Midcontinent Americas Shorebird Conservation Initiative

25th Alaska Shorebird Group Meeting Overview & Update - December 2, 2019

• Kelli Stone, U.S Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)
• Isadora Angarita-Martínez, Arctic Migratory Bird Initiative
• Brad Andres, USFWS
• Rob Clay, Manomet/Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network
• Steering Committee (Members from Canada through Argentina)
Need

- The “Midcontinent” of North & South America critical breeding, migration stopover & nonbreeding habitat for large numbers of shorebirds

- Flyway used by numerous species of conservation concern, and several Andean & interior lowland shorebirds are considered globally Near Threatened

- Ecosystem stresses, disturbance, and direct mortality continue

- Climate-related changes will intensify stresses

- Need to integrate existing regional and national plans for a comprehensive, annual life-cycle approach

- Funders, agencies and NGOs seeking guidance on priorities and outcomes
Midcontinent Strategy: fill conservation gap in the Americas

Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative

Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy
“Crayon Version”

Geography of Midcontinent Americas Initiative
Midcontinent Americas Shorebird Conservation Initiative

- December 2018 call with 14 people from Midcontinent Americas decided a conservation strategy was needed
- Will link to global efforts and national plans within the flyway, and provide on-the-ground benefits
- Practitioners from the Midcontinent Americas Flyway will use Open Standards Practice of Conservation to develop strategic framework (e.g., conservation strategy)
- 2019 steering committee
  - guided early development of strategy
  - organized symposium and workshop during WSHG conference in Panama
Symposium – October 28
• To introduce and launch initiative, gain feedback and begin to build support

Workshop (1.5 days) - October 29 and 30
• Sponsored by AMBI
• Participants
  • from federal governments, NGOs, Universities, and more
  • Canada, U.S. Brasil, Columbia, Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay
Focal regions based on:
• Administrative Flyways in U.S. and lesser extent in Canada and Mexico
• Bird Conservation Regions (2014)

- Arctic and Boreal (light blue)
- Mississippi Valley (purple)
- Great Plains (beige)
- Western Gulf of Mexico (green)
**Current Geography – South**

**Northern Andes**
- Andean valleys, wetlands, páramo; Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela

**Orinoco Llanos and Llanos de Mojos/Beni Savanna**
- plains, wetlands; Venezuela, Colombia, Bolivia

**Amazonian/Orinocan Lowlands**
- riverine bars, banks, and floodplains: Venezuela, Brazil, Colombia, Perú, Bolivia

**Central/Southern Andes**
- puna, altiplano, salt flats, wetlands: Perú, Bolivia, Chile, Argentina

**Gran Chaco/Pantanal**
- Bolivia, Paraguay, Argentina, Brazil

**Pampas**
- Brazil, Uruguay, Argentina

**Patagonia Steppe**
- Argentina, Chile
Conservation Targets: Species

- Focal species approach to capture range of habitats and the geography within the flyway.
- Similar criterion used in Pacific and Atlantic Initiatives
  - capture range of habitats & geography in flyway
  - represent of diversity of shorebirds
  - relate to other planning efforts
  - populations are feasibly restorable
  - high conservation concern
- Panama workshop
  - Break-out groups (N. & S. America) and plenary identified draft list
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>North America Migrants/Residents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Charadrius nivosus</em> - Snowy Plover</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Charadrius wilsonia</em> - Wilson’s Plover</td>
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<td><em>Charadrius melodus</em> - Piping Plover</td>
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<td><em>Numenius americanus</em> - Long-billed Curlew</td>
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<td><em>Limosa fedoa</em> - Marbled Godwit</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Calidris canutus</em> - Red Knot</td>
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<td><em>Calidris mauri</em> - Western Sandpiper</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>North - South America Migrants</th>
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<tr>
<td><em>Pluvialis dominica</em> - American Golden-Plover</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Bartramia longicauda</em> - Upland Sandpiper</td>
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<td><em>Limosa haemastica</em> - Hudsonian Godwit</td>
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<td><em>Calidris himantopus</em> - Stilt Sandpiper</td>
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<td><em>Calidris bairdii</em> - Baird’s Sandpiper</td>
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<td><em>Calidris subruficollis</em> - Buff-breasted Sandpiper</td>
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<td><em>Calidris melantos</em> - Pectoral Sandpiper</td>
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<td><em>Phalaropus tricolor</em> - Wilson’s Phalarope</td>
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<td><em>Tringa flavipes</em> - Lesser Yellowlegs</td>
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<th>South America Migrants/Residents</th>
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<td><em>Pluvianellus socialis</em> - Magellanic Plover</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Recurvirostra andina</em> - Andean Avocet</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Oreopholus ruficollis</em> - Tawny-throated Dotterel</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Charadrius falklandicus</em> - Two-banded Plover</td>
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<td><em>Phegornis mitchellii</em> - Diademed Sandpiper-Plover</td>
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<td><em>Attagis gayi</em> - Rufous-bellied Seedsnipe</td>
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<td><em>Thinocorus orbignyianus</em> - Gray-breasted Seedsnipe</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Gallinago paraguaiae</em> - South American Snipe</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Gallinago nobilis</em> - Noble Snipe</td>
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North and South American break-out groups and worked through the Open Standards’ lexicon to identify threats for each.

Results will be compiled and used as a “strawman” in future regional workshops.

In Arctic and Boreal regions – threat assessment will be done in conjunction with the update of the AFSI Business Plan and include the Alaska Shorebird Working Group and the Canadian Wildlife Service.
How & When

 Governance
  - Technical Advisors/Hemispheric Guidance: Brad Andres and Rob Clay
  - Coordinators
    - “North” -- parts of Canada, U.S. and Mexico: Kelli Stone
    - “South” -- South American countries: Isadora Angarita-Martínez
  - Small steering committee in North and South
    - Assist w/ technical decisions, identify workshop participants, etc.
  - Hemispheric subset (4-6 + coordinators) to ensure consistency across the flyway

 Timeline
  - 2020 – 2021 hold workshops and develop strategy/framework
  - 2021 and beyond: implementing framework and Midcontinent Initiative
Potential Funding

- Federal Governments
  - Canada & U.S.
    - Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
    - USDA: Forest Service International Programs
    - USAID: Opportunities?
    - ECCC current & new opportunities w/ the Canada Nature Fund
    - Southern Wings (partnership of US State Fish and Wildlife Agencies)
  - Other Countries

- Non-government Organizations

- State Governments

- Private sources (industry and others)
Open Standards Workshops

Workshops in 2020 – early 2021 (?)

- Stand-alone or combine with other major conferences/meetings

- North
  - Canada
  - U.S (Great Plains and/or Mississippi Flyway)
  - Texas (Gulf Coast of Mexico – TX and Mexico)

- South
  - Northern portion of South America
  - Southern portion of South America

- Securing funding and/or time for Open Standards facilitator, and workshop participants’ travel.
Questions?