



All Bird Workshop

North American Bird Conference

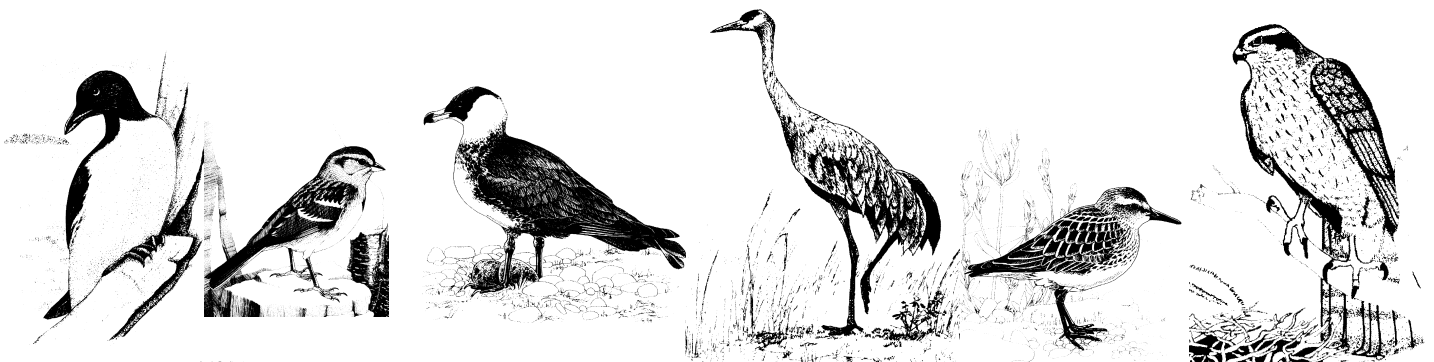
5 March 2009

Wedgetown, Anchorage, Alaska

WALLEN

in Conjunction with the 9th Alaska Bird Conference

contact: John Wright, ADFG, (907)459-7292 <john_wright@fishgame.state.ak.us>



All Bird Coordination Workshop

5 March 2002, Wedgewood Resort, Fairbanks

Agenda

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|------|---|---|
| 0900 | Waterfowl | Tom Rothe (ADF&G),
Carey Smith (USFWS) |
| 0920 | Landbirds | Steve Matsuoka (USGS/BRD) |
| 0940 | Shorebirds | Brian McCaffery, USFWS |
| 1000 | Waterbirds/Seabirds | Dave Irons, USFWS |
| 1020 | BREAK | |
| 1030 | Raptors | Phil Schempf, USFWS |
| 1050 | Important Bird Areas | Stan Senner, AK Audubon |
| 1110 | International Programs | Kent Wohl, USFWS |
| 1130 | Habitat Joint Ventures | Carey Smith, USFWS |
| Noon | LUNCH | |
| 1315 | North American Bird
Conservation Initiative | Bob Altman, ABC |
| 1345 | Integration | Rex Johnson, USFWS |
| 1400 | BREAK | |
| 1415 | Discussion -- Coordination
Geography, BCRs
Species Prioritization, within and across plans
Inventory, abundance and distribution, data gathering
Habitat conservation
Program development and funding | |
| 1630 | FUTURE
Coordinating Committee
Schedule Meeting | |

Report on Alaska All Bird Workshop
John Wright, Alaska Department of Fish & Game
6 March 2003

A day-long “All Bird Coordination Workshop” was held on 5 March 2002 in Fairbanks, Alaska in conjunction with the 9th Alaska Bird Conference. The All Bird workshop was held the day before the start of the Alaska Bird Conference and coincided with a workshop of the Alaska Shorebird Working Group (see attached schedule). Over 155 participants registered for the conference and workshops, and approximately 70 attended the All Bird workshop (participant list attached).

The program for the All Bird workshop began with 8 presentations on existing bird conservation programs in Alaska, followed by 3 presentations describing efforts to integrate all birds and habitat conservation, and lastly an open discussion about coordination of bird conservation in Alaska (agenda attached). Our invited speaker, Rex Johnson (FWS Habitat and Population Evaluation Team leader), gave an excellent talk on use of spatial modeling with strategic planning to attain all bird conservation through habitat conservation and enhancement. His concrete examples of how conservation can be practically achieved using geo-spatial methods provided biologists something to chew on beyond theoretical planning schemes. He stressed the importance of working with local habitat and land managers to achieve results.

The discussion at the end of the day ranged from existing programs and plans, through possible means of coordinating Alaskan programs including allocation of resources and shared system of prioritization, and back to possible methods of organization of a coordinated overall program (discussion notes attached). Participants felt that national programs were developing well but that the connection with regional efforts could be stronger – and that the next step down from regional/local plans to conservation action was not at all well developed. Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) are becoming accepted as logical units but Pelagic Conservation Regions are not used beyond the seabird arena.

Practical coordination between bird programs of data gathering, data management, and conservation decision making was discussed and many obstacles noted. Habitat was considered a common currency, but even there much work would be needed to coordinate. Development of an overarching species prioritization system was considered, though most participants seemed to feel it would have little impact on allocation of resources unless fundamental changes occurred in structure and funding practices of agencies.

Participants agreed that it would be valuable to pursue development of an Alaska All Bird Committee, composed of representatives of the bird conservation programs, agencies, NGOs and others. A technical committee to address coordination of geographic and habitat systems, and species prioritization was considered with several pros and cons.

Following the 5 March 2002 meeting a draft white paper requesting agency support for an All Bird Committee was circulated. Response for such a committee was positive and it was suggested a charter be drafted and invitations for participation be sent to organizations and agencies (list of suggested participants attached). That is the present status of the Alaska All Bird effort.