Midcontinental Shorebird Conservation Initiative: Kelli Stone



Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative (MSCI) Update – Framework Development







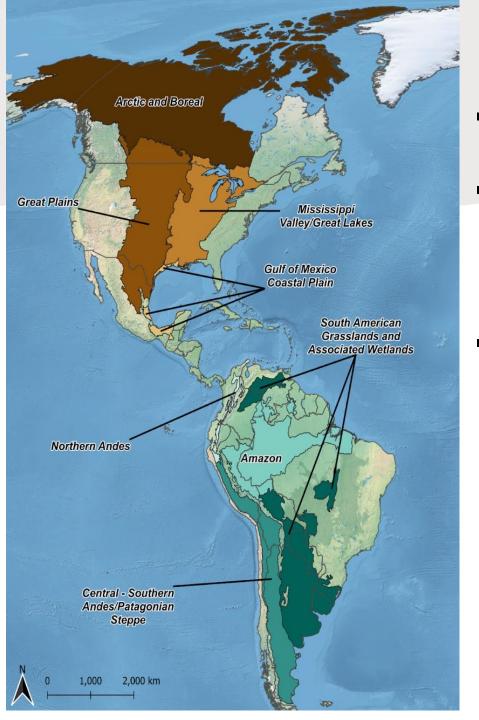




30th Annual Meeting - 2 Dec. 2024



- Kelli Stone, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Program, Southwest Region (R2)
- Benoit Laliberté, Environment & Climate Change Canada
- Isadora Angarita-Martínez, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences



Midcontinent

- 3rd shorebird conservation initiative in Western Hemisphere
- Strategic Conservation Framework (2025-2040)
 - Developed with >250 partners 16 countries in 8 planning units
 - Available on-line April 2025
- Most unifying theme in Midcontinent Flyway
 - Occurrence of working lands & shorebirds reliance on them







Framework - Contents



> Conservation targets

- 34 focal species or groups (i.e., Andean plovers)
- Shorebird habitats
- Human well-being elements

> 7 Flyway Threats, including

- Climate change
- Fire management & suppression

> 9 Flyway Strategies, including

- Manage existing habitats & acquire new habitats
- Integrate climate resiliency into conservation plans —
- Improve knowledge of environmental stressors on shorebirds

➢ Objectives & indicators

• To monitor short-term progress in implementation

Now on MSCI Website*

Next Steps

Partners review framework



Post Framework (in English) on website **April 2025**



Translation - Spanish, Portuguese & French Spring 2025

Implementation 2025+



Populate working groups 2025+



Garner funds & hire MSCI Coordinator 2025+



- Cross-flyway collaboration
- Partner-driven



More Information

- https://shorebirdflyways.org/
- o <u>https://midamericasshorebirds.org/</u>
- Arctic/Boreal Benoit Laliberté
- o temperate North America Kelli Stone
- South America Isadora Angarita-Martínez

benoit.laliberte@ec.gc.ca kelli_stone@fws.gov IAngarita@manomet.org



Thank you to our funders & the hundreds of participants' generous in-kind support









Environment and Climate Change Canada Environnement et Changement climatique Canada









Copper River International Migratory Bird Initiative: **Erin** Cooper





Panama 2023

Goals



Why CRIMBI?

Our investments in the US must be protected through our work Internationally

Conserving birds that use the Copper River Delta can be done more effectively through the development of international partnerships

Shorebirds face an uncertain future

Everyone likes birds!







CRIMBI Meetings

- Every other year
- Dispersed through the flyway
- Cordova, Mexico (2), Panama, Colombia, California (2), Washington State







WHSRN Site Dedication

- Local community, politicians and international guests
- US visitors promote the importance of the event
- Opportunity for USFS to present at the dedication



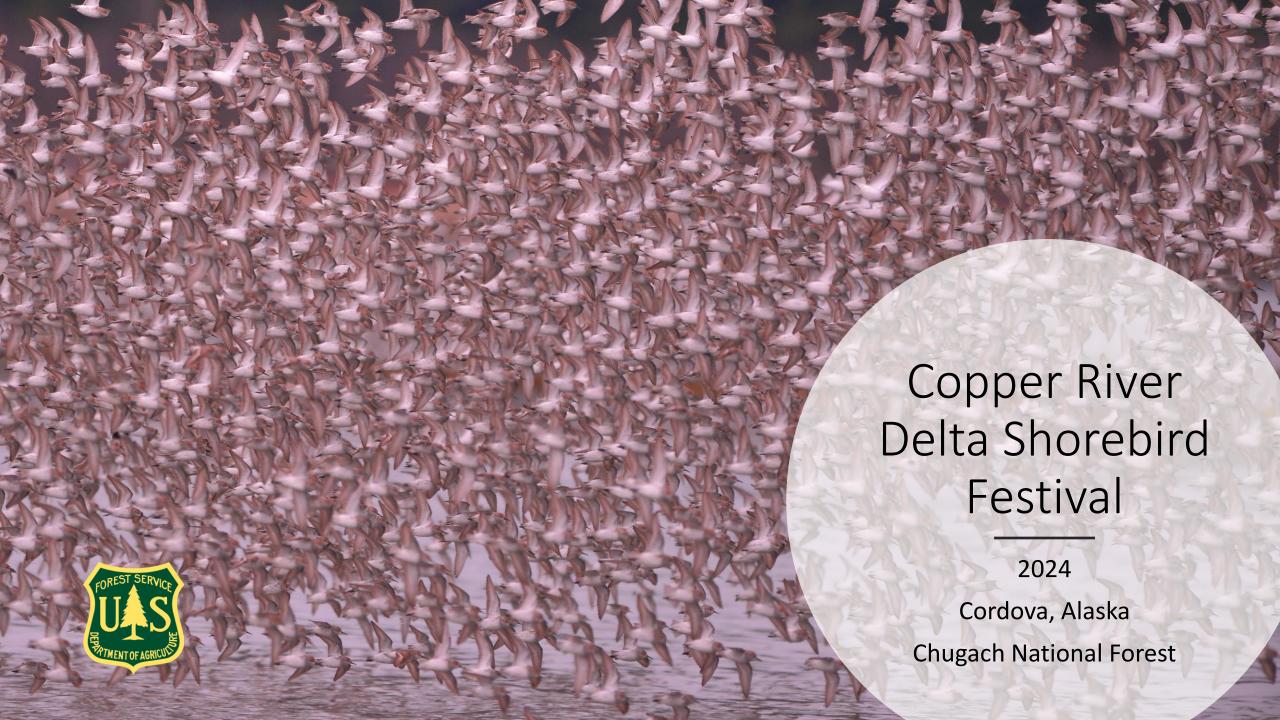


Latin American Conservation Issues

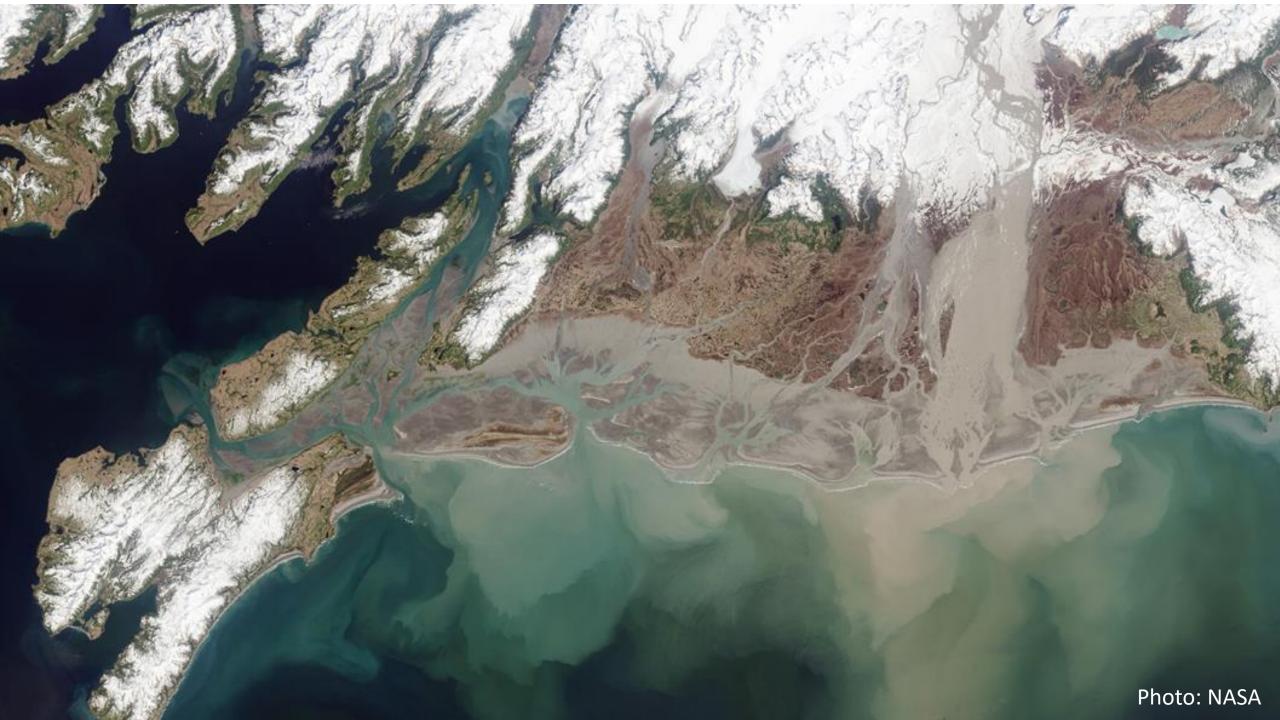
- Populations in close proximity to critical habitat
- Pollution
- Development
- Capacity in Conservation Organizations

Copper River Delta Shorebird Festival: Erin Cooper









Shorebird Festival 2024

- Promoted as a Family Friendly event- not just for bird nerds
 - Building stewardship and the local economy
- 2 keynote speakers
 - Subhankar Banerjee from University of New Mexico
 - Bianca Bosarreyes from Fundeaco in Guatemala
- Field Trips with USFS Biologists
- Community Activities
 - Kids activities
 - Biking event
 - Art workshops
 - ID workshops
- Over 200 participants
- Local, National and International Partners
 - (Chamber of Commerce, Science Center, Audubon, USFS International Programs, CRIMBI)



























Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group: Rick Lanctot





Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group

Launched in 2006

Goals:

- 1. Raise the public's awareness of shorebirds
- 2. Promote research, monitoring, management, conservation and education/outreach relevant to shorebirds in Western Hemisphere
- 3. To provide a structured forum to facilitate, coordinate, and enhance the exchange of shorebird information
- 4. Promote range-wide management and conservation of shorebirds in the Western Hemisphere

Website: westernshorebirdgroup.org See our Executive Committee!

Facebook page: Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group

Contact Rick Lanctot (Richard Lanctot@fws.gov) to join WHSG listserv

Main effort is holding biennial scientific meetings that rotate between the Americas.



10th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Conference

Sackville, New Brunswick, August 11-16, 2024 https://www.whsg2024.com/





Lead Organizers: Diana Hamilton, Coni Rivas, Julie Paquet



Shep, the Semipalmated Sandpiper, and attendees of X Western Hemisphere Group meeting.

Largest Participation to date

- > 268 in-face participants
- 46 online attendees
- 23 countries
- 35 organizations across the Western Hemisphere and Europe



Science Program

Plenary speakers (https://www.whsg2024.com/plenary-speakers)

- Bob Gill, "Alpine Nesting Shorebirds: Nesting Strategies, Logistical Challenges, and the Need for an Orthopedic Specialist"
- Sandra Giner, The State of Knowledge of Shorebirds and Their Habitats in Venezuela: Perspectives for Their Conservation
- Luis Espinosa, "From Chiloe to Alaska: Migration and Protection of the Hudsonian Godwit (Limosa haemastica).

Science Program

- 3 and ½ days of presentations (3 sessions simultaneously)
- Workshops
 - NABC Banding Workshop band certification
 - Field and Analytical Methods to Estimate Shorebird Abundance Using R
 - Motus Stations Best practices
 - Discovering Shorebirds Curriculum
 - Drivers of Decline
 - Social Marketing for Disturbance
 - Updating Shorebird Accounts in Birds of the World
- Species Working Groups: BBSA, WHIM, LEYE, SESA, PUSA, other informal
- Issue Working Groups: Shrimp farming, Human Recreation
- Flyway meetings: Atlantic, Pacific, Midcontinent, Inter-flyway
- Many, many informal meetings

Lifetime Achievement Awards

Allan Baker Lifetime Achievement Award for Shorebird Conservation

- Patricia González
- Brad Andres

Lewis W. Oring Lifetime Achievement Award for Shorebird Research

- Cheri- Gratto-Trevor
- Erica Nol



Other Awards

Pablo Canevari Conservation Award

Sandra Giner

Linking Sites Award

• Jim Chu

Best oral presentation

Lindsay Hermanns

Best poster presentation

Erin MacMillan









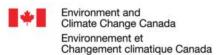


10th Western Hemisphere Shorebird Group Meeting



























- 48 Latin American professionals
- 9 Latin American students full funding
- 14 North American students at some level







Next WHSG Meeting

Organizers:

Daniel Galindo Espinosa, Eduardo Palacios Castro

Location: La Paz, Baja California Sur, Mexico

Dates: Nov. 16-20, 2026



East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership: Rick Lanctot



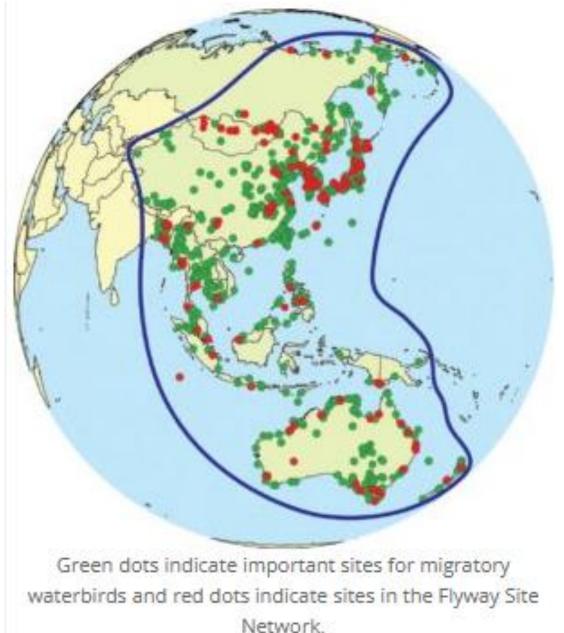


Report on Activities by EAAFP Shorebird Working Group

31 August 2023 - 18 October 2024

David Li
Chair, EAAFP Shorebird Working Group

East Asian Austral-Asian Flyway Partnership



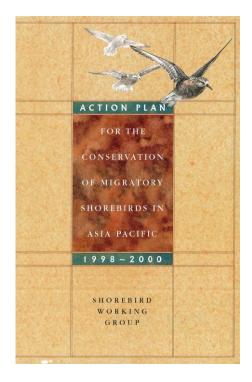
4/12/2024 50

History of Shorebird Working Group

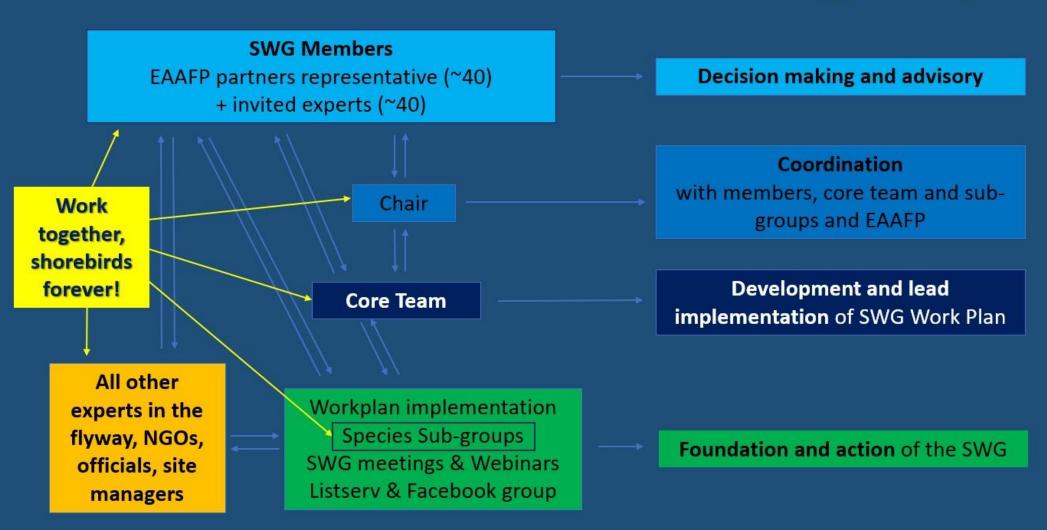
- Set up in 1998 by Wetlands International, with the first meeting held in Shanghai.
- The group reported to the Asia-Pacific Migratory Waterbird Conservation Committee. It later evolved into East Asian-Australasian Flyway Partnership (EAAFP) in 2006.
- Coordinated by a Shorebird Flyway Officer from Wetlands International-Oceania (Doug Watkins) till 2006 with funding support mainly from the government of Australia.
- Former chairs of SWG: Mark Barter, Lew Young, Ken Gosbell, Rick Lanctot. Current Chair: David Li.
- Historic activities focused on surveys in Yellow Sea and training programme.



1st SWG meeting, Shanghai, China. March 1998



Structure of EAAFP Shorebird Working Group



4/12/2024

• **SWG core team members.** The term of service for the core team will be 2 years which may be renewed at the discretion of the SWG members at meeting of members, as stated in the TOR. Eleven core team members were endorsed by the SWG members.

Name	Member status	Organisation	Email
Dr. Rick Lanctot	Representative of partners (USA)	USFWS, Alaska	richard_lanctot@fws.gov
Mr. David Li	Representative of partners (Singapore)	National Parks Board, Singapore	davidlizuowei@gmail.com
Dr. Christoph Zoeckler	Representative of partners (Manfred – Hermsen Foundation)	Manfred-Hermsen Foundation	Christoph_zoeckler@m-h-s.org
Dr. Tatsuya Amano	Representative of partners (Japan)	University of Queensland	t.amano@uq.edu.au
Dr. Jia Yifei	Representative from EAAFP	Beijing Forestry University	jiayifei@bjfu.edu.cn
Mr. Yin Yuzhu	Representative of partners (Mangrove Foundation)	Shenzhen Mangrove Foundation	yinyuzhu@mcf.org.cn
Mr. Chris Hassell	Representative of partners (AWSG)	Australasian Wader Studies Group	turnstone@wn.com.au
Mr. Phil Straw	Invited member	Avian and Wetlands Ecologist	philstraw@avifaunaresearch.com
Dr. Micha Jackson	Invited Member	University of Queensland	micha.v.jackson@gmail.com
Ms. Katherine Leung	Invited member	Global Flyway Network	katsoftdrinks@yahoo.com.hk
Dr. Chan Ying Chi	Invited member	Swiss Ornithological Institute	chan.yingchi@gmail.com

SWG Goal:

To promote, facilitate and coordinate shorebird conservation, management, education and research activities within the EAAF and to improve communication between shorebird specialists and managers in the flyway.

SWG Work Plan 2023-2025.

- 1. Support monitoring of migratory shorebirds
- 2. Support conservation of shorebird species and their habitat
- Support capacity building and promote science for shorebird conservation and management
- 4. Enhance communication relating to shorebird conservation

SWG Activities

- Coordinate and support task forces and subgroups
 - Spoon –billed Sandpiper Task Force
 - Far Eastern Curlew Task Force
 - Task Force on Illegal Hunting, Taking and Trade of Migratory Waterbirds
 - Yellow Sea Ecoregion Task Force
 - Monitoring of Waterbird Populations and Sites Task Force
 - Nordmann's Greenshank Sub-group
- Update on the Shorebird Colour Marking Protocol lead by Katherine Leung & Chris Hassell.
- Organized the first EAAF Shorebird Conservation Forum on 18 Oct 2024 jointly with the Beijing Forestry University, Jiangsu Yancheng National Rare Bird Nature Reserve, Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve (Singapore) and Mangrove Conservation Foundation.
- Support shorebird proposals submitted to the EAAF Partnership Secretariat (\$5K/year)

SWG Activities

SHOREBIRD

WORKING

OUR WORK PLAN & ACTIVITIES

Support capacity building and promote science for shorebird conservation and management

We conducted the first shorebird science meeting with partners in 2020. We are currently planning more shorebird conservation meetings with partners in the EAAF.

Furthermore, we are reviewing and updating the shorebird colour flagging protocol of the EAAF. We are also developing a concept for collaborative migration ecology studies along the EAAF.



Join our activities and support our work plan!

https://eaaflyway.net/shorebird-working-group

East Asian - Australasian Flyway Shorebird

4. Enhance communication relating to shorebird conservation

We conduct annual members' meetings. Additionally, regular webinars are held every one to two months. We also engage experts and interested parties through frequent communication via Listserv and Facebook.

Outreach materials developed



OUR STRUCTURE

Chair

Core Team

SWG Meetings & Webinars Listsery & Facebook Group

Vorkplan Activities

Species Sub-groups

WG Members:

Work

together,

shorebirds

forever!

All other experts in

the flyway, NGOs,

officials, site

anagers

rited experts (~40)

AAFP partners representative (-40)

coordinate shorebird

conservation, management,

to improve communication

and managers in the flyway.

between shorebird specialists

Decision making and

Coordination with

sub-groups and

members, core team,

Development and lead

Foundation and

action of the SWG

education and research activities within the EAAF and **OUR WORK PLAN & ACTIVITIES**

> Support monitoring of migratory shorebirds

> > We provide technical support and advice for shorebird monitoring throughout the EAAF.

Support conservation of shorebird species and their

> Our focus includes the Nordmann's Greenshank, with potential to develop a conservation plan and support monitoring of important sites.

Additionally, focus is placed o the conservation of Dunlin, w efforts directed toward understanding declines.

We are also working closely existing task forces (TF), suc the Spoon-billed Sandpiper Far Eastern Curlew TF, Yell Sea TF, Illegal Hunting TF, support shorebird conserva









EAAF Meeting of the Partners

- * Brisbane, Australia, 12-17 March 2023
- * Philippines, 8-14 November 2025



4/12/2024

SWG webinar & meetings

EAAFP SWG Core Team meetings: 25 Jan 2024, 24 April 2024, 25 July 2024, 8 October 2024

WEBINARS

#1: Dunlin Conservation, 23 April 2024

#2: Shorebird Monitoring, 6 June 2024

#3: Asian Dowitcher Conservation, 20 Sept 2024

Future webinars

- Capacity building for shorebird conservation
- Collaborative migration ecology studies along the EAAF
- Shorebird monitoring and status updates (by country or region)

Thank you for your support and participation!



Facebook: East Asian-Australasian Flyway Shorebird Conservation Network Listserv: eaafswg.lists.fws.gov

Road to Recovery: **Katie Christie**







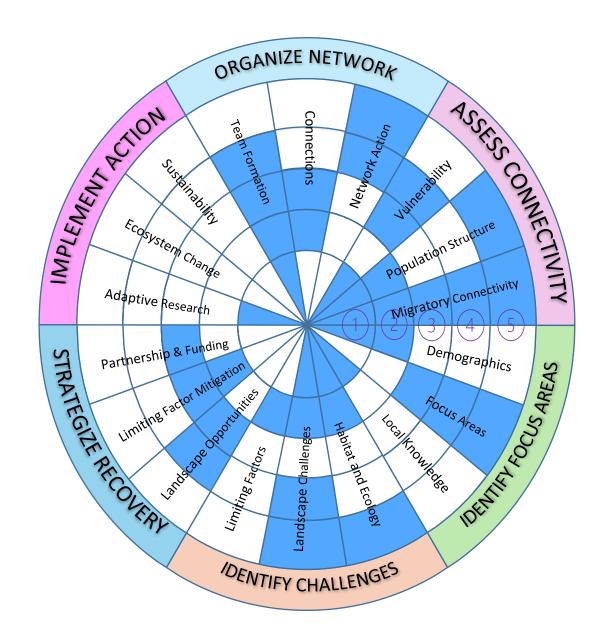
Responding to 3 Billion Birds Lost



Engage and empower Species Working Groups

- Creating tools and engagement opportunities to grow knowledge & capacity
- Seeking sustainable funding for species recovery

Species recovery wheel





To Sustainably Recover Bird Populations R2R Needs...

- Research focused on identifying limiting factors and key habitats
- Research identifying migratory connections
- Effective community engagement
- Adaptive research on effective management strategies
- Social science research

A passion for birds and a commitment to the practice of inclusive and sustainable conservation



- Visit r2rbirds.org
- Subscribe to R2R announcements: email r2rbirds@gmail.com
- Participate in R2R virtual sessions:
 - Monthly Species Working Group webinars
 - Engagement Sessions (e.g., Future Leaders in Conservation)
 - Species Working Group Forums
 - Future virtual and in-person Workshops

Align your skills and passion with a Species Working Group









- Current Alaska Shorebird
 Working Groups
- We need more!

International Wader Study Group: Dan Ruthrauff





- Montpellier, FR
- 150 participants
- 48 presentations, no concurrent sessions
- 3 workshops
- 2 plenary presentations (Pierrick Bocher & Veronica Mendez)
- 2 ½ days of presentations & posters, 1 day of excursions
- 2025: to be determined (Piersma et al. in Friesland?)



Tuxedni Bay industrial port for proposed mine: Dan Ruthrauff





Lake Clark National Park and Preserve

Resource Analysis for the Johnson Tract Transportation and Port Site Easements





What is Happening?

The National Park Service (NPS) is requesting your input as it prepares to conduct a resource analysis to evaluate two proposed easements needed to provide access to the Johnson Tract within Lake Clark National Park (Park). This comment period, ending on June 24, 2024, represents the first opportunity for you to get involved in the project. After gathering public input, the NPS anticipates preparing a resource analysis for public review and input, tentatively planned for the fall of 2024.

How to give input

Lake Clark National Park and Preserve welcomes your input and comments during this civic engagement process. If you wish to give input, please submit comments and questions to:

ONLINE* (preferred): https://parkplanning.nps.gov/LACLJohns onTractEasements

MAIL*:

Lake Clark National Park & Preserve Johnson Tract Transportation and Port Site Easements Attention: Superintendent 240 West 5th Avenue, Suite 236 Anchorage, AK 99501

This public comment period ends on June 24, 2024.

How to stay informed

For more information on Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, visit the park's website at: https://www.nps.gov/lacl

Background

During the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) lands selection process, Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) was not able to make its full land selection. Through the courts and a subsequent negotiation process with the Department of the Interior and the State of Alaska, the Cook Inlet Land Exchange was passed by Congress and signed by the President in 1976 (1976 Act) to fulfill CIRI's ANCSA land selections.

As part of the 1976 Act, CIRI relinquished ANCSA land selections around Lake Clark and in exchange received the 20,942acre Johnson Tract, a known mineral prospect on the west side of Cook Inlet, 125 miles southwest

of Anchorage, Alaska, and at the head of the Johnson River. The



View of the Johnson River in December 2023, looking southeast.

Johnson Tract consists of two smaller tracts: the South Tract, an 11,342-acre tract where CIRI received both surface and subsurface rights, and the North Tract, a 9,600-acre tract where CIRI received only the subsurface rights.

The 1976 Act specified that the Secretary of Interior (Secretary) shall convey two easements—a transportation easement and a port site easement—across what would become Lake Clark National Park. The easements are to allow for the transportation and shipping of minerals extracted from the Johnson Tract. The 1976 Act requires that the Secretary and CIRI mutually agree upon the location of these two easements.

In 2019, CIRI and HighGold mining company (now Contango Ore, Inc.) entered into a 10-year lease of the Johnson Tract for mineral exploration. In 2020, HighGold worked with the NPS for authorization to access NPS land around the Johnson Tract for certain activities associated with their mineral exploration. In January of 2023, CIRI began discussions with NPS to advance the conveyance of the easements.

Proposed Easement Areas

The locations of the proposed port site and transportation corridor to reach the Johnson Tract are still being explored. The image to the right shows CIRI's preliminary proposal for transportation and port site options.

Next Steps

The conveyance of these easements is not subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as specified by Section 910 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The NPS will prepare a resource analysis to evaluate the proposed easements and will release the document for a 14-day public review period this fall (2024).

The resource analysis will evaluate the proposed easement areas as well as the site-specific environmental consequences of initial planning activities associated with CIRI's development of the transportation corridor and port site. Planning will be limited to activities that are reasonably necessary for CIRI to design, engineer, and permit their project. Those activities may include geotechnical assessment, hydrological assessments, and cultural and environmental resource surveys. The resource analysis will help NPS ensure that appropriate terms and conditions are included in the easements.

*Note: Comments will not be accepted by fax, email, or by any method other than those specified above. Bulk comments in any format (hard copy or electronic) submitted on behalf of others will not be accepted. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment, including the personal identifying information, may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee we would be able to do so.



Proposed corridor alignment and port site easement options from CIRI as of October 2023.

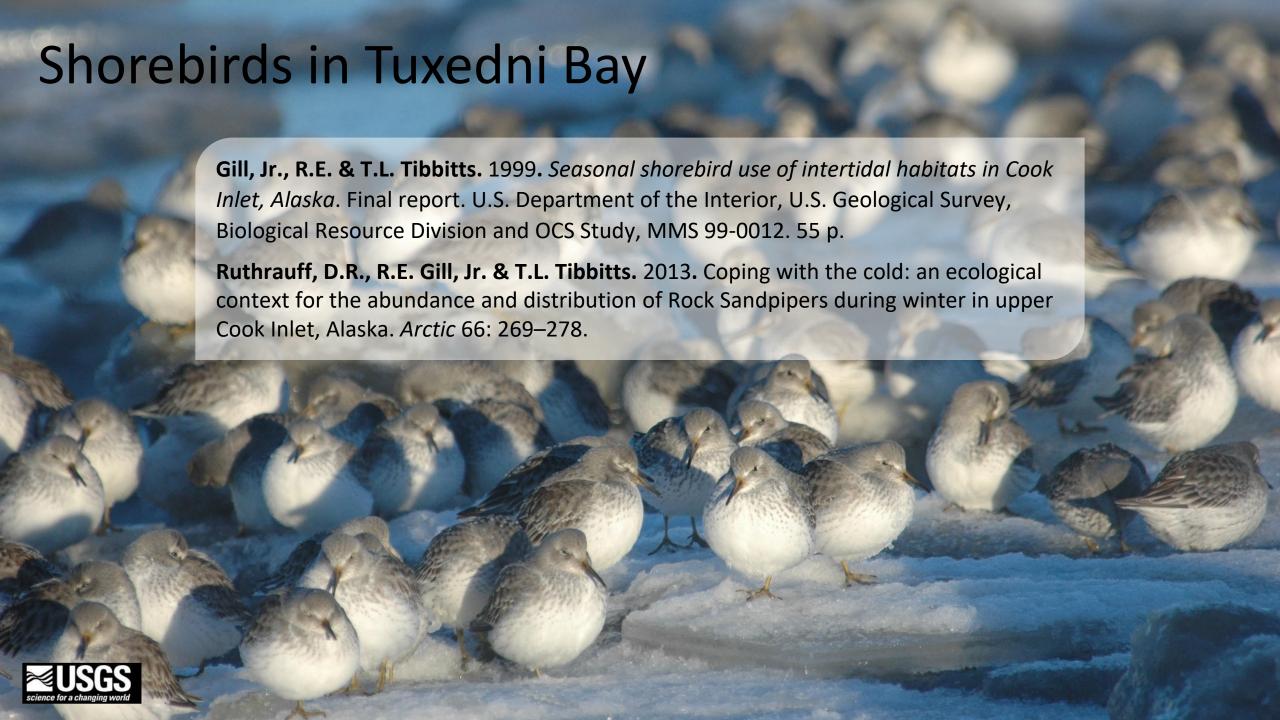


Above: View of Tuxedni Bay and Channel from Bear Valley.

Left: View of Tuxedni Channel and Chisik Island from Bear Valley.





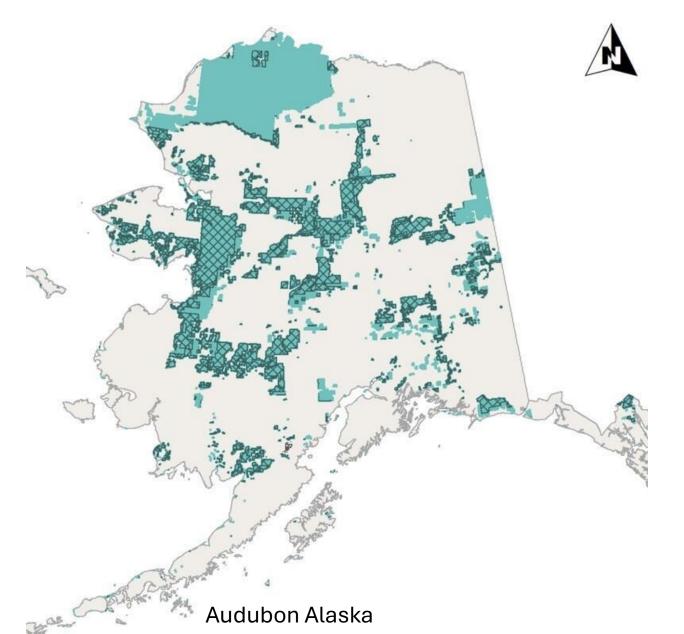




Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 17(d)(1) withdrawls: **Sarah Hoepfner**



D-1 Land Withdrawals



ANCSA 17(d)(1) withdrawals

- Under ANCSA in 1971
 - 28 million acres, overseen by BLM
 - Possibility for development, mining, extractive activities
 - Once open for development it can't be reversed
- Important lands for Native Alaskans, subsistence use, diversity, caribou, salmon
- Breeding grounds and staging areas for shorebirds
 - 3 species and 5 subspecies breed solely within these D-1 lands
 - Bristle-thighed Curlew and Red Knot

Update August 27, 2024

- ~15,000 public comments!
- Half of Alaska's tribes commented

- EIS found that lifting all or even some of the withdrawals could have lasting negative impacts on wildlife, vegetation, and permafrost
- DOI finalized protections!
 - Continue to prohibit mining, drilling, developments
- Retain D-1 protections

Letters of support from ASG

• Write letters of support from ASG Executive Committee

- Reach out to a member of the ExCo
 - Draft letter for them to sign
 - Suggest proposed development projects
 - Past examples

Now more important than ever to stand up for important lands

Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival: Marcy Melville





every year, we have roughly:





130+ species recorded



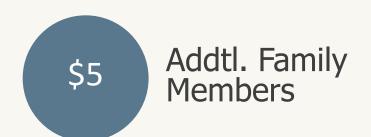


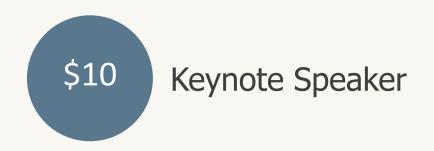


250+
volunteer
hours logged

2024 festival pricing

\$20 Festival Pass







2024 Attendees

794	registrant
291 8 181 5	'add-on' tickets, people attended free tours/events/activities
1103	people attended activities with a fee, cost from \$5 -\$750
40%	people heard about the festival by word of mouth















audience and demographics

locals and visitors

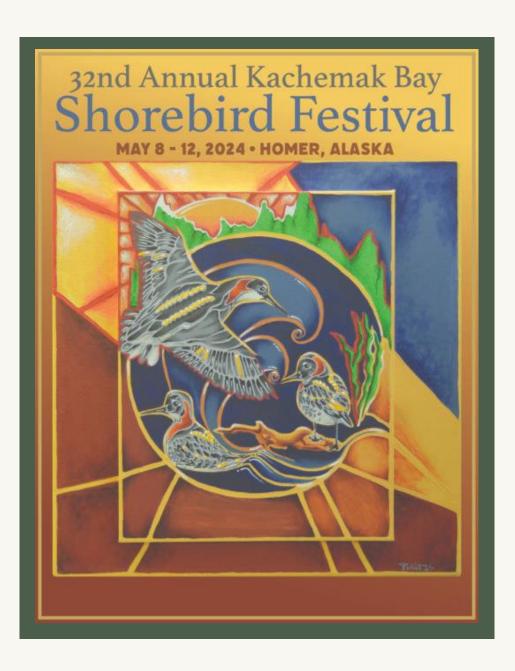
- 80% from AK, with growing interest from the lower 48
- 65% live on Kenai

young and bla

- 14 family-friendly events last
- 16aall-abilities events last

year new and dedicated

- 25% first time
- 60 attended for 2-5
- \$\frac{1}{2} \square \text{have attended for 10+} years

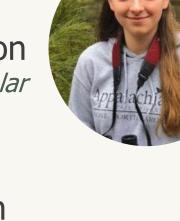


Featured speakers and artist



Ted Floyd
Keynote Speaker

Adrianna Nelson Schantz Scholar





Torie Rhyan
Festival Artist

junior and teen birders

 43% of families in attendance included a Junior or Teen Birder

Interactive bird walks and crafts

Expanded levels and prizes

Crafts and educational projects





Utqiagvik Migratory Bird Festival: Lindsay Hermanns



2024 Utqiagvik Migratory Bird Festival





































What: Bird festival: connection with migratory birds

Where: Arctic

Why: Importance of place, sharing

When: Breeding season

Who: All

Participation!

Events: Art Night

2024 Budget

Support Future

