



14th Annual Alaska Shorebird Meeting

8-9 December 2008

U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center, Entry Floor Conference Room
4210 University Drive, Anchorage, Alaska

Meeting notes attached at bottom.

Monday, December 8th

8:30 - Welcome and opening announcements, Audrey Taylor

Project Presentations

8:45 – Black Oystercatcher breeding territories: biotic and abiotic habitat characteristics. *Brooke McFarland (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Brenda Konar (UAF), and Michael Goldstein (US Forest Service)*

9:05 – Influences of natural and human disturbance on Black Oystercatcher incubation behavior and nest failure at Harriman Fjord. *Caleb Spiegel (Oregon State University,) Susan Haig (USGS), Michael Goldstein (US Forest Service), and Manuela Huso (Oregon State University)*

9:25 – Is there individual variation in the prey provisioning of Black Oystercatcher chicks? Findings from three years of nearshore monitoring within the Southwest Alaska Network of National Parks. *Heather Coletti (National Park Service)*

9:45 – Stikine River Delta: recent shorebird studies and conservation efforts. *Melissa Cady (US Forest Service)*

10:05 – Hey, Diane Sawyer! Book Gill and Start Reading Up on Kanuti Lake!! *Chris Harwood (US Fish and Wildlife Service)*

10:25 - Break

10:40 – Plover Potpourri 2008: renesting, resighting, and other interesting tidbits. *Wally Johnson (Montana State University)*

11:00 – Renesting rates in response to experimental clutch removal in Dunlin (*Caldris alpina articola*). *River Gates (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Richard Lanctot (US Fish and Wildlife Service), and Abby Powell (USGS/Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit)*

11:20 – Minimal short-term negative effects of landscape transformation on tundra-nesting shorebirds in Barrow, Alaska. *Nathan Coutsubos (University of Alaska Fairbanks)*

11:40 – Determining rates of and factors that affect chick survival of dunlin near Barrow, AK. *Brooke Hill (University of Alaska Fairbanks), Christine Hunter (University of Alaska Fairbanks), and Rick Lanctot (US Fish and Wildlife Service)*

12:00 – PCJV Alaska: strategies for habitat protection. *Lynn Fuller (Pacific Coast Joint Venture)*

12:20 – Getting the word out about shorebirds. *Tamara Zeller (US Fish and Wildlife Service)*

12:40 - 14:00 - LUNCH

Updates, Announcements, and ASG Business

14:00 – Updates (~5-10 mins. each)

- Black Oystercatchers on St. Lazaria, *Audrey Taylor*
- Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (CRIMBI), *Erin Cooper (US Forest Service)*
- Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group meeting (aka Shorebird Science in the Western Hemisphere III, Mazatlan, Mexico, March 2009), *Rick Lanctot*
- International Wader Study Group annual meeting update, *Bob Gill*
- Global Flyway Network, *Bob Gill*
- Asia –Pacific Shorebird Network, *Bob Gill*
- Focus Areas:
 - (1) Shorebird Research Group of the Americas, *Rick Lanctot*
 - (2) Monitoring: Program of Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (PRISM) Arctic, Boreal, Temperate breeding, Winter PRISM, *Rick Lanctot, others*
USGS Surveys – National Park Service, *Dan Ruthrauff, Lee Tibbitts*
 - (3) Important Areas: Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), *Lee Tibbitts*
- OTHER UPDATES FROM MEMBERSHIP

15:00 – Discussion of Executive Committee responsibilities; nomination and election of Executive Committee members and Chair

15:30 – Discussion of activities for the next morning; time for impromptu meetings/discussion; invitation and directions to culinary bash

16:00 – Adjourn

Please join us for the Annual ASG culinary bash!
Monday evening (5:30 to 9:00 pm) at Gallo's Mexican Restaurant on Old Seward and Dimond (east of Best Buy). There will be a buffet including beef and chicken fajitas, cheese enchiladas, rice and beans, flour or corn tortillas, pico de gallo, sour cream and guacamole.
Price per person is \$14.25 plus 15% gratuity (\$16.50). There will also be a cash bar.



Tuesday, December 9th

8:30 – noon: Group discussion of Alaska Shorebird Plan and future direction of group

- Hand out printed copies of 2nd version of the Alaska Shorebird Conservation Plan – finally!!! Thanks to Dan Ruthrauff, Colleen Handel, Jim Johnson, Rick Lanctot, Bob Gill, Chris Harwood, Lee Tibbitts, Audrey Taylor, and many others for all their industrious editing, and special thanks to Julie Morse for pulling it all together even while working on shorebirds in Washington for TNC.
- Goals from here: where do we see ourselves going as a group? Can we identify research, management, or conservation action items/priorities to promote, possibly post on our website in the case of a windfall funding event, or to encourage prospective grad students, etc.?
- What are our funding opportunities and are there action items that we could address as a group? If so, who will take the lead on these?

To be decided: Dave Evers from the Biodiversity Research Institute may give a presentation on mercury levels in Alaskan birds. If it's Monday we may bump the election of officers back to Tuesday. If it's Tuesday we will accommodate him wherever he fits between discussing the shorebird plan and our future direction.

ASG Meeting Notes, Monday, 8 December 2008

Notes compiled by Rick Lanctot

Introduction-8:45AM

- people introduced themselves
- announcements
 - o parking, time available for misc. workshops, agenda
 - o annual summary available, election of exec committee members
 - o annual ASG culinary bash at Gallos tonight

Presentations

- 1) **Brooke McFarland – Black Oystercatcher breeding territories: biotic and abiotic habitat characteristics**
 - a. Modeling choice for breeding selection – related to forage availability and predation risk
 - b. Three study sites located in Kenai Fjords and PWS
 - c. Used random sites for comparison
 - d. Remotely sensed data for all breeding and random sites
 - i. Summer sea surface temp, chlorophyll-a, slope, hydrology, aspect, fetch, isolation, distance to mussel beds, kelp and eelgrass beds
 - e. ground data at sites
 - i. sample intertidal community, surface complexity, distance to vegetation, aspect, slope, tidal width,
 - f. *A priori* model evaluation, model verification, model transferability
 - g. Results
 - i. Models
 1. All sites: Full model most supported – 72% correctly classified
 2. Field sites: predator avoidance model most supported
 3. Sites with known productivity:
 - ii. Verification in KEFJ
 1. field predator avoidance model most supported
 - iii. Model transferability
 - iv. Ground data
 1. no diff between random and known breeding sites
 - h. Conclusions
 - i. Predator avoidance appears to be driving site selection
 - ii. No model is highly accurate
 - iii. Future studies should focus on intertidal resources at remote forage locations; more work on competitive species interaction at breeding locations
- 2) **Caleb Spiegel – Influences of natural and human disturbance on Black Oystercatcher incubation behavior and nest failure at Harriman Fjord**
 - a. Direct and indirect effects from humans – do humans alter bloy behavior and this leads to higher nest failure?

- b. Study area at Harriman Fjord – 30 pairs, extreme tidal flux, USFS surveys began here in 2000, historic low nest success likely due to predation?, popular summer recreation site
- c. 2004 work – 8% hatch success, had suspected failure success – predation, tidal flooding, unknown
- d. 2005, 2006 – documented disturbance affected incubation behavior
- e. Objectives – document cause of nest failure, examine effects of natural and human nest area activities
- f. Methods – 22 nests monitored: close and distant cameras
 - i. Human use censuses
 - ii. Recorded recess rate (how often got off nest), potential disturbance stimuli, detections within 25 m, proportion of stimuli that caused flush
 - iii. Analysis
 - 1. encounter rate – day versus night
 - 2. proportion stimuli causing flush
 - 3. recess rates & encounter rates
 - 4. daily nest survival
- g. Results
 - i. 7 of 22 nest failed, 4 at night mostly due to mustelids, wolverines, marten; also due to tidal flooding (but not always lethal)
 - ii. Found that people made mistakes in classifying nest loss cause
 - iii. Super high spring tide occurs once per year and at night
 - iv. Encounters with other birds rarely caused bloy to flush, but they flush regularly to conspecifics and humans (conspecifics most responsible for flushes)
 - v. Adult bloy respond aggressively to conspecific intrusion, but retreat to mammals (including humans); males are more aggressive (less time on the nest); males only sex that attacked mammal
 - vi. Adult stay away from nest the longest after human disturbance, than mammal disturbance
 - vii. Did not find that this disturbance led to nest failure (although sample size was small); DSR not lower w/in 200 m of shore or human activity
 - viii. Could not see other disturbances that took place by sentinel bird
 - ix. Recommend expanding study to other areas

3) Heather Coletti – Is there individual variation in the prey provisioning of Black Oystercatcher chicks? Findings from three years of nearshore monitoring within the Southwest Alaska Network of National Parks

- a. SWAN NPS vital sign monitoring
 - i. Marine water chemistry, kelps and seagrasses, marine birds, etc.
 - ii. KEFJ, Cook Inlet, Sheilkoff Straits
 - iii. BLOY – density and nest occupancy – boat based surveys along 20 km – 5 sites at each site
 - iv. BLOY – collect prey at nest site, id and measured, return to each nest over years, conducted at peak
 - v. BLOY – density of birds

- b. Objectives: does diet stay the same?
 - i. 2 nests with 3 years of prey data, 2 nests with 2 years of data
 - 1. 1st nest: primarily mussels and lesser degree limpets
 - 2. 2nd nest: half mussel and half limpets
- c. Objective: does change in diet represent new pair?
 - i. Possible, but could be reflective of overall prey availability
- d. Objective: do nests in close proximity vary in diet, supporting the notion of individual variation in breeding pair?
 - i. Compared 5 nests that are in close proximity – does show differences in mussel and limpets
 - ii. Compared 4 nests – not quite as variable this time
- e. Objective: do bloy adults select larger prey sizes?
 - i. Appears to be some selection for larger items
- f. Future studies – need to focus on nest more, evaluate effect of chick size
- g. Questions – are prey resources at nest indicative of prey provisioning or adult consumption

4) Melissa Cady – Stikine River Delta: recent shorebird studies and conservation efforts.

- a. Early work by Chris Iverson, Mary Ann Bishop in 90s
- b. USFS multi-use agency
 - i. Copper River Delta is unique in that they have wildlife mandate
 - ii. Established CRIMBI – asked Yakutat and Stikine to join in 2005
 - iii. In 2005, added new objective in USFS plan – manage, enhance and understand key coastal sites
- c. Stikine River
 - i. Described history and characteristics of river
 - ii. Large amount of submerged wetlands, mudflats
 - iii. Also congressionally mandated Wilderness Area superimposed on area
 - iv. Lawsuit with state to determine who manages tidelands
- d. Nomination for IBA – accepted as area of global importance due to SNGO and WESA in fall of 2008
- e. Nomination for WHSRN – difficult in early 1990s due to logging interests, but changing economy and better strategy – now City Council has voted unanimously to support nomination; state has not signed on
- f. New pilot studies – counting shorebirds
 - i. Did work on subset of bay, photographs, videography to supplement ocular counts
 - ii. Capture birds for blood samples for Dov Lank migratory interconnectivity study

5) Chris Harwood –A tale of unknown whimbrels and hudsonian godwits

- a. Kanuti NWR – primarily boreal forest, have 6 species of shorebirds
- b. Mid-April visit to cabin along Kanuti
- c. Document breakup of river and lake, photograph birds, phonological data
- d. First Whimbrel on 6 May; pair of HUGO on 8 May
- e. Surveyed tundra area - 20-point count circuit at 500 m intervals; many points in burnt area; detected whimbrels at 20 points, hugos at 6 points

- f. Repeated survey in mid-June – detected whim (8-9 pairs, 11 transients) and hugo again (6 pairs?)
 - g. Plan for 2009 helicopter survey of Kanuti, capture WHIM and equip with satellite transmitters, and capture HUGO and deploy dataloggers
- 6) Wally Johnson – Plover Potpourri 2008: renesting, resighting, and other interesting tidbits.**
- a. Renesting and replacement laying study in 2008 – WSGB Dec. issue
 - i. 12 pairs captured (18 June – 2 July) and subsequent behavior followed
 - 1. 6 pairs plus 1 male stayed on territory, initial clutches were 35 to 90% incubated based on floatation
 - 2. of these 6 pairs, 4 replacement clutches in 12-15 day turnaround time (these 4 replaced after initially incubating a nest 35, 50, 80 and 85% of the incubation period)
 - 3. 5 pairs not found, these were captured between 25 June – 1 July (incubated initial clutch at 10, 10, 20, 20, and 50)
 - a. Were these already replacement nests? If so, then collection of eggs might have been 2nd predation event, triggering desertion.
 - 4. Conclude that replacement laying is fairly common.
 - 5. what happens to late hatched broods?
 - 6. can female lay >1 replacement clutch? Possibly in further south part of range
 - b. Unusual nests and nest reuse
 - i. Nesting along road to Teller near willow bushes
 - 1. is this a bird habituated to traffic on wintering grounds
 - ii. Nest selection change through time: 1st in thick sedge environment, 2nd in rocky, lichens
 - iii. 1 male AMGP from 1993 to 2005 (min of 13 years)
 - 1. same nest cup in 2001, 2003
 - 2. new AMGP used nest cup in 2006
 - 3. new PAGP used nest cup in 2008
 - iv. Recent sightings from birds banded on wintering grounds in Pacific
 - 1. none of 24 PAGP radioed in Saipan showed up in Alaska, but two showed up in Japan in rice fields
 - 2. 30 PAGP had radios attached in American Samoa – detected one in Shemya and one in Egegik
 - a. Maybe Shemya detection is for a bird traveling to Russia
 - 3. PAGP banded in Nome on 21 June 2008, resighted in Hiroshima, Japan on 12 Sept 2008
 - a. do some PAGP use East Asian flyway?
 - 4. 17 April 2008 in Oahu, resighted on crab fishing boat near St. Paul Island on 26 April 2008 – would have been a mortality factor during spring migration

- 7) River Gates – Renesting rates in response to experimental clutch removal in Dunlin (*Calidris alpina articola*).**
- a. Renesting Background
 - i. Low renesting propensity rates 1-5% in literature
 - ii. Might predict highest renesting in monogamous and less for polygynous or polyandrous
 - iii. High lemming numbers of lemmings in Barrow in 2008, also higher number of avian predators
 - iv. Fox control in Barrow between 2005-2008, which likely led to dramatic change in nest success
 - b. Objectives
 - i. Determine the propensity of dunlin to replace clutches lost during early or late incubation
 - ii. Compare initiation dates of treatment clutches
 - iii. Examine mate fidelity and divorce dynamics
 - iv. Compare replacement clutch nest fates across treatments
 - v. Compare clutch size and egg size across treatments
 - c. Experimental design – unmanipulated, early and late; control for initiation date
 - d. Methods
 - i. Found nests, captured adults, removed clutches, radioed adults, followed them to find reneest
 - e. Results
 - i. 21 nests in Early treatment – 91% reneest; 3-7 days to reneest, 22-451 meters between nests
 - ii. 19 nests in Late treatment – 35% reneest, 4-8 days to reneest, 84 to 549 meters between nests
 - iii. Overall, 63% replace nests
 - iv. Provides good evidence that nests found on Barrow plots were likely replacement nests (24%)
 - v. Mate fidelity
 1. early –
 - a. all but one pair stayed together to reneest;
 - b. divorced pair – female moved and reneested, male stayed in territory
 - c. of 19 replacement nests, only 1 had 3 eggs
 2. late
 - a. all pairs remained together to reneest
 - b. of 7 replacement nests, 3 had 3 eggs
 - vi. nest success
 1. early – 74% hatch 21% depredated
 2. late – 86% hatch
 3. control – 73% hatch
 - vii. female physiological constraint unlikely, other environmental constraints likely
- 8) Nathan Coutsobos Minimal short-term negative effects of landscape transformation on tundra-nesting shorebirds in Barrow, Alaska.**

- a. Barrow setting – 86% change in 25 years of human population size (US Census Bureau), description of species diversity and abundance
- b. Landfill construction – built in 2005, began operation in July 2007; receives incinerated waste from town, minimal public access; fox-proof fence, raised berm road, raised gravel road
- c. Questions
 - i. What is the baseline shorebird density around the new landfill area?
 - ii. Does landscape transformation affect shorebird numbers in this area?
 - iii. Do landfill operations affect shorebird numbers in this area?
 - iv. Focal species: REPH, DUNL, PESA
- d. Survey transects in and out of the landfill; weekly surveys using distance to estimate density; done 2005 to 2008
- e. Evening gull counts at new and old landfill
- f. Results
 - i. Overall abundance by species and year (all survey transects combined) portrayed; these correlate with interannual variability found on base plots
 - ii. If look at transects in landfill only (all shorebirds): 109 (2005), 56 (2006), 36 (2007), 70 (2008) birds/sqkm
 - iii. Should look at nest density through time on plot 6.
 - iv. Gull counts have changed from 186 to 450 to 35 between 2006 and 2008 at old landfill; new landfill has 1 or 0 in each year; counts at old landfill in 2008 done at much earlier time
- g. Conclusions
 - i. Can try to lead to adaptive management
 - ii. New landfill is gull proof
 - iii. New landfill system seems to work! Barrow has made good investment.

9) Tamara Zeller – Get the Word Out about shorebirds

- a. International Migratory Bird Day – follow the migration of WESA, used pedometers to track migration
- b. Kachemak Bay and Copper River Shorebird Festivals
- c. Shorebird Sisters Schools presentations and teacher trainings
- d. Products and tools
 - i. Shorebird placemats (English and Spanish)
 - ii. Explore the World with Shorebirds!
 - iii. Shorebird Activity Guide
- e. SSS meeting in Feb 2009 in conjunction with Bird Education Alliance for Conservation (BEAC) and Bird Education Network (BEN) conference
- f. Symposium at WHSG meeting in Mexico, 2009
- g. Contact Tamara at tamara_zeller@fws.gov

10) Brooke Hill – Determining rates of and factors that affect chick survival of dunlin near Barrow, AK.

- a. Need brood survival data for population modeling
- b. Difficult to study chick survival

- c. Background – factors affecting shorebirds = lemmings, weather, insects, chick characteristics, re-nesting; look at these relative to un-manipulated, early treatment, and late treatment nests
- d. Hypotheses: DSR less for late laid versus unmanipulated nests; evaluate factors that affect chick survival
- e. Methods – radio adults and chicks; determine cause of death (avian, mammalian, weather); recorded weather. Lemmings, predators, insects
- f. Results:
 - i. 20 un-manipulated, 13 early replacement, 6 late replacement
 - ii. Of all broods combined, 25% of broods successfully fledge, 25% of broods could not determine
 - iii. Of early replacement nests, 62% confirmed dead, none fledged
 - iv. Of late replacement nests, 50% confirmed dead
 - v. Mammalian predators – deaths occurred between 1 and 12 days; could have died due to exposure first?
 - vi. Avian predators – found 1 radio in pellet; chick last alive at 10 days; also found 1 un-radioed chick band in pellet
 - vii. Environmental deaths occurred between 4 and 9 days of age
 - viii. Described movement of dunlin brood
 - ix. No difference in weight of chicks from control versus early versus late
- g. Summary – annual variation in chick survival due to weather; goal to evaluate impact of nest replacement on chick survival

11) Lynn Fuller – PCJV Alaska: Strategies for Habitat Protection

- a. Public/private venture that works to protect habitat to protect bird populations
- b. Has state steering committee of federal and private entities; Lynn is state coordinator; work with land trusts and conservation partners
- c. PCJV established in 1991 to implement NA Waterfowl Management Plan
- d. JV have evolved from waterfowl to all bird emphasis (NABCI)
- e. Basic premise is that cooperative efforts will be more effective than individual efforts = can leverage funding, greater expertise, funding requires partnerships (non-federal match)
- f. Alaska added to joint venture in 2001; strategic plan written
- g. We may eventually get Alaska Habitat Joint Venture
- h. JVs are congressionally funded
- i. JVs have “formally accept the responsibility of implementing national or international bird conservation plans within a specific geographic area for for a specific taxonomic group, and has received general acceptance in the bird conservation community for such responsibility”
- j. JVs operate mostly on regional level
- k. Structure
 - i. State steering committee
 - ii. Regional management board
 - iii. Science Coordinators
 - iv. Partners

- l. AK Pacific Coast Joint Venture
 - i. Link local conservation partners, agency resources, funding opportunities.
 - ii. Provide forums for networking and information sharing
 - iii. With to implement the habitat protection goals of national, flyway and other bird conservation plans
 - iv. Promote and assist partners with NA Wetlands Conservation Act
- m. Habitat Protection Strategies
 - i. Direct habitat protection
 - ii. Communications
 - iii. Stewardship
 - iv. Biological and Conservation Planning – IBAs, watershed planning, providing resources
- n. Project example: focused conservation on the Kenai Peninsula (Kachemak Heritage Land Trust)
 - i. Rank conservation of private lands due to resources, whether adjacent to other protected areas
 - ii. Link science with on the ground habitat protection
- o. NAWCA - \$4.8 million to Alaska so far
- p. NAWCA small grants – up to \$75K
- q. Goals for PCJV Alaska
 - i. Increase partner involvement at all levels
 - ii. Provide additional resources for grassroots conservation efforts
 - iii. Increase ability to link populations, habitats and people
- r. Lynn Fuller: [www.](http://www.pcjv.org)
- s. pcjv.org

12) Updates

- a. BLOY at St. Lazaria – from Leslie Slater**
 - i. Breeding success – no fledglings produced in 2008, 6 territories on island; recorded largest flock (22 birds)
- b. Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative – Erin Cooper**
 - i. Partnership between USFS at Copper River with partners outside of Alaska – help protect migratory animals that use Copper River
 - ii. Partners include DU, USFWS, Calidris, Pronatura, and several USFS entities
 - iii. Annual Meeting results
 - 1. Copper River Delta – ecosystem study on ponds
 - 2. Wrangel – WHSRN nomination, shorebird survey work
 - 3. Panama – RARE implementation
 - 4. Mexico – surveys in Colorado River delta
 - 5. Calidris – Columbia support
- c. WHSG meeting – Rick Lanctot**
 - i. General announcement of meeting to be held in March in Mazatlan, Mexico
- d. International Wader Study Group – Bob Gill**

- i. 2008 Gdansk, Poland – Nils Warnock has assumed lead for North American contingent
- ii. 2009 Texel, The Netherlands (18-21 Sept)
 - 1. workshop on all 13 species of Numenius
- iii. SORA (1970-2004) – searchable ornithological research archive – has posted WSGB for all these years
- e. Global Flyway Network**
 - i. <http://www.globalflywaynetwork.com/au/>
 - ii. Annual meeting, Texel, 22-26 September
 - iii. Demographic people
- f. Asia Pacific Shorebird Network**
 - i. <http://www.shorebirdnetwork.org/news.html>
 - ii. Plan on having anatidae, shorebird, crane working groups

13) Focus Areas

- a. SRGA – Rick Lanctot**
 - i. Research arm – science committee for WHSG
- b. Monitoring – PRISM**
 - i. Arctic, Boreal, Temperate Breeding, Winter PRISM – Rick Lanctot
 - 1. peer-review conducted on Arctic PRISM – monograph of this is now in the works
 - 2. great work going on the Atlantic Coast
 - ii. NPS lands – 2001-2008 (SWAN, Kenai Fjords)
 - 1. good distribution map of larger area of state
 - 2. not sufficient detections to get density estimates
 - 3. Central Network unlikely to take this on.
 - iii. Boreal PRISM – Lee Tibbitts
 - 1. point counts using helicopter surveys
- c. WHSRN – Lee Tibbitts**
 - i. Charles Duncan – several new sites coming into the network
 - ii. First ever landscape site – Rainwater Basin site
 - iii. Hope is that we would use site assessment tool on website to do five sites that are in existence
 - iv. Look at narrative of the five designated sites
 - v. Nominate more sites
 - vi. Species conservation plans being done (BBSA)
- d. Lisa Renan – YKD NWR** – looking for graduate student to work on BTCU for three years (GS7); also looking for birding volunteer
- e. Wally Johnson** – spring aggregations for AMGP in Indiana – looking for authors (Alan Braile)
- f. International Black Oystercatcher Group** – functioning well, will meet tomorrow (Tuesday)
- g. Avian Knowledge Network – Alaska node**
 - i. ADF&G are thinking about building up knowledge node, invite other agencies to participate

- h. **Alaska Breeding Bird Atlas** – use initial data depository to create this atlas; will meet on Thursday afternoon to discuss these topics (3:00 - 4:15)

14) Executive Committee

- a. New nominations –
 - i. Chair – current – Audrey Taylor
 - ii. Secretary – Joe Liebezeit, nominated and accepted to another term
 - iii. Permanent staff – Rick Lanctot
 - iv. Exec Committee – current members
 - 1. Steve Kendall – term expired
 - 2. Stephen Brown – one year remaining
 - 3. Erin Cooper – one year remaining
 - 4. Iain Stenhouse – term expired
 - 5. Brian McCaffery – term expired
 - v. Discussed role of Exec Committee and Chair
 - vi. Nominations submitted:
 - 1. H. River Gates for chair
 - 2. Chris Harwood for council
 - 3. Matt Kirkchoff for council
 - 4. Dan Ruthrauff for council
 - vii. Rick will send out a letter to membership asking if anyone else wants to be on the committee, and if the current list is okay – done.
 - 1. current Executive Committee (in yellow above) is posted:
http://alaska.fws.gov/mbsp/mbm/shorebirds/pdf/exec_comm_addresses.pdf

15) AK Shorebird Conservation Plan – version II completed and available on net

- a. Activities for the next morning – priorities for the group?
- b. Roundtable discussion plan for tomorrow

ASG Meeting Continued, Tuesday December 9, 2008

I. Group Discussion of ASG Conservation Priorities

- a. Species versus Area focus (e.g. NPR-A)
- b. Should we focus on species that are 4 or 5? That occur more predominantly in Alaska?
- c. Should we focus on commonality of why species are declining?
 - What is driving population trends? Demographic modeling?
 - What can we do in Alaska to effect change?
 - Need to fill in parts of the model? Juvenile survival rates, etc.
- d. Maybe difficult to pick species, but could pick area and issue.
- e. Monitoring – can ALMS work? Conduct power analysis to adjust what you count for shorebirds during earlier surveys. Might work for LEYE, SOSA, LESA, SBDO, etc.
 - have teams go out earlier and do second analysis

- focus on easily accessible plots where shorebirds are present (are likely present)
- if you survey at later date, do you have sufficient power to detect change; is variability around earlier surveys greater than variability around earlier surveys
- is it worth it to survey earlier?
- Need to raise funds for contract person to work with Colleen.
- Action Items:
 - o Dave Tessler will bring this up in Landbird meeting – use this as leverage to increase agency participation in ALMS
 - o Rick Lanctot will pursue funding for initial power analysis and simulation; if not have enough power, then will collect some additional data during an earlier survey in fy10. Need to determine funding needed.

f. WHSRN

- discussion of how WHSRN operates, how to nominate a site
- get someone in state economic program to support community
- YDNWR – EAASRN nomination – Lisa Renan
- Susan Savage – outreach effort for Kvichak (Susan) or Nushagak Bay (Michael) or Yukon Delta (Lisa and Brian)
- Would ASG letter help support Stikine River Delta nomination? Likely not, better to take economic approach.
- Is there data on economic statistic to show value of festival, WHSRN designation? Quick summary needed. Charles Duncan’s group is putting together economic package but not done. Erin Cooper will consolidate data on this.
- River Gates – will work with Audubon group in Fairbanks
- Matt Kirchhoff, Audubon Alaska – work with designating WHSRN sites as IBA
- Send out names and numbers for WHSRN to help nominate sites, and inform WHSRN of our activity

Action Items:

- (1) fill out site assessment and narrative for five existing sites
 - a. Sites to be updated: (Meredith please send these people the information you currently have on these three existing WHSRN sites - thank you).
Kvichak Bay - Susan Savage - Alaska Peninsula/Becharoff NWR
Nushagak Bay - Michael Swaim - Togiak NWR
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta - Lisa Renan - Yukon Delta NWR
 - b. Sites already updated:
Copper River Delta - believe this is complete - thank you Erin Cooper
Kachemak Bay - don't know status of this site - no one from Homer was at the meeting
- (2) nominate one site for each BCR (nomination process at <http://www.whsrn.org/network/join/nominations.html> - any additional insight you can send to all of us would be great Meredith)
 - a) Cook Inlet - landscape site - Lynn Fuller of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture in cooperation with USGS folks (Dan Ruthrauff, Bob Gill, Lee Tibbitts)
 - b) Safety Sound - Phil Bruner - Brigham Young University, Laie, Hawaii
 - c) Teshekpuk Lake Special Area - landscape site - Rick Lanctot, and hopefully Joe Liebezeit and Steve Zack (Wildlife Conservation Society)

- d) Marbled Godwit (*Limosa fedoa beringiae*) / Port Heiden - landscape site - Susan Savage - Alaska Peninsula/Becharoff NWR
- e) Stikine River Delta - nomination process underway - Melissa Cady and Erin Cooper - US Forest Service, Wrangell District

II. Group Discussion of other ASG Priorities

- a. adult survival estimates for various species
- b. Outreach/education Priority
 - do work to help get WHSRN sites, festivals going
 - Subsistence Harvest of large shorebirds
 - more work on survey, outreach/education
 - Yukon Delta staff interested in this.
- c. Rick Lanctot will ask people to identify how their projects addressed action items in ASG Conservation Plan (version 2) when they write their annual summaries each year.
- d. Mary Rabe – ADF&G – BTCU priorities – only category 5 species
 - may be need to do focus on this.
 - Lisa Renan, USGS, Brian McCaffery will teleconference on Friday at 9:00 AM
 - Mary may want to do work on this.
 - Poster child for group?? Could help get international collaborations going.
 - Can work on population trend and demographics in Alaska.

Tuesday afternoon sessions

International Black Oystercatcher session at 3:00 pm
Roy Churchwell discussion of ANWR study at 1:30 pm

Next Meeting at the Alaska Bird Conference in February 2010
(need to be changed to December 2009 since ABC is being held in fall 2010)