



Meeting Attendance

In-Person: Amy Pocewicz (USFWS), Andrew Fisher (Anchorage Audubon), Andy Bankert (ABR), Arin Underwood (ADF&G), Brandt Meixel (USFS), Callie Gesmundo (USFWS), Chris Harwood (USFWS), Chris Latty (USFWS), Claire Atkins (UH Manoa), Cole Rankin (Simon Fraser University), Colleen Handel (USGS), Dan Ruthrauff (USGS), Danielle Gerik (USGS), Emily Weisner (USGS), Erin Cooper (USFS), Eva Allaby (ADF&G), Hannah Rooderigas (Simon Fraser University), Jeff Wagner (ADF&G), Jenell Larsen Tempel (ADF&G), Jim Johnson (USFWS), Julie Hagelin (ADF&G), Katherine Pervier (USFWS), Katie Christie (ADF&G), Kayla Shively (WCS), Kristin DuBour (USFWS), Kristine Swol (USFWS), Laura McDuffie (USGS), Lee Tibbitts (USGS), Maureen de Zeeuw (BOEM), Mogan Ziegenhorn (Manomet), Monica Wey (USFS), Rachel Richardson (USGS), Rick Lanctot (USFWS), River Gates (National Audubon), Sadie Ulman (USFWS), Sam Simon (UAF), Sarah Hoepfner (WCS), Shiloh Schulte (Manomet), Steven Matsuoka (USGS), Subhankar Banerjee (University of New Mexico), Tamara Zeller (USFWS), Zak Pohlen (USFWS).

Online: Aaron Yappert (NREM/ Iowa State), Alison Williams (USFWS), Amber Stephens (ADF&G), Audrey Taylor (ADFG), Becky Stewart (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Benoit Laliberté (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Cassie Schoofs (JBER), Courtney Conway (University of Idaho), Daniel Yip (Environment and Climate Change Canada), George Matz (Kachemak Bay Birders), Gwen Baluss (USFS), Hannah Vincelette (USFWS), Ingrid Harrald (UAF), Jaime Welfelt (USFWS), Lauren Attanas (ABR), Lindsay Hermanns (Virginia Tech/USFWS), Lisa Mahon (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Mary Anne Bishop (Prince William Sound Science Center), Melanie Dufour (Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival), Oscar Johnson (Montana State University), Pam Sinclair (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Rachel Gingras (ADF&G), Robert Snowden (Alaska Songbird Institute), Rozy Bathrick (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Sarah Saalfeld (USFWS), Scot Flemming (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Shelby McCahon (University of Idaho), Stan Senner, Steve Lewis (USFWS), Sydney Bliss (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Tricia Blake (Alaska Songbird Institute), Tyree Brown (USGS), Becky Jones (USFS).

8:00-8:05 Welcome and Announcements – Laura McDuffie

8:10 Group Photo

8:05-8:45 Shorebird Activities of Interest Updates from 2023

- **Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective (*Rick Lanctot*)**
 - The Shorebird Science and Conservation Collective is for shorebird tracking across North America to connect tracking data, resources, grants, ideas, and areas available for conservation action.

- The collective to be used to identify important sites and gaps in our knowledge and to support shorebird conservation initiatives in the Central and Mississippi Flyways.
- If you have tracking data and haven't participated yet, consider sending a data sharing agreement. The data can be used, but you can stipulate what can and cannot be done with it. See <https://nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/shorebird-collective> to contribute your data or to request tracking data to support your work.
- There is no immediate intention to publish the Shorebird Tracking data, it is to help on the ground conservation actions.
- Q/A: Is the tracking for the western hemisphere only? Yes. Is there an equivalent in Eurasia? Not a true equivalent, although some species data has been shared (i.e., Dunlin).
- Q/A: Are species from both the Pacific and Atlantic Ocean being covered? It is being investigated; we would like to expand coverage. We currently have funds for 3 years for 3 people to work on this and have 1 year left.
- **East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership's Shorebird Working Group (*Rick Lanctot on behalf of the SWG*)**
 - David Li was elected as the new chair as of March 2023.
 - The working group meets bi-monthly to work on the agenda:
 - Support monitoring and conservation of migratory shorebirds and their habitats
 - Enhance communication and host webinars on conservation issues.
 - Support capacity building and promote science.
 - We also host an on-line webinar series focusing on conservation issues.
 - There are not too many Alaskan species headed this way, Dunlin, Godwit, etc.
- **Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative (*River Gates*)**
 - The initiative's priorities are shorebird conservation along the Pacific flyway via supporting partners and projects, building partnerships (Americas Flyway Institute), education, and workshops. DEI and human aspects of conservation as well as community-based conservation are additional priorities.
 - The Pacific Human Disturbance Community of Practice was created to recruit members for a coastal stewardship program to reduce human disturbance along the Pacific Coast.
 - The aim is to share resources with partners down the flyway. There are plans to expand into Latin America. The Latin America resources and toolkit will be out in January.
 - The website is now live, it is also the 10th biannual conference and the western hemisphere shorebird group conference 2024 in Canada. The due date for student travel is Jan 9.
 - For more information or resources for the Pacific Shorebird Conservation Initiative please visit our website: <https://pacificflywayshorebirds.org/>
- **Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative (*Benoit Laliberté*)**
 - The initial workshop was a part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Conference in 2019.
 - Our website was launched in April 2022; the next steps are to finalize the framework.
 - Website: <https://midamericasshorebirds.org/>
 - This is a short-term way to measure population trends.

- We will launch August 2024.
- **Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative (*Erin Cooper*)**
 - CRIMBI is an ecotourism group that meets around the shorebird festival.
 - There was a CRIMBI meeting planned in Panama, but it was cancelled due to mining protests, moved to March 2024.
 - Biologist exchange for the Red Knot Project. This is a very fun initiative that enriches everyone involved. Ideas can be shared, visiting biologists can see how things work on different projects. This helps to build capacity with Latin American partners and strengthens conservation measures.
 - MOTUS tower update: new towers have been erected in Controller Bay.
 - There are several international projects including the Migratory Shorebird Project, connecting festivals, and capacity building with CRIMBI partners.
- **Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival (*Erin Cooper*)**
 - People can come up and participate in the festival, which is also a hybrid event.
 - There is a focus on regenerative tourism (more details on the Chamber of Commerce website), but essentially people can visit the community and leave it better than they found it.
 - We are connecting indigenous groups between Hawaii and Cordova, exchanging people and business ideas for regenerative tourism. In February we will visit Hawaii for this purpose then bring a team to Cordova.
 - The festival involves an art show, international speakers, and numerous opportunities for field trips.
- **International Wader Study Group Meeting 2023 (*Dan Ruthrauff*)**
 - ASG was originally modeled after this group, it has a long history and is focused on the Atlantic Flyway of Europe and Africa.
 - You can send in your publications to this group, it is open to everyone, and they will publish on a variety of subjects.
 - Global wader tracking data project has launched with all data in one place so everyone can know what other researchers are doing and get in contact. It is not necessarily conservation focused but is more about communication and access to get everyone in touch.
- **Road to Recovery workshop (*Katie Christie*)**
 - The Road to Recovery came out of the 3 billion birds paper.
 - Aims to understand population linkages and factors causing declines so that they can be addressed.
 - You can get updates from webinars from quinn.carver@unb.edu (request to be added to the listserv). If subscribed you will get information on social science, international collaborations, webinar links, etc.
 - There will be an in-person workshop Jan 16-19 at the FWS national Conservation training center to learn what other working groups are doing and to attend talks by social scientists.
 - Website: R2Rbirds.org
- **Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival (*Melanie Dufour*)**

- Melanie Dufour is the current coordinator for the festival and the 2024 festival is being planned now.
- Exciting to have more young birders and teen birders this year, 42% of attendees had a jr or teen birder in the family.
- Bird tours fill up fast, 2024 registration is open! Volunteers welcome, 2024 bird: Red-necked Phalarope.
- Currently looking for speakers, everything from family friendly to technical talks. Please email if you are interested or have ideas.

8:45- 9:45 Current Research/Management Projects

- **Shorebird migration study (*Rozy Bathrick*)**
 - We are targeting differences between species and populations. We have been putting out transmitters for 2 field seasons.
 - We tracked Greater Yellowlegs to LA and have a post on Audubon about it.
 - Please get in touch to share and publicize tracks.
- **Evaluating Effects of Tracking Device Attachment Methods on Black Oystercatchers (*Cole Rankin*)**
 - Is the weight appropriate on current tracking devices? What about the attachment methods? What are the factors and effects of tracking devices on the bird?
 - This project is interested in Black Oystercatchers and how best to attach tracking devices. It is currently not clear in the literature, so we conducted an experiment.
 - We noted the resighting success on differently tagged birds. Having a leg band reduced the resight probability of bird. They are sensitive to leg attachments, should this method be avoided in the future?
- **Lesser Yellowlegs exposure to neonicotinoids (*Shelby McCahon*)**
 - We are investigating the presence and effects of insecticides on Lesser Yellowlegs and other shorebirds.
 - Neonicotinoids are a fast growing and widely used seed treatment that can cause chemical runoff from agricultural fields into wetlands.
 - How does this runoff affect shorebirds in the Prairie Pothole Region? We are currently quantifying neonicotinoid concentrations in shorebird species and water samples.
- **Dunlin nest survival (*Sarah Hoepfner*)**
 - Human nest monitoring influences nest survival through both presence and the deployment of equipment around nesting sites.
 - Human monitored nests have a lower survival rate, though past studies may have biased results.
 - Future directions involve assessing the disturbance effects in other studies, limiting human disturbance during monitoring, and to potentially use remote methods and visit nests less frequently.
- **Dunlin pre-breeding incubation behavior (*Aaron Yappert*)**
 - We are tracking Dunlins as they arrive at breeding grounds.
 - What is the relationship between movement, temperature, snow cover, vertebrate abundance, infrastructure, etc.
 - Over 3 years and 15 min locations we have 68 nesting Dunlins.

- **Dunlin adult survival and mate / site fidelity (*Lindsay Hermanns*)**
 - Dunlin adult survival is impacted by conditions across its annual life cycle.
 - We have 19 years of data from Utqiagvik and are using the Barker model to estimate true survival.
 - How will climate change affect these breeding areas?
- **Red Knot use of Controller Bay (*Jenell Larsen Tempel*)**
 - Investigating the importance of Controller Bay to Red Knots.
 - We are using eDNA for diet analysis to identify soft bodied prey and collect fecal samples from the right species (difficult to identify feces origin in the field).
 - There are some limitations to the prey catalogue, so we may need extra money for new primers. Something to watch out for in future projects, it can affect the budget.
 - We are also using MOTUS towers. They can be used for different projects and species of interest. The orientation is not perfect though, it doesn't provide exact locations.
- **Red Knot breeding ecology / migration (*Zak Pohlen*)**
 - We have limited knowledge of breeding grounds for the Red Knot sub species.
 - This is the 12th year of this study on the Seward Peninsula.
 - We are getting insect samples, eDNA, fecal samples from chicks. We want to know what they are eating.
- **Bar-tailed Godwit migration (*Dan Ruthrauff*)**
 - We are tracking the migration of juvenile Godwits from Alaska to New Zealand and Australasia.
 - What is their reproductive output in Alaska? We found 10 chicks from 6 broods this year.
 - Recap of the famous Bar-tailed Godwit story from last year, 11-day migration and huge opportunity for science communication.
- **Upland Sandpiper migration ecology (*Callie Gesmundo*)**
 - Captured chick-rearing adults, investigating migration routes, stopover sites, and wintering locations.
 - 1 adult recaptured this year, 2 resighted, 4 2022 transmitters still active.
- **Surfbird ecology (*Sam Simon*)**
 - What microhabitats are Surfbirds using?
 - How can we help Surfbirds if they start to decline? Investigating the migration ecology of Surfbirds.
- **Shorebird outreach and student education (*Lili Naves*)**
 - We are investigating subsistence harvest of shorebirds in Alaska. This involves both the harvest culture and traditional knowledge.
 - Indigenous peoples as partners in conservation, engaging in ongoing community outreach and education.
 - Refuge is now interested in getting involved.
- **Update on 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan (*Audrey Taylor*)**
 - Alaska SWAP needs to be revised by October 2025. We are looking to make the document more user friendly, prioritize SGCN, and highlight links between SGCN and important sites.
 - Add climate change component to the 2025 SWAP.

- Currently seeking stakeholder input, updating conservation concerns and priority research and actions.
- Adding more species vignettes. Can ASG and BPIFF help with these? Photos are also needed for species. Email Audrey.taylor@alaska.gov to share.
- **Q & A until 10:00am**
 - Q/A: Questions for Sarah Hoepfner. Regarding nest monitoring, how often were you visiting human monitored nests? Visited every 5 days, then every 2 days up until hatch, then every day once signs of hatch. We did not flush birds every time, just checked for incubation.
 - Q/A: Question for Sarah Hoepfner. What was the sample size? 35 GPS nests, 45 temperature nests, 60 human monitored nests.

10:15 – 10:30 ABOG updates

- **3 Billion Birds AK Adaptation (*Tamara Zeller*)**
 - Collaboration on outreach efforts related to the recovery of birds.
 - Nicole Michel of Audubon is working on making messages that are specific and relevant to Alaskans.
 - Tamara Zeller is working on the 7 simple steps to bring birds back. This includes reducing window collisions and educating anglers about fishing practices through outreach such as *Loons, Lines, and Lead* in 2022, and monofilament recycling bins.
- **Bird Friendly Coffee (*Callie Gesmundo*)**
 - This outreach effort was dissolved a little bit at USFWS due to government rules on promotion.
 - But there are still actions being undergone. Bird friendly coffee tasting, Birds and Beans, bird friendly chocolate, etc.
- **Alaska Birding Trail (*Callie Gesmundo*)**
 - The new sign on Lesser Yellowlegs has been installed at Basher Bog since October!
 - Are there other ideas on additional places to install signs? What other species? Hot spots? Our aim is to create something similar to the Southeast birding trail, or the Planet Walk that both locals and visitors can follow.
 - Contact Rick Lanctot to share ideas of where more boards can go.
 - We are targeting both birders and potential birders, aiming to create new birders!
 - Q/A: How can we get Alaska to be as proud of its birds as of fat bears? We have so many amazing birds coming to nest, Audubon has a big social media presence to promote birds, can we consider a big social media campaign that is pro birds?
 - Q/A: Additional comment on this outreach idea: Darwin in Australia has extensive signs at their reserves. They work with indigenous peoples to help make relevant and informational signs. It was inspiring, helpful, and informative. A wonderful collaboration between art, indigenous communities, and scientists.
- **Utqiagvik Shorebird Festival (*Lindsay Hermanns*)**
 - We had 80 participants at the first festival. We had both locals and visitors from all over the U.S.

- 25% of participants were from outside of the community.
- Lots of local birding tours, they were a big success.

10:30 – 10:45 Annual Summary Update and Goals for 2024 (15 mins)

- **Synopsis of annual project/initiative summaries (*Arin Underwood*)**
 - 22 projects / initiatives, 8 recent publications, 2 unpublished reports, 3 articles in progress, 1 web document, 1 data release, 1 presentation.
- **ASG's 2024 priorities and Data Inventory (*Laura McDuffie*)**
[ASG priority species progress sheet - Google Sheets](#)
 - Concerning the ASG priority species list: should we continue using this? Who is involved? Are we meeting our objectives? Do we need to update the vision statement?
 - Concerning ASG data inventory: this is a simple inventory list. Where is your data being stored? This inventory reduces redundancy and informs decision making.
 - Laura McDuffie has made a searchable table for the name of a project (comes from summary reports), data theme, focal species, general location, years, contact, agency. There are 200 records at this point.
 - This is similar to raptor surveys run by Chris Barger and Travis Booms. They can potentially help with updates or searchable papers.

10:45 – 11:00 Election of Officers and ASG Development Proposition Committee

- The following positions are open for nomination and election:
 - Executive Committee Members – 3 positions (*currently filled by Mary Anne Bishop, Emily Weiser, and Jenell Larsen Tempel*)
 - Sam Simon was nominated, accepted.
 - Shiloh Schulte was nominated, accepted.
 - Kaylah Shively was nominated, accepted.
- [Re]Establishment of the ASG Development Proposition Committee
 - Land/natural resource management activities in 2023 (*Mary Anne Bishop*)
 - We used to have a group for natural resource development committee, do we want to re-establish this? It involves signing letters for different development projects around the state and we have non-government members on the executive committee. Government workers cannot sign letters.
 - Examples include the Army Corps of Engineers removing sand and gravel from a river delta and disrupting shorebird habitat. A letter was written requesting this activity cease.
 - Question to group: Should we re-establish the development committee or stick with the executive committee that we currently have? If we do start it, it would need to be 3-4 members. Then if anyone comes across a development project, they could share it with Laura McDuffie, and she can share it with the committee.
 - Only 7 people at the in-person meeting are non-government, 3 online. So, we will just stick with the executive committee.

