks for several days and a field trip to a local area. Dan reported that there was a new chair of the IWSG, Jenny Smart, replacing Yvonne Verkuil. They encouraged all to consider attending future meetings.

- Global Flyway Network and Yellow Sea issues update – *Rick Lanctot*

Rick Lanctot described recent activities related to these issues in a presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above. A dramatic turnaround in China’s efforts to stop coastal development has recently taken place that are outlined in the presentation.

- East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) – *Rick Lanctot*

Rick Lanctot described the most recent meeting of the flyway that was held in Hainan Island, China in December 2009. The major outcomes of the meeting, including priorities of the EAAFP Shorebird Working Group, are in a presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above. Casey Burns then described his participation in the EAAFP’s Communication, Education, Participation and Awareness Workshop held in the Philippines in October 2018. A full report of the 10th Meeting of the Partners held in China and the CEPA workshop can be found at: <https://www.eaaflyway.net/>.

- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group (WHSG): – *Rick Lanctot, River Gates, Stephen Brown*

- *VIIIth WHSG, Panama City, Panama, 24–28 October 2019*
- *Next meeting, Argentina 2021*

Rick Lanctot and Stephen Brown described planning for the upcoming WHSG meeting in Panama. Detailed information about the meeting and group can be found at www.westernshorebird.org (soon to be replaced by <https://www.audubonpanama.org/2-all/89-whsg2019-eng.html>). Deadlines for applying for travel awards, abstract submissions, and nominations for the Oring and Baker lifetime achievement awards are due 1 May 2019. Specific details can be found in the presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above.

- American Ornithological Society – *Colleen Handel*

- *Annual meeting, Anchorage, 24–28 June 2019*

Colleen Handel described planning and activities associated with the upcoming AOS meeting. It looks to be a great meeting with many field trips and a focus on “Birds on the Edge: Dynamic Boundaries.” See <https://amornithmeeting.org/> for meeting details.

- Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative (AMBI) -- *Rick Lanctot*

Rick Lanctot described the recent five year plan for the AMBI initiative. Details of the overall AMBI objectives and specifics for the American and East Asian-Australasian flyway plans are in a presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above.

- Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey – *Rick Lanctot, Dan Ruthrauff*

Rick Lanctot and Dan Ruthrauff encouraged members to submit information on shorebirds and environmental variables from their Arctic field sites to the on-line database at www.arcticbirds.net. More details can be found at the [arcticbirds.net](http://www.arcticbirds.net) website and in a presentation entitled “Alaska shorebird updates” that can be found on the website above.

- CRIMBI Update – *Erin Cooper*

Erin Cooper talked about recent activities of this international program (see background material at: <https://www.fs.fed.us/global/wings/birds/crimbi/welcome.htm>). She mentioned

that CRIMBI was 1) expanding shorebird work into Latin America, 2) supporting the new Cornell Coastal Solutions Program, 3) connecting shorebirds between Mono Lake and parts of Argentina, 4) supporting festivals along the Pacific Flyway, and 5) exchanging interns between Mexico and the U.S. Forest Service in Cordova. She described her participation in a workshop sponsored by NAFTA's Commission for Environmental Cooperation held in Georgia in May 2018 focused on holding festivals. She talked about the possibility of repeating this workshop prior to the upcoming WHSG meeting in Panama. Finally the Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival organizers are gearing up for a big festival in 2020 as it will be there 30th meeting.

- Caribbean/South America (CSA) Shorebird Hunting – Audrey Taylor
Audrey Taylor described numerous developments on shorebird hunting, including 1) Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Strategy won a leadership award for their activities on hunting in the CSA, 2) NFWF has created a funding initiative to help support studies on hunting in the CSA, 3) French Guiana has now instituted a hunting license, 4) Surinam is working to better enforce the purchase of hunting licenses and working with French Guiana on best practices to do so, 5) shocking wire incidences in Guiana have declined 8 to 50% in communities although an estimated 20,000 shorebirds are still killed this way, and 6) Guadeloupe will have a hunting workshop in July 2019 to engage hunters.

- Alaska Species Ranking System and expert review – Amanda Droghini
Amanda Droghini described the Alaska Species Ranking System, a conservation ranking system developed by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (TED program) and the Alaska Center for Conservation Science (UAA). Over the past year, she and her colleague have been creating status reports and ranking native Alaskan vertebrate species. They have currently ranked all shorebird species that breed in Alaska as well as 150 other taxa. She thanked the many Alaska Shorebird Group members who had reviewed rankings for the numerous shorebird species, and hosted a free lunch for those wishing to work on reviews during the lunch hour.

- Alaska SeaLife Center introduction/overview – Kristen Pelo/Sadie Ulman
Kristen Pelo, via teleconference, talked to the group about promoting connections between the Alaska Shorebird Group and the Alaska SeaLife Center (and other Centers and Zoos throughout the country) to help build their shorebird collections for people to experience shorebirds in captivity. Please contact kristenp@alaskasealife.org for more details on donating injured animals. Bird TLC in Anchorage is also a good contact.

- BLM Special Status Species List – Casey Burns
Casey Burns described BLM's efforts to revise their Special Status Species List, and the likely shorebirds that might be included. Since our annual meeting was held, Casey has since released the list. Contact Casey at ctburns@blm.gov

- Annual summary compilation (summary) – Lisa Kennedy
In December 2018, Lisa Kennedy completed the summary of shorebird projects conducted in Alaska during 2018. It included summaries for 31 studies and a list of 23 publications. Lisa also added, for the first time, an online story map version of the report. Please share this link with friends to broaden our readership:
<https://uploads.knightlab.com/storymapjs/24062d881c0d738b741054e3c7078996/alaska-shorebird-group-annual-report/index.html>

- Highlight shorebird talks being held at the ABC

A total of 11 shorebird presentations and 3 posters were presented at the Alaska Bird Conference this year. Most of these presentations can be found at:

www.fws.gov/alaska/mbmp/mbm/shorebirds/workinggroup.htm

- Other announcements

2:55–3:15 Break

3:15–4:10 Boreal shorebirds; last minute stuff

3:15–3:45 Boreal shorebirds; nexus with BPIF? – Chris Harwood & BPIF

Chris Harwood informed the group that despite our efforts at the last meeting to highlight work in the Boreal that little has really advanced. He and others expressed hope that with new hires at USGS that they would be able to investigate more fully how ALMS can be used and/or modified to information the status and trends of shorebirds in the Boreal.

3:45–4:10 ASG priorities for 2019 (e.g., NPR-A, 1002 Arctic NWR, roads, Pebble, Donlin, etc., & ASG's role) – Rick Lanctot, Debbie Nigro, et al.

Rick Lanctot began this discussion by stating that the task of the entire group was now to help implement version III of the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan, especially considering the group spent the last 4 years writing and revising the document. He encouraged all to look at the plan and try to conduct studies that would help advance shorebird conservation.

Kristine Sowl and many others then discussed the role of the Alaska Shorebird Group to respond to the many new and on-going developments occurring in Alaska. Several people indicated that comments by our group could not be ignored by the relevant permitting agency. In the end, we decided to join forces with the Boreal Partners In Flight group to form a larger subcommittee that would focus on a process for us to provide input on how developments were likely to impact shorebirds and landbirds. If you are interested in being part of this group contact Kristin_sowl@fws.gov

4:10–4:30 Election of Officers

The following positions are open for nomination and Election:

- Chris Harwood – Chair – expires March 2019
- Brian Robinson – Member – term expires March 2019
- Mary Anne Bishop – Member – term expires March 2019
- Audrey Taylor – Member – term expires March 2019
- Tom Rothe – Member – term expires March 2019

The following positions are currently occupied.

- Secretary – expires Dec 2019, currently occupied by Lisa Kennedy
- Member – expires Dec 2019, currently occupied by Katie Christie
- Rick Lanctot – Staff Member – member for life (or till I quit FWS)

NEW OFFICERS WERE ELECTED, INCLUDING:

Rebecca McGuire – Chair

Melissa Gabrielson – Committee Member

Ben Lagasse – Committee Member
Dan Ruthrauff – Committee Member
Shiloh Schulte – Committee Member

5:00–8:00 Meet for snacks/wine/beer at ABC Art Show at Well Street Art Co. art gallery (1304 Well St., Fairbanks). There is complimentary transportation from the Westmark to the gallery. Map is second below.



