

**ASG meeting – November 15, 2010 – 16<sup>th</sup> annual meeting**  
**Meeting notes – draft 1 (J. Liebezeit)**

**Welcome and opening announcements** (*River Gates*)

- River mentioned that you can automatically add or delete yourself from the Alaska Shorebird Group listserv ([ak.shorebird@lists.fws.gov](mailto:ak.shorebird@lists.fws.gov))
- AK Audubon is asking people to sign a letter related to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge that will be sent to President Obama – talk to Audubon people (John Schoen and/or Nils Warnock) for info
- Sent around attendance sheet –

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
River Gates	USFWS/Manomet
Joe Liebezeit	Wildlife Conservation Society
Dan Ruthrauff	USGS-AK Science Center
Iain Stenhouse	Biodiversity Research Institute
Debbie Nigro	BLM-Fairbanks Field Office
Theunis Piersma	University of Groningen
Bob Gill	USGS-AK Science Center
Abby Powell	USGS/UAF
Steve Kendall	USFWS-Arctic Refuge
Brooke Hill	UAF
Colleen Handel	USGS-AK Science Center
Dave Tessler	AKDFG- Wildlife Conservation
Jim Johnson	USFWS-Anchorage
Roy Churchwell	UAF
Susan Savage	USFWS-AK Peninsula
Brett Sandercock	Kansas State University
Lee Tibbitts	USGS-AK Science Center
Sadie Ulman	University of Delaware/ USFWS-Kenai
Rick Lanctot	USFWS-Anchorage
Nathan Senner	Cornell University
George Matz	Kachemak Bay Birders
Cara Staab	BLM-AK State office
Tamara Zeller	USFWS-Anchorage
Mary Rabe	AKDFG-Wildlife Conservation
Travis Booms	AKDFG-Wildlife Conservation
David Ward	USGS-AK Science Center
Mary Anne Bishop	Prince William Sound Science Center

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\*\*\*some people may not have sign-in\*\*

**Update: International Wader Study Group and Global Flyway Network** (Bob Gill and Colleen Handel)

- Was held in Lisbon, Portugal in late September/early October 2010
- Majority of participants were from Mediterranean region as is customary (most of participation is from areas near meeting location)
- Next year, the meeting will be at Inverness, Scotland, Sept. 23-26, 2011

- There will be workshops next year but they decided against a Whimbrel/godwit workshop because too short of time to get information from the many taxa

**Update: Global Flyway Network** (Theunis Piersma)

- group of people with interest in the global demography and migratory connectivity (cross-seasonal interactions) of shorebirds around the world
- the group is kept small to make the network function well with little oversight
- group raises funds to support studies in NW Australia, Africa, and Argentina – Tierra del Fuego and Pampas
  - an example of this is Great Knot work in China
- Other parts of the world are also involved including work on Red Knots in West Africa and Black-tailed Godwits on breeding grounds in the Netherlands

**Update: 4<sup>th</sup> Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, August 11- 15, 2011.** (Rick Lanctot)

- Dov Lank and Ron Ydenberg from Simon Fraser University are organizing this conference
- Hard to find best time to hold conference for both south and north hemisphere people
- This conference will be held in Vancouver, BC; timing was partly dictated by the ability to use dorm space at university so will be more economical
- Have raised \$23K to fund travel for Latin American students
- There was thanks to Bob Gill for initiating the Western Hemispheric group at the Boulder, CO, meeting in March 2006

**Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) and strategies for identifying and conserving important areas in Alaska.** (Matt Kirchhoff)

- Matt talked about “how do we design strategies for identifying WHSRN sites”
- A number of people including Nils Warnock, Melissa Cady, Lynn Fuller, Rick Lanctot served on a committee and put together a document.
- Matt made 25 copies available here at the ASG meeting but contact him if you have any questions.
- Rick L. came up with the hard question of “Why are we doing this? – some areas already protected”
- Came up with a list 64 sites that could be potentially protected.
- Lots of sites have information already but it is outdated. For example, we now know much more about the North Slope sites. We also want information for each site on how easy it is to protect it, how much a site is a risk of being developed, and other features that could affect which sites are targeted for action by the shorebird group.
- Matt suggests a ranking process for identifying new potential WHSRN sites, potentially organized around BCR units. He then asked for people to contact him directly to voice opinion about the desire to collect detailed data for each site and to go through a formal ranking process.

**The discussion then stemmed off into the goals of the ASG and how to keep it invigorated...**

- Rick Lanctot mentioned that the ASG needs to find focused things to do that advance the ASG group to make sure the group stays invigorated
  - We need to do something as a group to show that we are a group.
- C. Handel:
  - one is to identify a tool to get a WHSRN designation
- D Tessler: We should be building off of the existing AK shorebird Conservation plan
- How does this connect to the global flyway – e.g. which species in Yellow Sea area are species that are important in some of these important regions.

**NPR-A planning process update**

- Rick Lanctot asked BLM (Debbie Nigro and Cara Staab) for an update on the new NPR-A wide planning process
- Debbie and Cara's responses (mostly from Debbie)
  - BLM writing a new EIS/IAP – they don't do management plans
  - They previously had done the NE and NW NPR-A but not the South NPR-A area. The new plan goes across there 3 regions.
  - The focus on energy development may change. Recent USGS report found that oil reserves in NPR-A were only about 10% of what was previously thought (much of it under Teshekpuk Lake). New findings suggest gas reserves may be most significant in the South NPR-A
  - There currently is a push for the construction of a new road to Umiat from Galbraith Lake
  - So far the BLM has not started at looking at what management actions to take
  - Debbie says it will be important to hear from the ASG once the first draft of the new BLM NPR-A plan is available
  - At least 9 months from now (after summer 2011) the first draft will be available for review.
  - Debbie said we can provide her comments anytime “feel free to comment (phone or email), etc.”
  - Debbie said that Audubon provides the best, most specific comments – detailed information, not just say “no drilling”
  - The most useful comments have to make sense from a land management perspective
    - There are many options
      - E.g. propose wilderness declaration
      - Audubon gave concrete things to do
      - Preferred alternative chosen after letters are received
    - In the last round Audubon plan really influenced in changing the preferred plan.
    - Audrey's data has been very important in the first draft Debbie is writing.

### **Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative CRIMBI (update from Erin Cooper)**

- Initiative started with USFS, Duck's Unlimited, Audubon, USFWS, etc.
- Mission: conserve waterbirds using Copper River Delta
- Had meeting in Columbia in October
- CRIMBI is supportive of the Copper River Birding Festival
- In the past have promoted educational activities
- Future: had an international intern come up - worked with Rick Lanctot in Barrow and USFS people in Cordova
  - Developing intl. wetland connections wildlife broadcasting
  - 3 live broadcasts
  - "Wetland connections" Kids went through wetland course
  - Yakutat is developing a birding festival – tying in native culture with birds

### **Annual Summary Compilation (Joe Liebezeit)**

- Hard copies of the 9<sup>th</sup> annual report were distributed.
- can also be downloaded from:  
[http://alaska.fws.gov/mbsp/mbm/shorebirds/working\\_group.htm](http://alaska.fws.gov/mbsp/mbm/shorebirds/working_group.htm)
- Please keep providing these in future years for your on-going work. This report is valuable since it documents a timeline of shorebird research in Alaska
- Thanks for your contributions!

### **Position statement on climate change (River Gates)**

- Main objective: outline priorities and develop strategies for managing wildlife with respect to climate change
- Meant to influence funding priorities
- feedback to date includes:: make it more apparent that shorebirds are a special case – double whammy effect (impacted at both ends of flyway)
- Idea is to send letter to refuges, state of Alaska, and BLM and other (land management agencies)
- Dave Tessler comment: needs to be edited better
- Target audience: funders, land management agencies, public
- We may have to draft separate versions of the letter depending on the intended audience
- Need to link letter back to the shorebird plan / WildREACH (specifically cite these documents)
- Conducting long-term studies – use existing data to build off of.
- Expand to overall trophic interactions (not just invert / chick hatch disjunct)
- Set a deadline for next letter draft: Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>

### **Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network (ASDN, Rick Lanctot)**

- In 2010 (pilot season) had 9 camps (6 in Alaska and 3 in Canada)
- Have focal species that cross multiple sites: SESA, DUNL, PESA, phalaropes, etc.
- Collect data on environmental factors too – might affect reproductive success

- Goal to determine what demographic factors are leading to increases or decreases in population size
- PRISM surveys will give trend data but will not explain why these trends are happening
- Rick Lanctot announced our 2-day meeting later this week
- Brett Sandercock: info that is lacking – understanding the seasonal approach – need to do the same in stopover and wintering areas too.
- How does the ASDN fit in with PRISM:
  - Tier 1 PRISM – double sample surveys
  - Tier 2 PRISM -- ASDN
  - Tier 3 PRISM – checklist of birds at a site
- River summarized ASDN findings (>1000 birds banded, ~1000 nests monitored)

#### **Arctic Breeding Birds Condition Survey (River Gates)**

- Encourage anyone that is running an Arctic shorebird breeding camp to fill these forms out, only take 1-2 hours of your time but contributes to a large circumpolar database

#### **Election of Officers:**

-Rick Lanctot briefly described roles of president, secretary and executive committee members

- Joe Liebezeit elected as new Chair
- River Gates elected as new Secretary
- New executive committee officers include Roy Churchwell, Nathan Senner, and Nils Warnock (replace Matt Kirchhoff, Dan Ruthrauff, Chris Harwood)
- Rick Lanctot, Stephen Brown, and Erin Cooper remain on executive committee