



Final Draft Agenda



Atlantic Northern Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR 14) Integrated Bird Conservation Initiative International Workshop December 3-5, 2002, Rockland, Maine

VISION, PURPOSE, AND OUTCOMES

Atlantic Northern Forest BCR Draft Vision:

Integrate international planning and implementation efforts among the bird conservation initiatives across the Atlantic Northern Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR 14) in order to restore and sustain populations and habitats of native bird species in this region.

Workshop Purpose:

- The purpose of this meeting is to bring together bird experts from the U.S. and Canada representing their agencies/organizations and major bird conservation initiatives, to identify priorities and develop an integrated, international approach to delivering conservation for all birds across BCR 14.

Workshop Tasks:

- Exchange of information between Canada and the U.S. and among the bird initiatives;
- Identification of regional bird conservation priorities; and
- Identification of products, process, and structure needed to ensure effective ongoing bird conservation.

Workshop Outcomes:

1. Identify priority bird species and conservation issues;
2. Identify habitat requirements, key locations, and research and monitoring needs for priority species;
3. Estimate population and habitat goals or indices to the extent possible;
4. Identify conservation focus areas where appropriate;
5. Identify landscape approaches and tools for setting conservation priorities for all bird species across the Atlantic Northern Forest, identify mapping and data needs, and consider the application of species-habitat models;
6. Consider opportunities to address priority research or monitoring needs across bird groups;
7. Create a region-wide forum for exchanging information, sharing data, and sharing solutions; and
8. Develop a process and structure to ensure completion of long-term bird conservation planning and implementation in BCR 14.



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DECEMBER 2, TRAVEL DAY

17:00-20:00 Reception (cash bar) at Samoset Resort, Dinner on your own.

DECEMBER 3, 2002 (INITIATIVE AND SPECIES FOCUS)

7:30 Registration

Welcome and Opening Remarks

8:15 Welcome, Introductions, Opening Remarks Lee Perry and Tom Hodgman, ME DIFW
Rick Kearny, IAFWA

8:30 Review workshop purpose, agenda, and expected outcomes Andrew Milliken USFWS
Reg Melanson CWS

Status of Bird Initiatives and BCR planning in the U.S and Canada

8:45 North American Bird Conservation Initiative David Pashley, U.S. NABCI Coordinator

Bird Initiatives and Plans

Joint Ventures

Andrew Milliken ACJV, & Reg Melanson EHJV

North American Waterfowl Management Plan

Chuck Hayes USFWS & Raymond Sarrazin CWS

Partners in Flight

Ken Rosenberg, Cornell & Dan Busby CWS

U.S. & Canadian Shorebird Conservation Plans

Stephen Brown, Manomet & Garry Donaldson, CWS

North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

Scott Johnston, USFWS & Richard Elliot, CWS

Woodcock and Upland Game Bird Initiatives

Scot Williamson, WMI

Canadian Regional Bird Conservation Plans

Richard Elliot, CWS

10:15 Break

10:30 Why BCR Planning? Richard Elliot, CWS

10:45 BCR Planning Examples, lessons learned; South Atlantic Coastal Plain and
Lower Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Plain - Chuck Hayes and Luc Belanger or Raymond Sarrazin (CWS)

11:05 BCR 14 planning in Canada Richard Elliot, CWS

Biological Importance of the Atlantic Northern Forest

11:15 Habitats and Geography of the Atlantic Northern Forest Mark Anderson, TNC

Birds of the Atlantic Northern Forest

Tom Hodgman, ME DIFW

12:00 Lunch



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Tools for Prioritizing Species and Habitats

13:00 Partners in Flight Prioritization/Lists – Ken Rosenberg, PIF/Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology
 BBS Species Distribution and Abundance Maps – John Sauer, USGS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center
 BCR 14 maps and summary statistics – Mark Anderson, TNC
 Other available maps and information

Workshop Session I: Identification of Priority Species and Associated Habitats

13:30 Guidance for Breakout Sessions

13:45 Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Waterfowl

Group Leaders: Brad Allen (U.S.) & Keith McAloney (Can.)

Landbirds

Group Leaders: Dan Busby (Can.) & Randy Dettmers (U.S.)

Shorebirds

Group Leaders: Stephen Brown (U.S.) & Raymond Sarrazin (Can.)

Waterbirds

Group Leaders: Andrew Boyne (Can.) & Katharine Parsons (U.S.)

- Identify priority species and habitats within each bird group;
- Identify conservation issues and threats for priority species;
- Using existing data (if possible), estimate population and/or habitat objectives or indices for priority species;
- If data are lacking, identify research and monitoring needs to acquire necessary data to determine population objectives;
- Fill out species data sheet for each priority species

15:00 Break

15:15 Concurrent Sessions Reconvene

17:30 Adjourn, Dinner on your own

Note:

The following is a possible optional session being considered on state and landowner implementation. This session was not considered relevant for the Canadian partners and is not on the main agenda at this point.

19:30 Information needs for effective implementation: how does biological planning at the regional level inform provincial, state and land owner/manager level implementation?

Provincial, State and Landowner Roundtable

Each state, province or major landowner to provide summary of the following: *What approaches do you use for state or provincial level implementation of bird conservation and what information and resources do you need to make sure that these regional priorities are reflected in provincial or state-level implementation?*

5 states and 4 provinces, Forest Industry, U.S. Forest Service, USFWS National Wildlife Refuge, other landowners/managers - 5 minutes each



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DECEMBER 4, 2002 - (HABITAT FOCUS)

8:00 Full Group Reconvenes

Presentation of Results of Working Groups
Species Lists, Habitat Lists and Priorities, Conservation Issues, Population Objectives

Workshop Leaders/Recorders

Discussion

9:00 Geographic Approaches for Achieving Habitat Objectives (10-15 minutes each)

Description of Focus Area approach used in other BCRs
Important Bird Area approach to identifying priority areas
Habitat Suitability Models for Gulf of Maine and BCR 14
Forest Harvest Management Models on Crown Lands
U.S. Forest Industry/Shifting Mosaic approach

Chuck Hayes, USFWS ACJV
Michael Burger, National Audubon
Arnold Banner, USFWS GOMP
Scott Makepeace NB
TBD

Discussion

10:30 Break

10:45 Workshop Session II: Identification of geographic areas for priority species Four taxonomic breakout groups (waterfowl, landbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds)

- Delineate focus areas on maps
- Discuss other geographic approaches
- Identify mapping needs

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Workshop Session II continues: Identification of geographic areas for priority species Four taxonomic breakout groups (waterfowl, landbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds)

15:00 Break (Longer break to allow everyone to review maps from each breakout group)

13:30 Full Group Reconvenes

Presentation of Results of Working Groups
Findings and recommendations on focus areas and geographic approaches

Workshop Leaders/Recorders

Discussion - integrated approaches for science and habitat conservation

17:00 Adjourn Group Dinner at Waterworks Restaurant



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DECEMBER 5, 2002 – DAY 3 (IMPLEMENTATION FOCUS)

8:00 Full Group Reconvenes – Guidance for Workshop Session III

8:15 Workshop Session III: Identification of First Step Projects and Longer Term Needs Coastal, Agricultural, and Forest Breakout Groups

- Identify overlap in geographic areas and habitat types
- Identify immediate conservation needs and pilot projects
- Identify research and monitoring needs and pilot projects
- Prioritize projects

10:00 Break

10:15 Full Group Reconvenes

Presentation of Results of Coastal and Inland Breakout Groups
Summary of Pilot Projects and Longer Term Needs
Prioritize Pilot Projects

Leaders/Recorders

11:00 Long-term needs for planning and implementation of bird conservation initiatives in BCR 14:

- Infrastructure and coordination needs
- Steering Committee (to allow continued discussion following this workshop)
- How do we maintain the initiative to move forward with potential projects?
- Next steps and responsibilities
- Future meetings/workshops

12:00 Adjourn

Atlantic Northern Forest Bird Conservation Region (BCR 14)
Workshop Summary
December 3-5, 2002 - Rockland, ME

The Atlantic Northern Forest BCR encompasses vast forest, coastal marine, and inland freshwater resources, as well as the birds that depend on these habitats. For three days in early December 2002, seventy biologists representing two countries, four provinces, five states, twelve non-government organizations, and private industry met to begin a process for international delivery of all-bird conservation within this region. Over the course of this workshop, the participants identified 101 priority species, 132 focus areas, and 50 projects for bird conservation action. These products will form the backbone of a strong biological foundation which will direct on-the-ground actions for achieving the goals of the major bird conservation initiatives within this BCR.

The first day of the workshop began with reviews of the current status of bird initiatives and BCR planning efforts in the U.S. and Canada, the biological significance of the Atlantic Northern Forest BCR, and existing tools for prioritizing species and habitats. These presentations were followed by breakout sessions where participants developed draft BCR 14 priority species lists for the major bird groups. A worksheet was filled out for each priority species. These worksheets include background details on why each species is considered a priority and what actions are needed to address concerns for each species. Products from these breakout sessions are summarized on the following pages.

During the second day several presentations were given reviewing geographic approaches for identifying critical areas for habitat conservation. Given the extensive forest resources of this BCR and the dynamic nature of industrially managed forests, alternative approaches to the traditional focus area concept are clearly needed for identifying focal areas for maintaining healthy populations of forest birds. These presentations gave participants background on some of the concepts that have already been developed and applied in various parts of the BCR. Breakouts were then convened for identifying habitat focus areas or other geographic approaches for each bird group. Focus areas were drawn on maps of the BCR and worksheets were filled out for each area to provide information on the site location, focal bird species, threats to the area, protected status, and conservation actions needed at the site.

Breakout sessions by habitats (forest, agricultural land, inland wetland, and coastal) for identifying immediate monitoring, research, and conservation/management needs were the focus of the third morning of the workshop. Each breakout group developed a list of initial projects that are needed to fill information gaps on priority species and address threats to critical habitats.

The workshop ended with a plenary session where long-term needs for BCR planning and implementation were discussed. A steering committee of representatives from the ACJV, EHJV, USFWS, CWS, each jurisdiction, and each bird initiative was established to oversee this effort. USFWS agreed to serve as a point of contact for the next 6 months, compile results from the workshop, and initiate the development of a biologically-based implementation plan for BCR 14. All partners agreed to review the workshop products and provide any additional relevant information. Once all the workshop results are compiled and reviewed, they will be used in developing a strategic plan for all-bird conservation. The plan will highlight priority species, focus areas for habitat conservation, priority projects for scientific investigation and conservation action, and tie this information to goals of the major bird conservation initiatives. This plan will help all the partners in this BCR effort to focus on the critical actions needed to fulfill the vision of restoring and sustaining populations and habitats of native birds in this BCR.

BCR 14 Workshop Products

Priority Species List – DRAFT January 27, 2003

Highest Priority

American Black Duck	Common Eider	Piping Plover
American Woodcock	Eastern Harlequin Duck	Purple Sandpiper
Barrows Goldeneye	Great Cormorant	Red-necked Phalarope
Bay-breasted Warbler	Greater Shearwater	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Bicknell's Thrush	Ipswich Savannah Sparrow	Wood Thrush
Canada Warbler	Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow	

High Priority

American Golden-Plover	Cape May Warbler	Red Knot
American Redstart	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Red-necked Grebe
Arctic Tern	Common Nighthawk	Red Phalarope
Black-bellied Plover	Common Tern	Roseate Tern
Black-crowned Night Heron	Eastern Wood-Pewee	Ruddy Turnstone
Black Guillemot	Herring Gull	Rusty Blackbird
Black Scoter	Long-eared Owl	Short-billed Dowitcher
Black-throated Blue Warbler	Northern Gannet	Upland Sandpiper
Bobolink	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Veery
Boreal Chickadee	Purple Finch	Whimbrel
Canada Goose - N. Atlantic Pop.	Razorbill	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

Moderate Priority

American Bittern	Common Snipe	Palm Warbler
Atlantic Brant	Gray Jay	Peregrine Falcon
Atlantic Puffin	Greater Scaup	Pine Grosbeak
American Oystercatcher	Horned Lark	Red-throated Loon
Bald Eagle	Horned Grebe	Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Black-backed Woodpecker	Hudsonian Godwit	Ruffed Grouse
Black-billed Cuckoo	Killdeer	Sanderling
Blackburnian Warbler	Leach's Storm-petrel	Semipalmated Plover
Black-legged Kittiwake	Least Sandpiper	Short-eared Owl
Blackpoll Warbler	Long-tailed Duck	Surf Scoter
Black-throated Green Warbler	Louisiana Waterthrush	Vesper Sparrow
Boreal Owl	Northern Flicker	Whip-poor-will
Brown Creeper	Northern Goshawk	Willet
Chimney Swift	Northern Harrier	Wood Duck
Common Goldeneye	Northern Parula	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Common Loon	Ovenbird	Yellow Rail

Management Concern

Resident Canada Goose
Greater Snow Goose
Mallard

Focus Areas

Waterfowl: 26 focus areas

- Majority of these focus areas represent coastal or estuarine habitats, but areas covering primarily freshwater habitats were also included.
- American Black Duck was identified as a focal species at 15 of these areas, Common Eider at 10 areas, Barrow's Goldeneye at 6 areas, and Harlequin Duck at 3 areas.
- Included sites in all 4 Canadian provinces in this BCR and the state of Maine. Nova Scotia supports the largest number of these focus areas with 12.
- 17 focus areas currently have at least some portion of their area under conservation ownership (federal, provincial, state, or NGO owned), but 9 areas currently have very limited or no protection.
- Common threats among these focus areas include human development, oil spills and other contaminants, aquaculture, and agriculture.
- At least half of these focus areas also support priority species from the other bird groups, primarily shorebirds and waterbirds.

Waterbirds: 20 focus areas

- At least one focus area in each jurisdiction within this BCR. Nova Scotia holds the majority, with all or part of 9 focus areas within its jurisdiction.
- Locations include the St. Lawrence estuary, Gaspe Peninsula, Magdalen Islands, Cape Breton coast, lower St. John River, Bay of Fundy coast, Gulf of Maine coast, Sable Island, Lake Winnepesaukee, and the Adirondack Park.
- Common Tern was identified as a focal species at 8 areas; Common Loon at 7 areas; and Great Cormorant, Razorbill, and Black Guillemot at 6 areas.
- Habitats targeted within these 20 focus areas range from islands and rocky coasts to sandy shores to large inland lakes and rivers.
- 14 waterbird focus areas are likely to support priority species from the other bird groups.
- Human disturbance was most commonly cited as a threat that needs to be addressed in most of these focus areas. Threats from human development, oil spills and other contaminants, predators, and wetland loss were other common concerns.
- 16 waterbird focus areas already are under partial or complete conservation ownership, while 4 areas currently lack protection.

Landbirds: 38 focus areas + geographic approaches

This group split its time between identifying traditional focus areas for those landbirds that fit this concept and discussing alternative geographic approaches that could be used to identify areas of importance for forest-associated species.

- 18 focus areas for grasslands, 12 focus areas for saltmarsh, and 8 focus areas plus many "habitat units" covering mountaintop/regenerating conifer forest for Bicknell's Thrush.
- All states and provinces within the BCR are represented in the landbird focus areas.
- All saltmarsh focus areas are likely to support priority species from the other bird groups, and a small number of the grassland areas support breeding and migrating waterfowl.
- Atmospheric deposition, global climate change, ski area development, and industrial forestry are the primary threats to mountaintop/regenerating conifer forest focus areas.

- Changing agricultural practices and farm abandonment followed by development are the primary threats for the grassland focus areas, where Bobolink, Upland Sandpiper, Vesper Sparrow, and Northern Harrier were the most frequently identified focal species.
- Alteration, degradation, and loss of habitat were identified as the primary threats for the saltmarsh focus areas, where Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow is the focal landbird.
- Alternative geographic approaches for forest birds included:
 - using bird survey and modeling data to identify conservation areas for birds of mature conifer habitats
 - assessing the relative abundance of different habitat types within sub-units of the BCR and comparing these distributions to what we think is needed to support the priority species
 - developing bird-habitat/forest models and GIS tools that land managers can use to design landscapes for sustaining the entire forest bird community

Shorebirds: 48 focus areas

- Focus areas were identified in Maine and all 4 Canadian provinces, and as a group, provide a mixture of breeding, migrating, and wintering habitats for shorebirds
- 11 areas were identified on the Bay of Fundy, 10 on the Gulf of St. Lawrence, 8 on the Maine coast, 4 on the Northumberland Strait, and 4 along the mouth of the St. Lawrence.
- Broad overlap in sites with waterfowl and waterbird areas, as well as similar threats.
- 13 areas were identified as Piping Plover breeding sites, 9 areas include wintering habitat for Purple Sandpipers, and 33 areas were recognized as migration staging areas for priority shorebird species.

Priority Projects

Coastal Habitats: 25 projects

- 10 conservation action projects were identified, involving acquisition, easements, or stewardship agreements to protect critical areas for shorebirds, waterfowl, and waterbirds. Locations for these projects include Downeast Maine coast, Isle au Haute, Cobscook Bay, upper Bay of Fundy, Mahone Bay, Maritime Gulf of St. Lawrence, Magdalen Islands, south shore of Gaspé Peninsula, and St. Lawrence estuary.
- 10 research and monitoring projects including monitoring of pelagic seabirds and phalaropes, shorebird migration monitoring, seabird colony restoration, salt marsh monitoring program, monitoring impacts of by-catch and oil spills, and winter surveys for seaducks, Harlequin Ducks, and Purple Sandpipers.
- 5 outreach projects for increased public education focusing on coastal ethics, marine conservation, and reducing human disturbance at shorebird roosts and coastal marshes.

Forest Habitats: 11 projects

- A subcommittee was tasked with developing bird-habitat/forest models and GIS tools that land managers can use to design landscapes supporting the full spectrum of disturbance-dependent and mature forest birds.
- Other conservation action projects included conserving natural barrens and shrub communities for early successional species, Bicknell's Thrush habitat protection in parts

of Canada and Maine, developing better mechanisms for communicating information to policy and stewardship arenas, developing better mechanisms for utilizing funding opportunities, and developing a data inventory and mechanisms for sharing data.

- Research and monitoring priorities included range-wide population assessment and monitoring of Bicknell's Thrush, better monitoring programs for nocturnal and raptor species, integration of habitat management for disturbance-dependent species, and investigations into limiting factors for high priority species.

Inland Wetland Habitat: 6 “action items”

- Comprehensive inventories to determine distributions and relative abundances of birds of inland wetlands.
- Implement standardized, region-wide monitoring of inland wetland bird abundance and distribution.
- Develop mechanisms for data sharing.
- Develop guidance/recommendations on the importance and management of man-made wetlands.
- Develop guidance/ recommendations on the importance of beaver-created wetlands to wetland birds.
- Coordinate with other BCR's to ensure that conservation actions are taken to reduce threats to inland wetland birds and their habitats during migration and in winter.

Agricultural Lands: 8 projects

- Research and monitoring projects that focus on grassland birds – synthesis of regional grassland bird survey data, better monitoring of populations and demographics at blueberry barrens especially in Maritime provinces, and development of best management practices for blueberry barrens.
- Conservation easements for management of agricultural lands in the Connecticut River valley for grassland birds.
- Work with airport land managers to implement more bird-friendly management practices.
- Outreach to the blueberry industry on best management practices and to the Back to the Land Initiative on exurbanite land management practices.

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Participating Partners

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (workshop host)

The Nature Conservancy

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Societe de la Faune et des Parcs du Quebec

Canadian Wildlife Service

Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences

Huber Resources

National Audubon Society

Maine Audubon

Massachusetts Audubon

Audubon Society of New Hampshire

Vermont Audubon

National Park Service - Acadia National Park

New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy

International Paper

Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Ducks Unlimited Canada

Biodiversity Research Institute

U.S. Forest Service

New Hampshire Fish and Game Department

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Vermont Institute of Natural Sciences

Natural Resource Conservation Service

U.S. Geological Survey

Massachusetts Division of Fish and Wildlife

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department

American Bird Conservancy

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

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