

TEXAS 'ALL-BIRD' CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

2002

Integrating Migratory Bird Conservation for Texas and South-central U.S.

Date: 9-11 July, 2002

Location: Austin, Texas
Hyatt-Regency Austin
208 Barton Springs
Austin, Texas 78704
512-477-1234

Workshop Objectives:

- Initiate 'wall-to-wall' bird conservation in Texas - an integrated approach to implementing the various plans in order to improve the conservation of all birds in the region.
- Use the various national bird plans and the West Tier of the Lower Mississippi Joint Venture as models to stimulate implementation of 'all-bird' conservation in Texas.
- Assure that 'all-bird' conservation is proceeding in each Bird Conservation Region (BCR) by:
 - Incorporating 'all-bird' conservation into existing Joint Ventures (JVs).
 - Covering areas not currently included in a Joint Venture. Creating new Joint Ventures.

Desired Workshop Outcomes:

- Identify success models and approaches for all-bird conservation.
- Increase awareness of existing bird conservation initiatives and partnerships, as well as federal state and private programs that contribute to bird conservation in Texas and adjoining states.
- Establish a network of partners who can help create the infrastructure and delivery mechanisms needed to implement 'all-bird' conservation in the region.

Target Audience: Conservation supervisors and individuals who can assist in the implementation of 'all-bird' conservation. Include bird experts as resource participants.

Agenda Outline:

Day 1: Update on National Bird Conservation Planning

Day 2: Review efforts of Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture and Gulf Coast Joint Venture

Day 3: Regional workgroups develop process to begin 'all-bird' conservation in each Bird Conservation Region of Texas.

Hotel Registration Information:

Hyatt-Regency Austin - 512-477-1234
Single \$80 Double \$105
Reserve by July 1.

To register, or for more information, contact:

Texas Parks and Wildlife
Wildlife Diversity Branch
512-389-4403
tonya.hunter@tpwd.state.tx.us

AGENDA -- DAY 1

Welcome and Opening Remarks

0800 Welcome to Texas -- Gary Graham

0830 Setting the Stage - Bird Conservation and State Wildlife Agencies -- Gary Myers, TN WRA

0900 The Changing Face of Bird Conservation -- TBA

0945 BREAK

Bird Conservation – The Next Steps

1000 Integrated Bird Conservation in Texas – Current Conservation Needs -- Vernon Bevill, TX PWD

1030 Workshop Goals and Objectives -- John Herron, TX PWD

1045 The Challenges and Demands of Integrated Bird Management -- Charles Baxter, USFWS

1145 LUNCH

1315 Applying All-Bird Conservation in the LMJV – The Western Gulf Coast Plain Initiative -- Charles Baxter, USFWS

1400 All-Bird Conservation in the Central Hardwoods – Jane Fitzgerald

1445 BREAK

1500 2002 Farm Bill - Implications for Bird Conservation -- Don McKenzie, WMI

1545 Panel Discussion – Upland Game Birds and All-Bird Conservation

1645 Discussion and Questions

1715 Adjourn

AGENDA -- DAY 2

0800 Review of Day 1/Objectives for Day 2

Overview of Existing Joint Venture Efforts

0800 Review of Day 1/Objectives for Day 2

0815 Playa Lakes Joint Venture -- Mike Carter, PLJV

0900 Gulf Coast Joint Venture -- Greg Eslinger, USFWS

0945 BREAK

1000 Lower Mississippi Joint Venture -- Jim Neal, USFWS

Moving Beyond the Joint Venture Approach

1045 Creating Wall-to-Wall Bird Conservation -- Charles Baxter, USFWS

1200 LUNCH

1330 Bird Conservation Regions of Texas – Identifying the Gaps -- John Herron, TX PWD

Work Session – Creating wall-to-wall all-bird conservation

- Building partnerships
- Technical support needs
- Ad-hoc Technical Team Structure / Membership
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Project Development
- Funding
- Maintaining initiative; moving forward with projects

1345 JV Concurrent Planning Sessions

- Central Texas and Prairies JV (BCR 20 & 21)
- Rio Grande Corridor JV (BCR 35 & 36)

1500 BREAK

1515 Workgroups prepare reports and recommendations

1615 Present Results of Working Sessions (15 min/group)

- Identified Needs
- Proposed Approach
- Proposed Participants
- Funding and Staffing

1645 Open Discussion (approx. 30 min.)

1715 ADJOURN

AGENDA -- DAY 3

0800 Review of Day 2

0830 Joint Venture Tool Chest – Mike Carter, PLJV

0850 Update on TPW Bird Conservation Efforts

1010 BREAK

1030 Birders and Conservation – Ted Eubanks, Fermata

1130 Perspectives from Natural Resource Conservation Service -- Gary Valentine, NRCS

1150 Fish and Wildlife Service Perspectives -- Pat Langley, USFWS

1210 Wrap Up: tasks and date for follow-up meetings – John Herron /Vernon Beville, TX PWD

1230 ADJOURN

MEMO FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Texas All-Bird Conservation Workshop, 9-11 July 2002

1. At the invitation of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, I attended the Texas All-Bird Conservation Workshop in Austin from 9 through 11 July, 2002. Approximately 100 people attended the workshop which had three purposes:
 - a) Identify successful models and approaches for all-bird conservation.
 - b) Increase awareness of existing bird conservation initiatives and partnerships, as well as federal, state, and private programs that contribute to bird conservation in Texas and adjoining states.
 - c) Establish a network of partners who can help to create the infrastructure and delivery mechanisms needed to implement "all-bird" conservation in the region.
2. Presentations by Gary Myers (TN WRA / IAFWA Bird Conservation Committee), Charlie Baxter (USFWS / Lower Mississippi Valley JV), Don McKenzie (WMI), John Herron (TX Parks and Wildlife), Randy Wilson (GA DNR), and others gave a rather comprehensive accounting for most of the individual bird conservation efforts currently taking place in the region. A panel discussion involving the leaders of Texas's upland game bird programs capped off the first day of the meeting.
3. On the second day, a set of brief presentations from several JV coordinators on organizational "lessons learned" set the stage for a working session on how to establish bird conservation partnerships in two parts of the state not currently within JV boundaries. The Rio Grande river corridor (BCRs 35 & 36) and the central oak prairie (BCRs 20 & 21) are host to a number of ongoing, yet independent, bird conservation activities.
4. Workshop participants split into two groups, one for each of the BCR pairs above, and debated the pros and cons of creating new JV partnerships versus forming a more informal cooperative relationship. In the end, both groups decided to pursue JV status. The groups created small teams to draft "mission statements", begin planning, and coordinate the administrative tasks associated with creating the JV application with tasks and products due later this year.
5. The final day of the workshop included a review of the prior day's discussion / decisions which gave everyone an opportunity to raise any additional concerns that had not come up in the two working groups. A recap of tasks to be accomplished allowed each of those responsible to see how his/her contribution fit into the overall picture. After brief presentations by the NRCS and FWS, the workshop then adjourned.

Rick Kearney
Migratory Bird Coordinator