



12th Annual Alaska Shorebird Meeting Meeting Notes

4-5 December 2006
USFWS Regional Office
Anchorage, Alaska

Monday, 4 December. The meeting convened at 08:30 with welcome and opening remarks by the Chair, *Steve Kendall*.

The morning and early afternoon were devoted to oral presentations on various projects relevant to Alaska shorebirds. A list of talks is appended to this summary.

At 15:25 h there began a series of presentations updating various regional, national, and international shorebird programs and initiatives.

Bob Gill gave a summary of the 2006 Wader Study Group meeting (Oystercatcher workshop planned for 2007 meeting in France with North American researchers encouraged to attend) and an overview of the scope and intent of the Global Flyway Network (Alaska has prominent role).

The next session updated the various components of PRISM (Arctic by *R. Lanctot* [still undergoing peer review]; Boreal by *L. Tibbitts* [*Vicky Johnston* working on the Mackenzie R. delta and *Pam Sinclair* doing roadside surveys in the Yukon]; and USGS surveys [NPS and Marbled Godwit] by *D. Ruthrauff*).

Rick Lanctot next provided updates on 1) the East Asia Shorebird Group, 2) the status of the Dunlin Action Plan for the East Asian Flyway, 3) The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group [past meeting in Boulder, meeting planned for the NOC meeting in Venezuela, May 2007, and Web site being developed], and 4) the Shorebird Research Group of the Americas.

Lee Tibbitts provided an update of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) on behalf of *Charles Duncan* (Web site updated, site assessment tools in place, GIS files for WHSRN sites, and species conservation plans being written). Charles would like Alaska sites updated with the assessment tools package.

Iain Stenhouse gave an overview of the Important Bird Area (IBA) program (60 of 115 sites in Alaska 'global-level' sites; hard to identify important breeding areas, especially when widely dispersed species involved).

Erin Cooper provided an update of the Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (electronic field trips, major exchanges/agreements to conserve habitat).

Dave Tessler talked about international work with Black Oystercatchers and progress in developing a comprehensive conservation plan.

Audrey Taylor presented a proposal asking the ASG to develop and post on its Web site a statement supporting Steady State Economy. This was put forward to the Executive Committee for consideration.

The updates were followed by a session on ASG business and election of ASG officers. *Audrey Taylor* will chair of the Executive Committee (ExCo) beginning in 2007. *Rick Lanctot* will continue as the USFWS staff person to the ExCo. *Bob Gill* vacated his slot as Secretary and *Joe Liebezeit* volunteered to fill it. *Steve Kendall*, *Iain Stenhouse*, *Colleen Handel*, *Abby Powell*, and *Brian McCaffery* agreed to complete their terms on the ExCo, with those for *Handel* and *Powell* expiring at the end of 2007.

Day one adjourned at 17:00.

Tuesday, 5 December. The 2nd day of the meeting began with a workshop to explore a collaborative project to assess brood survival of shorebirds on the North Slope.

Brian Sullivan (Cornell) followed with a presentation on the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). Simply put, the goal is to gather and archive as much information on birds as possible, including checklists, presence/absence data, frequency data, geo-referenced data on distribution, basic demographic data, metadata associated with museum collection, banding data, population monitoring data in any form, and data layers for weather and GIS. PRBO is working to get all of their data into the system. Within AKN is E-bird, an on-line source of over 500,000 checklists by date and location. *Stan Senner* is Alaska's contact for E-bird. Both systems are readily accessible by biologists and come with error checks and flags to note 'unusual' entries.

Prior to and after lunch were sessions on unfinished business of the ASG and on the status of the Alaska Shorebird Plan (*Dan Ruthrauff* and *Jim Johnson*). An outline of the plan and a formatted version of BCR5 (North Pacific Rainforest) were handed out for discussion. Part I of the plan is mostly completed (Introduction, BCR framework, Alaska shorebird scene and priority species, conservation issues, goals and objectives [each for population/monitoring, habitat, research, and outreach and education], implementation and coordination, and evaluation). Part II (BCR-level shorebird conservation threats and actions) needs volunteers to outline threats by BCR. The following agreed to lead efforts on individual BCRs: BCR 1 (*Bob Gill* with *Heather Renner* and *Jeff Williams*), BCR 2 (*Brian McCaffery* with *Susan Savage* and *Phil Bruner*), BCR 3 (*Deb Nigro* and *Steve Kendall* with *Audrey Taylor* and *Rick Lanctot*), BCR 4 (*Chris Harwood* and *Lee Tibbitts* with *Bob Gill*), and BCR 5 (*Jim Johnson*, *Mary Anne Bishop*, and *Dan Ruthrauff*).

The American Black Oystercatcher Working Group met between 13:30 and 16:30.

Meeting adjourned at 16:30 and re-convened at the Moose's Tooth Restaurant at 20:00.

The preceding was fleshed out/paraphrased from notes taken by *Colleen Handel*. Thank you!

R. Gill

20 November 2007

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4-5 December 2006

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Gordon Watson Conference Room
1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, Alaska

AGENDA

Monday, December 4th

8:30 - Welcome and opening announcements, Steve Kendall

Project Presentations

8:45 - Ruddy Turnstones, plovers, blue eggs and unseasonal weather at Woolley Lagoon, Seward Peninsula. *Phil and Andrea Bruner (Brigham Young University, Hawaii).*

9:05 - Parent-offspring communication in the Western Sandpiper. *Matthew Johnson, Susanne Aref, Jeffrey R. Walters; (Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and USGS).*

9:25 – An emotional roller coaster: satellite telemetry work with Bar-tailed Godwits and Bristle-thighed Curlews. *Robert Gill (USGS), T. Lee Tibbitts (USGS), Dan Mulcahy (USGS), Dave Douglas (USGS), Dan Ruthrauff (USGS), Brian McCaffery (USFWS).*

9:45 – Reproductive ecology of Semipalmated Plover and Least Sandpiper on the Copper River Delta. *H. River Gates and Mary Anne Bishop (Prince William Sound Science Center)*

10:05 – Monitoring shorebird migration on barrier islands of the Copper River Delta. *Mary Anne Bishop, (Prince William Sound Science Center)*

10:25 - Break

10:40 - Species ranking project and implementation of the CWCS. *Mary Rabe (ADFG), Tammy Fields and Tracey Gotthardt (Alaska Natural Heritage Program).*

11:00 - Shorebirds in the urban arctic: diversity and abundance in and around the new landfill in Barrow, Alaska. *Nathan Coutsubos (UAF), Falk Huettmann (UAF), and Richard Lanctot (USFWS).*

11:20 – Shorebird monitoring at Teshepuk Lake, Prudhoe Bay and the Arctic NWR. *Joe Liebezeit (Wildlife Conservation Society), Steve Kendall (USFWS), David Payer (USFWS) and Steve Zack (WCS)*

11:40 – Long-term biological monitoring programs at Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. *Bill Streever (BP), Joe Liebezeit (WCS) and Bob Burgess (ABR, Inc.)*

12:00- 13:30 - Lunch

13:30 – Do Arctic shorebirds lay replacement clutches? Assessment and ramification to monitoring. *Lilliana Coelho Naves (USFWS), Richard Lanctot (USFWS), Audrey Taylor (UAF) and Nathan Coutsubos (UAF)*

13:50 - Staging Shorebirds on Alaska's North Slope: Version 2006 Update. *Audrey Taylor (UAF), Richard Lanctot (USFWS) and Abbey Powell (UAF)*

14:10 - Sexing Black Oystercatchers in the field. *Brian Guzzetti (UAF), Verena Gill (USFWS), Edward Murphy (UAF) and David Tessler (ADFG)*

14:30 - Avian influenza monitoring and research in Alaska. *Deborah Rocque (USFWS).*

14:50 - Shorebird fall migration in Russian Far East 2006: A first-time synoptic view from coordinated AI surveys. *Falk Huettmann (UAF), Andrey Averin (Bastak State Nature Reserve), Alexey Antonov (Khingansky State Nature Reserve), Alexy Drouzhiaka (VECTOR Institute for Diseases), Yuri Gerasimov (Kamchatka Branch, Pacific Institute of Geography), Mischa Markovets (Rybachy Bird Banding Station), Katya Matsina (Ecological Centre DRONT), Keisuke Saito (Institute for Raptor Biomedicine Japan), Vladimir Pronkevich (Institute of Water and Ecological Problems), Olga Valchuk (Vladivostok University)*

15:10 – Break

Updates, announcements, and ASG Business

15:25 - Updates (~5-10 mins. each)

International Wader Study Group, *Robert Gill*

Global Flyway Network, *Robert Gill*

East Asia Shorebird group, *Bob Gill*
Dunlin Action Plan, *Rick Lanctot*

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group, *Rick Lanctot*
Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere (I), Boulder, Feb/March 2007
Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere (II), Maturín, Venezuela, May 2007

(1) Research: Shorebird Research Group of the Americas, *Rick Lanctot*

(2) Monitoring: Program of Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM)
Arctic PRISM, *Rick Lanctot*
Boreal PRISM, *Lee Tibbitts*

USGS Surveys – National Park Service, *Dan Ruthrauff*

(3) Important Areas: Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), *Lee Tibbitts*

(4) Education and Outreach: Shorebird Sister Schools Program, *Tamara Mills*

Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (CRIMBI), *Erin Cooper*

International Black Oystercatcher working group, *Dave Tessler*
Southern Wings Program, *Mary Rabe*

Announcements, Business and Election of Officers

ASG website, *Audrey Taylor*

Potential position statement on steady state economy ideal, *Audrey Taylor*

Brief discussion of Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan activities for next day, *Dan Ruthrauff and Jim Johnson*

Nomination and Election of Executive Committee Members

17:00 - Adjourn

Tuesday, December 5th

8:30 – 10:00 - Brood Survival of Shorebirds on the North Slope Workshop - opportunity for partners to discuss the potential for a collaborative project investigating shorebird brood survival. Government and nongovernmental organizations interested in providing input or support for such a project please attend.

10:00 - Avian Knowledge Network, *Brian Sullivan (Cornell University)*

10:20 – 10:35 Break

10:35 – 12:00 ASG Business

Unfinished Business from Dec. 5 (completion of any business not completed on Monday)

Updating/completing the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan (continuing into a working lunch if needed) *Moderators: Dan Ruthrauff and Jim Johnson*

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch

13:30 – 16:30: American Black Oystercatcher Working Group - opportunity for people to communicate about past and future work. A portion of the workshop will focus on a satellite telemetry study that will be conducted during the summer of 2007. Potential sites for placing radios might include Kodiak Island, Middleton Island, Kenai Fjords National Park, Chugach National Forest, Glacier Bay National Park, and areas in the southern regions of the species range.

16:30 - Adjourn

Annual culinary bash: 20:00–23:00 Moose's Tooth Restaurant, 3300 Old Seward Highway (4 blocks north of USFWS regional office)