

JV Science Team Meeting Agenda (1/31 – 2/1/2018)
Upper Mississippi River and Great Lakes Region Joint Venture
(In conjunction with Midwest Marsh Bird Working Group meeting)

The JV Science Team and Midwest Marsh Bird Working Group meetings will be held at the Hilton Milwaukee City Center, 509 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI 53203. Reservations should have been made under the room block set aside for the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference at the group rate \$129/night (cut-off date was 5 January 2018). To make a reservation, you may call the Hilton directly (telephone 414-935-5940) or use one of several other hotels within walking distance of the meeting location.

With substantial membership overlap, the JV Waterbird and Waterfowl Committees are invited to join the Marsh Bird Working Group meeting (8 AM to 5 PM 31 January). The JV Landbird Committee also has planned a workshop on 31 January for one-half day (1:00 to 5:00 PM). See details below for these two workshops and for the 1 February portion of the JV Science Team meeting.

31 January, Wednesday 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Midwest Marsh Bird Workshop (Marsh Bird Working Group along with JV Waterbird and Waterfowl Committee members) 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Location: Wright A Ballroom – 4th Floor

Workshops leads – Rachael Pierce and Mike Monfils (co-chairs, JV Waterbird Committee and Midwest Marsh Bird Working Group)

Workshop goal: Reassess the goals and objectives of the Midwest Secretive Marsh Bird Survey and determine next steps for the Midwest Marsh Bird Working Group

- Provide an overview of the last 5 years of marsh bird monitoring data and how it's being used
- Review stakeholder survey results
- Identify regional marsh bird management priorities that are and are not being informed by the current survey
- Discuss potential changes to current survey effort
- Identify recommendations for the marsh bird survey going forward

JV Landbird Committee Workshop, Wednesday 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Location: Wright B Ballroom – 4th Floor

Workshop leads – Tom Will and Dave Ewert (co-chairs, JV Landbird Committee)

Workshop goal: JV Landbird Planning and Conservation – plotting a course for the future

- Framing landbird conservation guidance for the JV
 - 2016 PIF Plan, Regional Assessment, and 2012 JV Partner Survey
- Revising a Landbird Strategy more useful to JV Partners
 - JV Board feedback from October 2017 meeting (Katie and Kelly)
- Broad context for developing a new JV Landbird Strategy
 - Focal species habitat groups (e.g., forest types, grasslands)

- Linking priority groups with landscape-scale drivers (threats)
 - highly altered landscapes (e.g., agricultural)
 - deterioration of forest understory conditions
 - pesticides and contaminants (direct and food-chain effects)
 - loss of habitat complexes (population source areas)
 - decline in migratory stopover provisioning capacity
- What specific products do partners need, and at what scales?
 - Getting the input we need from the right people
 - Linking landbird priorities with other agency priorities
 - Linking bird scientists and land managers as we develop strategies
- Mapping a course for JV Landbird Strategy revision – next steps
 - What information / questions should be presented at JV Board in March?
 - What additional capacity is needed on the JV Landbird Committee?

1 February, Thursday 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Location: Wright B Ballroom – 4th Floor

8:00 – Noon Full JV Science Team

- Science Team introductions, new members, and meeting overview (Soulliere)
Recognized the 15-year participants.
- Project / program updates, with questions (10-20 minutes, plus handouts)
 - Avian Conservation Assessment Database status (Will
PIF ACAD has been run a long time to assess vulnerability using 5 criteria for all bird groups. Assess pop trend, pop threats, and BRC scale threats. Scores produced in an Excel database (draft) for breeding. Use for a foundation by FWS or state database. Next, doing the same task for the non-breeding season. Will be completed using eBird. BBS was a primary data source, then eBird was also used, but with rule sets for each.
 - Great Lakes Sea Duck Monitoring Workshop (Straub)
Project funded by Sea Duck JV, to help fill information gap by bringing scientists and managers together. Good representation by academics, government and non-gov organizations. Pre-meeting questionnaire related to monitoring and information gaps on sea ducks. Working on a single database with all available information, will be reported in JV technical report. Dist, threat, pop dynamics and harvest were the three meeting themes. Covered the various presentations and meta data being compiled following the effort. Compiled results were review from survey pre-meeting and during meeting.
 - Overview on NFWF wetland restoration evaluation plan (Gates)
Bob was asked to serve as a technical consultant for the Great Lakes restoration program. This effort has a business plan with a focus restoring coastal wetlands and connectivity. This effort is using the JV plan for waterfowl and shorebirds, with focus on use days. Using 10% of waterfowl and shorebird needs based on JV plan objectives. Bob is helping evaluate how well they are meeting energy-based goals. Energetic

accounting tool 3 years and 5 years post project to measure impact providing energy resources. Teir 2 includes conducting bird surveys to measure bird use.

- Modeling and mapping for JV waterbird focal species (Al Saffar)
Reviewed the approach to target conservation for waterbirds and people. LSI tables for focus species was first of five parameters. Effort to integrated biological and social objectives. True social science data can be used by partners to help confirm targeting.
- JV website/communications update, feedback (Sidie-Slettedahl & Koch)
Ana discussed how the JV website is a dinosaur and there will be an effort to convert it to a peregrine falcon. Board expressed an interest in the update. ACJV and Sonoran JV were identified as a good website model. Ana and Katie will be seeking assistance from communication specialists.

Break (20 minutes)

- IWMM – Management, monitoring, and cost benefit example (Loges)
Monitoring and management linking at the Two-Rivers NWR. Brian provided historical background of program, and then covered the combination of bird survey data and dominant plant species (veg data). Drawdowns are attempted annually, and some years it works great (esp. drought years). Calculated probability of failure, with 80% probability in June, half that with a late summer drawdown. Estimated DUDs / acre of water in each unit. Small units were relatively high cost. Carp are doing the disturbance thus no need for mechanical disturbance and less cost. Doing the same type of analysis at Shiawassee – monitoring to inform performance and objective achievement.
- Midwest Migration Network: advances in understanding migration (Bryan Lenz, Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory)
Midwest Migration Network update began in 2012 with establishment of a steering committee, then development of a strategic action plan. Several partners from many agencies and organizations. Annual workshops 2014-2017. Identified various data collection methods (e.g., banding and ground surveys, radar and acoustics, telemetry (Motus focus). Formed research initiatives based on these three methods. Looking at how the MMN will be working going forward, top down or bottom up. Six banding workshops planned across Midwest states during 2018. Potential great partner with Landbird Subcommittee, including airspace as a habitat.
- Conservation planning, Prairie Pothole Joint Venture (Sean Fields, PPJV)
Sean reviewed the many partners in the PPJV and reviewed key points of the 2017 JV Implementation Plan update, with focus on waterfowl. Something new for this revision is State Tactical Plans for each state. Loss of grasslands is greatest bird conservation challenge for this region. Very wet since 1994, but still wet and dry cycles. Also for the first time, they included hunter RRR objectives. Using four grassland nesting birds and working with multiple JVs with a full life-cycle model approach. Working with USDA on a native prairie layer.
- Avian Knowledge Network and JV Science Team opportunities (Koch)

Start with entire network and stepping down linked efforts with the science team. AKN is made up of multiple components: data, people contributing, and tech support. Data collected and achieved using many protocol, common security and data security. AKN platform is delivered by various nodes. Primary is by are geographic nodes and data sharing across nodes. Katie then review the Midwest Avian Data Center. Millions of data points. EBird is really beefing-up available data. **Check of Marsh Bird Data** to fill information gaps. Potential data source for grant applications, planning, etc., but currently must access data through Katie. We can incorporate spatial model DST maps into MADC. Currently Katie (25%) and a NPS employee (25%) are the caretakers and supporters of the MADC. Six items on Katie's wish list: integrate JV science, provide expertise, promote and require data be entered, experienced R programmers, specific needs for future developments to make more useful to JV, adding staff capacity. Grant apps. -- What is there (shape field) and what could be there.

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch (on your own)

Reconvene in Wright B Ballroom by 1:15 PM

1:15 – 3:15 PM Bird-Group Committee Break-out Sessions

Waterbird Committee (Pierce and Monfils, Co-Chairs)

- JV Waterbird Habitat Conservation Strategy status
 - Draft Strategy final thoughts
 - Marsh bird population estimates (Appendix D concerns)
- Summary / 10-page marketing document
- Research and monitoring specific priorities for JV website
- Midwest Marsh Bird Workshop closing thoughts

Final thoughts on strategy. Final map with social values. Providing text that providing text that different models should be focused on. Comfortable merging document with the waterfowl strategy. Want to make sure waterbird key topics are covered in marketing document.

Marsh Bird Working Group summary. Meeting went well and committee thought having other science team members was very helpful. Amy Derosiour was a very good facilitator. Workshop resulted in a 3-year plan for action.

Waterfowl Committee (Coluccy and Soulliere, Co-Chairs)

- November Black Duck JV meeting update
- November Sea Duck JV meeting update
 - Sea Duck sub-committee (monitoring focus)
- Future of Waterfowl Management meeting and NAWMP update
 - Priority Landscapes Map

JV Waterfowl Habitat Conservation Strategy final thoughts – strategy is complete, we are simply converting some of the quality editing from the waterbird strategy over to waterfowl plan.

Research and monitoring specific priorities for JV website – two broad monitoring objectives. We plan to meet this spring at Winous Point OH to generate specific research and monitoring priorities to update the V website.

- TME / SAV carrying capacity projects
- Summary / 10-page marketing document [flashing piece for implementers and administrators](#).

Landbird Committee (Will and Ewert, Co-chairs)

- Connecting landbird conservation beyond the JV boundaries
 - Murmuration and other grassland alliances (VanBeek)
 - Stepping down continental BPOP trend objectives – the Grassland Bird Population Objective Regional Tool (Fields, VanBeek)
 - What is the role of the JV Landbird Strategy in advancing full life cycle conservation beyond JV borders?
- Knowledge gaps that need to be addressed before we begin working on the he JV Landbird Strategy revision
- Landbird Committee membership and co-chair succession planning
[About to launch into revising the landbird strategy, will be done in a way to be useful to partners. Defining the strategy as open to structure and form ... maybe portfolios or on-line tools. Will scope utility. Made a list of potential partners at different scales who would be using this JV tool. JV Board is a key partner, and Tom will present to the JV Board but also to partners / managers who actually do the on the groundwork. Creating an implementation network. Scoping is first step; want to get it right so maybe a year. Also developing a set of conversation guidelines. Regional threat to landbirds for grasslands, forests, and airspace / stopover habitat. All will be synced with continental plan. Scope utility while constructing network for plan development and implementations. Focus on PIF priority species, with focus especially on GWWW and HENS for habitat objectives.](#)

3:15 – 4:30 PM Summaries and review

Bird-group session summaries reported to full Science Team (Committee Chairs)
 JV budget and predicted flex-funds available for science evaluation (Forbes)
[We still do not have a Director. We are under a continuing resolution and we were recently furloughed and we may be again next week. Still do not have a budget, yet JVs have strong bipartisan support. We see small cuts, but we are currently under a hold for all funding mechanisms ... that means flex funds are on hold. We cannot put out a grant announcement. There is more review required by FWS administrators for funding proposals. When notice of funding is approved, there may be a mig bird JV alignment in the future.](#)

Closing comments

4:30 Science Team meeting adjourned

Science Team Membership

Technical Committee members: John Coluccy (DU), Mike Eichholz (SIU), Dave Ewert (TNC), Bob Gates (OSU), Dave Luukkonen (MI DNR), Frank Nelson (MDC), Mark Nelson (USFS), Rich Schultheis (KS PW), Greg Soulliere (FWS-JV), Jake Straub (UWSP), and Wayne Thogmartin (USGS).

Ad hoc Bird-group Subcommittee members: Mohammed Al-Saffar (FWS-JV), Erin Giese (UWGB), Allisyn-Marie Gillet (IN DNR), Shawn Graff (ABC), Heath Hagy (FWS-MB), Dan Holm (IL DNR), Katie Koch (FWS-MB), Brian Loges (FWS-Refuges), Nat Miller (Audubon), Mike Monfils (MI NFI), Ben O'Neal (Franklin College), Rachael Pierce (FWS-MB), Brad Potter (FWS-LCC), Brendan Shirkey (WPMC), Anna Sidie-Slettedahl (FWS-JV), John Simpson (WPBC), Chris Tonra (OSU), Kelly VanBeek (FWS-MB), Mike Ward (INHS), Tom Will (FWS-MB), and Linda Wires (UMN).

Committees of the UMRGL Region Joint Venture Science Team (*December 2017*)

JV Science Team

Greg Soulliere, Chair

Bird-group Committees

(Ad Hoc committees: Technical guidance through species and modeling expertise for JV conservation planning and evaluation)

Technical Committee

(Standing committee):
Technical guidance through science-evaluation proposal reviews and recommendations for JV financial support)

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David Ewert (TNC)

Robert Gates (OSU)

Dave Luukkonen (MI DNR)

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Mark Nelson (USFS)

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