



15th Annual
Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting
U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center
Anchorage, Alaska
7 -8 December 2009

Meeting Notes follow Schedule

Schedule at a Glance:

Monday Dec 7, morning 9:00 – 12:00	Presentations
<i>Lunch Break</i> 1:30 – 4:30	Announcements and Updates
Monday Dec 7, evening 6:00 – 9:00	Social at Bob Gill and Colleen Handel's House (see directions below)
Tuesday Dec 8, morning 8:00 – 12:30	Climate change workshop
1:30 – 4:30	Open for additional small group meetings

9:00 – Welcome and opening announcements, *River Gates, Chair, ASG*

9:10 – Presentations (~ 15-20 min each)

Presentations:

Avian influenza viruses in North American shorebirds: prevalence and intercontinental movement. *John Pearce, Andy Ramey, Hon Ip, and Bob Gill*

Southward migration of Whimbrels. *Bob Gill, Lee Tibbits, Dan Ruthrauff, Chris Harwood, Sarah Warnock and Nils Warnock*

Extra-pair Paternity and Nest Site Selection in Ruddy Turnstones at Woolley Lagoon, Nome, Alaska. *Phil Bruner and Andrea Bruner*

Sex determination and renesting of Dunlin: Notes from the 2009 field season. *River Gates, Rick Lanctot, Stephen Yezerinac and Abby Powell*

Alaska Audubon Watch List Species Designation Process *Matt Kirchoff*

Katechemak Bay Volunteer Shorebird Census 2009 *George Matz*

Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network *Stephen Brown, Rick Lanctot and Brett Sandercock*

Taking the curse out of distance sampling when we lack alternatives: Implications for global modeling and sustainability. *Falk Heuttmann*

Update on Wildlife Conservation Society shorebird conservation efforts. *Joe Liebezeit and Steve Zach*

Lunch Break (12:00 – 1:25)

1:30 – Announcements, Business and Election of Officers

Announcements and updates:

International Wader Study Group Texel Conference *Bob Gill and Lee Tibbitts*

3rd Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting, Mazatlan, March 2009 and 2011 discussion. *Rick Lanctot and Stephen Brown*

Asia-Pacific Shorebird Network and Global Flyway Network *Bob Gill*

Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) – status for sites identified in 2009 meeting. *Update from around the room.*

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

Position statement on Climate Change *River Gates*

Annual summary compilation *Joe Liebezeit*

Arctic Breeding Birds Conditions Survey Annual Forms *Rick Lanctot*

Discussion of activities for the next morning; time for impromptu meetings/discussion; next meeting date.

Other updates from membership

Election of Officers:

ASG Executive Council Elections- *River Gates*

Nomination and Election of Executive Committee Members

Stephen Brown – Officer – term expires Dec 2009

Erin Cooper – Officer – term expires Dec 2009

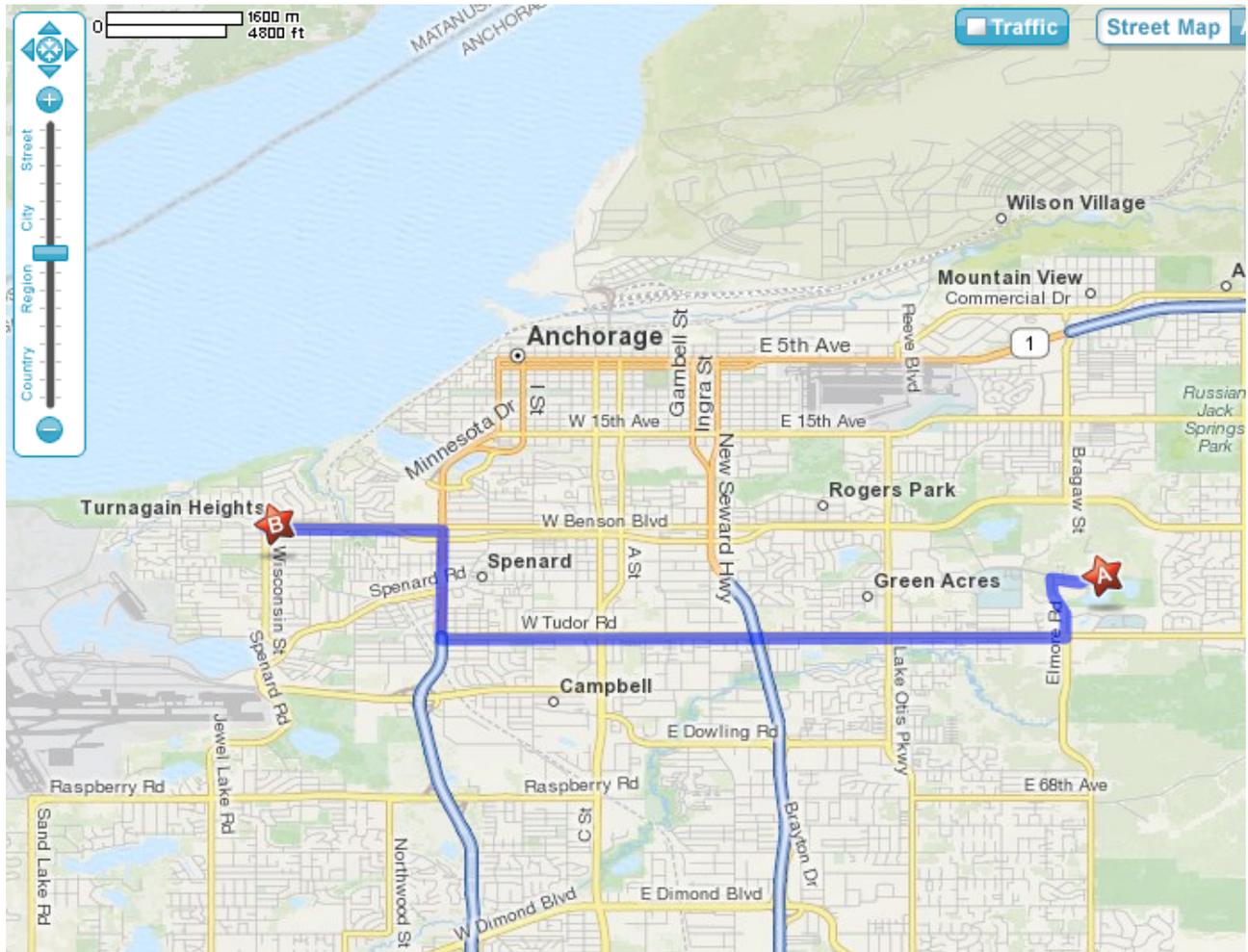
5:30 – Adjourn for social (directions attached)

Alaska Shorebird Group Annual Social Hosted by: Colleen Handel and Bob Gill

Food will be provided but donations will be needed to cover costs. Please bring your own beverages.

Address is 3014 Knik Avenue (B on map)(phone 248-0684).

From the USGS Science Center (A on map), take Tudor Road west to Minnesota. Turn right on Minn. to Northern Lights. Left on Northern Lights heading west. Take NL to the 3rd stop light and turn right onto Turnagain Parkway. The first cross street is Knik. Turn right on Knik. We are the 2nd house on the right (2 story, redwood sided with large carport).



We can fit 3-4 cars in the driveway with ample street parking, but urge folks to car pool if they can.

15th Annual Alaska Shorebird Group - Meeting Notes – 2009
 U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, Anchorage, Alaska
 December 7-8, 2009

Day 1 (Dec.7): Presentations, announcements, and updates

Attendees

Name	Affiliation	Email
Kristine Sowl	Yukon Delta NWR	Kristine_sowl@fws.gov
Phil Bruner	BYU Hawaii Biology Dept.	brunerp@byuh.edu
Andrea Bruner	BYU Hawaii Biology Dept.	brunerp@byuh.edu
Karen Blejwas	ADFG	Karen.blejwas@alaska.gov
Caroline VanHemert	USGS – ASC	cvanhemert@usgs.gov
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John Pearce	USGS – ASC	jpearce@usgs.gov
Dirk Derksen	USGS – ASC	dderksen@usgs.gov
Travis Booms	ADFG – nongame	Travis.booms@alaska.gov
David Payer	USFWS – Arctic NWR	David_payer@fws.gov
Jim Johnson	USFWS – MBM	Jim_A_Johnson@fws.gov
Joe Liebezeit	WCS	jliebezeit@wcs.org
Steve Zack	WCS	szack@wcs.org
Cara Staab	BLM	cstaab@blm.gov
Susan Savage	USFWS – AK Pen NWR	Susan_savage@fws.gov
Abby Powell	USGS – AK coop F&W res.	ffanp@uaf.edu
Lee Tibbitts	USGS – ASC	ltibbitts@usgs.gov
Rick Lanctot	USFWS – MBM	Richard_lanctot@fws.gov
Marci Johnson	NPS – W. Arctic Nat'l Park.	Marci_johnson@nps.gov
Falk Huettmann	UAF	fhuetmann@alaska.edu
Erin Cooper	USFS – Cordova RD	ecooper@fs.fed.us
Sadie Wright	ADFG	Sadie.wright@alaska.gov
Terry Schick	ABR, Inc.	Tschick@abrinc.com
Ann Wildman	ABR, Inc.	awildman@abrinc.com
Steve Kendall	USFWS – Arctic NWR	Steve_kendall@fws.gov
Chris Harwood	USFWS – Kanuti NWR	Christopher_harwood@fws.gov
Mary Rabe	ADFG – Nongame	Mary.rabe@alaska.gov
Matt Kirchhoff	Audubon Alaska	Mkirchhoff@audubon.org
Kim Trust	USFWS – MBM	Kim_trust@fws.gov
Roy Churchwell	UAF	rchurchwell@alaska.edu
Amal Ajmi	US Army	Amal.ajmi@us.army.mil
Stephen Brown	Manomet Ctr. for Cons. Sci.	sbrown@manomet.org
Melissa Cady	USFS – Wrangell	mncady@fs.fed.us
Philip Martin	USFWS	philip_martin@fws.gov
Bob Gill	USGS – ASC	Robert_gill@usgs.gov
Lynn Fuller	Pacific Coast JV	Lynn_fuller@pcjv.org
George Matz	Kachemak Bay Birders	geomatz@alaska.net
River Gates	UAF	hrivergates@gmail.com
Colleen Handel	USGS	Colleen_handel@usgs.gov

Tina Moran	USFWS-Selawik NWR	Tina_moran@fws.gov
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9:00am: Welcome and opening announcements – River Gates, Chair of ASG

Morning presentations (9:10-13:00):

Presentation 1 – John Pearce, Andy Ramey, Hon Ip, and Bob Gill: Avian influenza viruses in North American shorebirds: prevalence and intercontinental movement

- To date, Alaska shorebirds have very low AI prevalence (for the low pathogenic strain). No cases of H5N1 detected
- Dunlin – 2 positive low path. samples (1 North Slope, 1 Yukon Delta)
- Stark contrast to east coast (Delaware Bay) – Turnstones have high: 14%/year – low path
- Limited evidence for trans-hemispheric virus transfer between Asia and Alaska but few AI samples to work with to verify this. More evidence that AI is spread between East Coast of North America and Europe – perhaps mediated by gulls.
- Encourage people to participate in future work that would involve using sero-prevalence (only blood sample) to test for antibodies
 - 200 samples/location
- Comment from Rick Lanctot: 7% of birds in China had AI

Presentation 2 - Bob Gill, Lee Tibbits, et al: Southward migration of Whimbrels (not talking about BARGs today)

- Pacific Shorebird Migration Project – primarily funded through Packard Foundation
- Equipped various shorebirds with satellite transmitters to date: BARG, BTCU, LBCU, MAGO, etc.
- Today’s talk is about Whimbrels equipped with satellite transmitters in Kanuti NWR
- Fire-driven ecosystem
- Chris Harwood and crew found 17 WHIM nests, used walk-in traps, bow traps
- Hid under a camouflaged sheet next to nest to set off trap and capture birds
- Flew birds from nest sites via helicopter for surgery to implant transmitters in birds and then back to release site (2 hrs to process birds)
- 15 birds with instruments (13 of 14 nests hatched young)
- Post-breeding movements: First move to western Alaska to fatten up prior to migration (on berries, invertebrates)
- 4-6 days to migrate from W. AK to lower 48/Mexico west coast
- 2nd staging period for some that then moved to South America
- Stopped in every country along the western pacific coast but only 4 stopped at WHSRN system sites
- Some individuals stop a lot – 74 days to go 14.5 km, Others same distance in 6 days
- Apparent segregation in sexes geographically except two outliers
- Interesting dial patterns of movement – some have distinct day and night areas, others not
- Flight paths vary – based on changing wind patterns?
- Main conclusions:
 - Great individual variation among individuals in movements

- Sample sizes small to resolve key issues related to gender, timing, reproductive success, etc.
- Variation is a problem for conservation efforts (only 4 WHSRN sites) but on positive side they are flexible in needs

Presentation 3: Phil Bruner and Andrea Bruner - Extra-pair paternity (EPP) and nest site selection in RUTU at Wooley Lagoon, Nome AK.

2007-08 results:

- 6 of 17 chicks fathered by a male other than the one attending nest
- 1 of 17 not from female attending the nest
- 2009 EPP results pending
- Grad student: Jenny Johnson looking at nest site selection in RUTUs
- In 2011: will do transects of random habitat so can make comparison to nest site habitat data collected in 2009

Presentation 4: River Gates, Rick Lanctot, Stephen Yezerinac, and Abby Powell – Adult sex determination and reneating ecology of Dunlin: notes from 2009

- Molecular techniques to sex birds are accurate but not practical for the field
- Difficult to sex dunlin in the field due to minimal dichromatism and size dimorphism
- Dunlin dichromatism: females have less bold black breasts
 - Confounded by age and individual variability
 - Bill size differs between sexes: female longer and droops at end, males shorter and more pronounced bend
 - Females seem to have a broader tip than males (anecdotal)
 - Females typically larger than males (in all metrics), but considerable overlap
 - Determine sex of 568 individuals with molecular sexing
- Used genetic and statistical methods to sex 3 subspecies o: *arcticola*, *kistchinski*, *pacifica*
- PCRs of blood and feathers in *arcticola* and *pacifica*, but used necropsy to determine sex in *kistchinski*
- In field: measured exposed culmen, total head, flattened wing chord, tarsus and mass
- *pacifica*: biggest, *arcticola*: smallest
- Discriminant Function Analysis, corrected by genetic assignment, on body measurements yielded:
 - Females classify better than the males, all species with 80% or higher accuracy in ID sex based on field measurements (*kistchiniski* subspecies had 100%).
- Part 2 of presentation: Propensity of Dunlin to replace clutches lost in early and late incubation
- In literature: 1-5% rate of reneating (prior to this study)
- Experimental design: remove clutches in early and late incubation
- Results: frequent replacement of clutches and do so fairly quickly
 - Early removal: 85% replaced nests; late removal: <50% replaced nests
 - Don't move very far: typically <200m
 - Low divorce rate: after divorce females move long distances to mate with new male

- Conclusions: Renesting at unexpectedly high rates

Presentation 5: Matt Kirchhoff – Alaska Audubon Watch List Species Designation Process

- Objective of creating Watchlist: focus research and mgt. & increase public support
- 4 criteria:
 - 1. Global popn. Size
 - 2. Range size
 - 3. Stewardship
 - 4. Population trend – weighted heavier than other criteria
- Pop. Trend: 29 species decreasing, 21 increasing
- 73 species: 41 on red (13 new ones in 2009), 32 on yellow
- Shorebirds most likely to be of conservation concern of all bird groups (highest percentage declining)
- New species on list: SESA is on red list due to population decline
- Species that fell off list: Whimbrel is one of them (also Smith longspur)
- Highest scoring species? – Greatest conservation concern: Dusky Canada goose! (<8700 birds), runners up: Kittlitz's Murrelet and Rock Sandpiper
- The Watchlist database is available for us – just email Matt Kirchhoff

Presentation 6: George Matz – Kachemak Bay volunteer shorebird census 2009

- Described volunteer effort to census shorebirds at Kachemak Bay (i.e., Homer Spit) during 2009; compared data to that collected by George West in the 1980s and early 1990s
- In 2009 Kachemak Bay birders started up the shorebird monitoring project
- Citizen science project – 16 volunteers
- Developed a strategic plan: assess shorebird numbers/diversity in Kachemak Bay
- Used modified version of the ISS methodology protocol, 7 monitor sites, 2 volunteers/site
- Result: 7,406 shorebirds, 25 species, little human disturbance
- Top 3 species: WESA, DUNL, RNPH
- George West reported more birds in most years than were surveyed in this new effort.
- Plans are to continue with ground-based survey and initiate a new aerial survey in 2010

Presentation 7: Stephen Brown, Rick Lanctot, Brett Sandercock – Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network

- Overview and preliminary plans for initiating the Arctic Shorebird Demographic Network: steering committee (Brown, Lanctot, Sandercock)
- Why look at demographics: shorebirds are declining but do not understand why? What stage is most limiting? Adult survival overwinter, production, etc.. This will help to understand limiting factors, target conservation, existing large scale efforts
- 12 potential sites
- Partners: Cornell (Nathan Senner), USFWS-B. McCafferey, Dov Lank, Rick Lanctot, WCS, USFWS, Environment Canada, Paul Smith, Trent University (Erica Nol)
- Protocol being developed
- Hiring biological technician to start working on protocol
- Begin study in 2010, even if only at a subset of the intended sites

- Survey results: SESAs are best to work with since cross large geographic range and are site faithful, Dunlin might be a sensible target as well
- Example of demographic model exercise that helped obtain funding for American Oystercatcher studies (a business model on how many shorebirds could be added in # amount of time)
 - Demographic model helped: hoping for 30% increase
 - Projected a decline in AMOY if no effort to help species.
 - Using demographics created a business plan to go for the 30% increase in population.
 - Not sure how this AMOY model will work in Alaska – a lot more difficult since can not do management easily here

Presentation 8: Falk Huettmann - Taking the curse out of Distance sampling when we lack alternatives: Implications for global modeling and sustainability

- Overview of distance sampling: detection, assumptions, Presence vs Distance, GRID
- Detection declines as you get further away (same for telemetry)
- Assumption: animal not moving prior to detection (snapshot in time)
- DISTANCE has a useful “design engine”
- Global biodiversity GRID study
 - 10 locations
 - Plots – 100*100m plot spacing
 - 30 plots, 5 random sites, one line transect – can assess all animals that are there
 - Takes 3 days, visit grid 3 times
 - Hard time comparing occupancy (Presence) and distance estimates
 - Doesn't think occupancy can be used
 - Counted all shorebirds (only half of shorebirds detected)
 - Line transect finding: 89.4% detection
 - Estimated 500 to 800 birds/km² at Barrow plot using this approach

Presentation 9: Joe Liebezeit and Steve Zack – Update on Wildlife Conservation Society shorebird conservation efforts

- Update on on-going activities, wrapping up previous work, and future interests
- Continued long-term monitoring of nesting tundra birds at Prudhoe Bay in collaboration with BP. Currently have 7 consecutive years of data on nesting biology, predators, predator ID
- High inter-year variability in nest density and survivorship. However, nest initiation dates have steadily gotten earlier for the 3 most common species (PESA, SESA, LALO) over the course of this monitoring, this trend also stays when Declan Troy's 1980s and early 90s data added in. Correlated with warming temperatures suggest a climate change influence
- Update on 2009 AI work: with support from USFWS collected 124 AI samples, also 24 Dunlin blood/feather samples, and 40 BBSA blood samples for migratory pathway work
- Pad rehabilitation: some abandoned pads in oilfields are being rehabilitated (returned to tundra) by oil companies. As of yet no wildlife response to these efforts

- WCS Pilot study to look at this in 2009: sampled 3 plots (2 surveys at each site), found 19 bird species using pads, 24 observations of foraging, one nesting species, 3 species with broods. Hope to expand efforts into full study in 2010 but depends on funds
- Western Arctic activities: why in this region? Important for wildlife yet challenged by incoming energy development
 - Wrapping up Teshekpuk study results: highest nest density for all species at Teshekpuk among 7 sites but shorebirds equally high at 2 other sites (PB, Canning), shorebird preference to nest in wet/emergent habitats, biparental shorebirds low survivorship early during nest lifetime
 - Scoped Ikpikpuk site in 2009, found good area 20km S of river mouth. Plan to start breeding bird study in 2010
 - Overall plan to compare NE planning area sites (Teshekpuk, Ikpikpuk vs. oilfield sites)

Lunch break (13:00 – 14:00)

Afternoon sessions: Announcements and updates

Brief introductions (Bruce Casler from Cold Bay, Izembek NWR joined us on conference call)

Update #1: International Wader study group meeting

Bob Gill, Lee Tibbits, Coleen Handel

- Was held in Texel, The Netherlands this year
- The week following the meeting was a workshop / symposia looking at demography
- The meeting proceedings and workshop outcome will be in the next issue of the International Wader Study Group Bulletin
- The workshop / symposia had three components
 1. Connecting conservation and research
 - Disconnect between the research and conservation community was addressed.
 - Researchers feel like conservation groups report poor quality information while conservation groups feel that they need to report things sooner to affect policy change.
 - Colleen: Conservation groups want big picture. Disseminating information is key; they don't want to wait too long or it could be too late to enact real conservation. Also, conservation groups need information that appeals to emotions of people (e.g. E7 captured imagination, big message with single bird)
 2. Slender-billed Curlew
 - Last sighting in 1998. Formed a strike team to try and find a new one and tag it with satellite transmitter so its breeding ground can be found (i.e. "Judas bird" to lead them back to the currently unknown breeding grounds).

Update #2: Global flyway network. Bob Gill and Colleen Handel

1. Birdlife International funded.

2. Focused around REKN, BARG, GRKN, BTGO. Mostly people coming together with different data sets to combine it into a global scale demographic analysis with an aim to identify the drivers for decline (sensitivity analysis).
 3. Colleen: pool efforts across entire flyway. With BTCU, idea is to build whole population dynamics cycle. Breeding, migratory, wintering grounds, breeding, apparent survival effort at one site but, if combined across areas can get true survival. Several efforts going on with different species. Pulling together info from different sites, partition annual cycles so can figure out where in the world the species is most threatened.
 4. Need to pull sites across breeding ground, but also across the entire flyway.
 5. Falk Huettman: wondering if focusing on one species over big area that takes a long time is the way to go?
 6. Colleen H: The models built with these species can then be used to predict demographic changes for other species that have similar life histories as the ones analyzed.
 7. Global flyway report just came out
- Next meeting: Lisbon Portugal, 2010, first week of October

Update #3 - 3rd Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting, Mazatlan, March 2009

Rick Lanctot

- Thanks to Stephen Brown, Roy, River (Science committee); Jim Johnson (logistics, travel awards, students); and local hosts (Xico Vega and Guillermo Fernandez); Andrea Pomeroy – silent auction: 1.7K raised for travel awards for next meeting
- 5-day meeting (middle day had field trips), had bilingual translation which was very nice but might be hard to do at other venues (b/c in Mexico was cheap to do this)
- Had 4 Plenary speakers: Pavel Tomkovich, Dov Lank, Nils Warnock, Eduardo Palacios
- Abstracts are now published in the Wader study Group Bulletin
- Next meeting in 2011, don't know where it will be yet
- 2 workshops were held in conjunction with the meeting: 1. demographic workshop, 2. Migrate workshop (funded by NSF) – teaching students about migration ecology. Had their own pot of money so got students down there independently
- Funds so far provided by USGS and USFS – won't last forever. Need to diversify funding sources
- River commented: great that many students were able to come

Update #4: Asian-Pacific Shorebird Network – Rick Lanctot

- East Australian group reconstituted, new chair in S. Korea. Meeting in February. Partnership includes a shorebird, Anatidae, and crane group. Coordinate activities for those bird species. This region is very important migratory pathway with stopover sites for those groups.

Update #5: Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) – status for sites identified in 2009 meeting

- **Teshkepuk / Dease Inlet area (Rick L, Joe L, and Steve Z).** been in touch with BLM. BLM is stakeholder, need their consent. With new administration in Washington, BLM will go through a new planning effort for the NPR-A. So at this point, as communicated by

Cara Staab, the WHSRN nomination is on-hold until 2011 when the new planning effort will be completed

- **Stikine River Delta (Melissa Cady):** hold up – state DNR not willing to participate. They will only participate when directed to do so by the Alaska State Legislature.
- **Marbled Godwit areas; Egigik Bay, Ugashik Bay, and other sites (Susan Savage):** no progress because of multiple ownership issues; not much to report
- **Yukon Flats (River Gates):** dual effort IBA and WHSRN. IBA OK but lacking shorebird data so can't progress with WHSRN
- **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Steve Kendell):** Comprehensive Conservation Plan in process. This will be a good time to pitch the WHSRN site nomination
- **Safety Sound (Phil Bruner)** - same problems – lots of different land owners. Might not be the number of birds to qualify. Well known site for birders – maybe gain support in this way. Not a refuge

Comments from update #5:

- Steve Z: Maybe a way to package these together
- Rick L: But formal process works on individual basis. A lot of education has to happen. Have to be careful about what you select (subset). With state land, need to be judicious in where we want to go. Right now we're doing this piecemeal.
- Do we want to form a committee to select the best sites?
- New classification: Landscape Scale. Rick's initial interpretation of breeding area would fit in here, Charles Duncan meant "Landscape" meaning lots of landowners, not geographic based but landowner based. An example is the Prairie Pothole region which is under this Landscape Scale
- Chris Harwood: likely no boreal sites. Need 1%
- Melissa Cady – get community support like she did near the Stikine site. The communities have to want to do it themselves. Melissa Cady is working with communities to tell them the benefits. The fact that the nomination could attract ecotourists is getting some of her community excited about it. If the Cordova website (joint birding and tourism site) is presented to Stikine community, then Melissa feels they'd be excited about it and that they would likely be inspired to go to the legislative office themselves to nominate the WHSRN site!
- Strong push to do site assessments in WHSRN. New tool: Excel driven to update site information
- What can chair do to help push things along?
- Thinks there is value in idea of prioritizing sites, e.g. top 5 sites. The revised AK shorebird plan as info on this. There should be an effort to include breeding sites. May or may not have been as conclusive as we wanted. Not many WHSRN sites in North America.
- Tried getting Yukon Delta in EAASRN (East Asian Australian Shorebird Reserve Network) during previous administration but denied == might happen now?
- Matt Kirchhoff: How does WHSRN provide an advantage over IBA? IBAs are easier to get since do not need landowner buy-in.
- At this point, most of the IBAs in Alaska are established.
- Why WHSRN (vs. IBA)? Major difference is 1. You get buy-in from the community - the land owner has to agree on better management; 2. Get birders attention via the

WHSRN site; 3. The power of the network is a lot more powerful than the power of one site (e.g. letters from other sites caring about what happens to birds at far away sites).

- Currently 3-person staff for WHSRN
- G. Matz: IBA more appropriate in areas where there are many land owners?
- S. Brown: possibly, but WHSRN nomination still can be done but would take more work
- Need for conservation priorities scaled down. With joint ventures, work via BCRs. Within a BCR look at the priorities for particular species. Then, decide on IBA or WHSRN usefulness or are there other ways we can make decisions?
- Big effort to develop species conservation plans: 3 more: Sanderling, AMGP, and Whimbrels are now available on-line (15 of 21 species of priority are completed)
 - WHSRN has a listserv with this info if you want it
- Do we want to take an action on prioritizing most important WHSRN sites?
- **ACTION ITEM: develop WHSRN Priority Committee:** Matt Kirchoff (chair), Lynn Fuller, Rick Lanctot, Melissa Cady

Update #6: Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (CRIMBI) - Erin Cooper

- Collaborative group, not funding body
- International programs
- Accomplishments: highlighting some key efforts, BLOY in northwest Mexico, Stikine,
- In the past done 2 live broadcasts
- There will be a 2012 live broadcast, will include both sides of the flyway (Pacific Rim)
- 3 components: 1. what are wetlands; 2. shorebirds and wetlands; 3. action on the ground
- Other project: Latin American internship program. One person from Calidris coming to Copper River as part of this internship exchange
- **20th anniversary of the Copper River shorebird festival (go to Cordova chamber website for more info: www.cordovachamber.com)**

Update #7: Position statement on Climate Change.

- River wants to table this. Bring to agenda next year.

Update #8: Annual summary compilation for ASG summaries report – Joe Liebezeit

- Encouraged the group to keep sending annual summaries because this report is the only record of all (or most) projects being conducted on Alaska's shorebirds. It is a valuable record and timeline of events
- It is also very useful for people to learn about what's going on and provides a means of networking since contact info is provided for each summary.
- The reports (and meeting notes) are available on-line

Other updates from membership

- Rick L. encouraged people to fill out the **Arctic Circumpolar Breeding birds surveys** (edited by Pavel Tomkovich and M. Soloviev)
- Alaska Airlines magazine submission? Flight paths that mimic migration (statement from the ASG group)
 - Careful about data

- Tie shorebirds to AK Airline hubs
- Western Sandpipers around to the sites in Alaska
- Pitch multiple-part series of articles
- **ACTION ITEM:** A committee was set up to first, contact Alaska Airlines to get more information on the feasibility of this idea, and then, to write a draft article.
 - The steering committee decided on was: Joe (chair), River Gates, Steve Zack, Falk Huettmann, Phil Bruner, Abby Powell, and Melissa Cady.
- Next Alaska Shorebird Group meeting will be held in conjunction with the Alaska Bird Conference (dates uncertain, likely Nov. 15-18)
 - Audubon is taking lead on organizing that – will be in Anchorage
 - There was consensus that it makes sense to tack the ASG meeting onto the ABC meeting instead of convening in early December as usual.

Election of ASG Officers

- ASG has 8 members, chair (River), staff (Rick), secretary (Joe), 5 board or committee members
- Stephen Brown & Erin Cooper terms are expiring now: officers up for election
 - Happy to step aside or to keep up with it
- Nobody volunteered to run for office so **Stephen Brown and Erin Cooper retain their officer positions for two more years**

The following ASG actions came out of the meeting:

- 1. Identify the most important potential WHSRN sites (top 5) in Alaska. Lead: Matt Kirchhoff**
- 2. Develop 1 or more Alaska Airlines magazine article(s) describing shorebird migration. Leads: River Gates and Joe Liebezeit**
- 3. Develop ASG letter regarding climate change research/conservation priorities for Alaska shorebirds. Lead: Joe Liebezeit – came from afternoon discussion**