

California All-Bird Conservation Workshop Program

November 15, 2004

8:00 am Welcoming Remarks Ryan Broderick

8:30 All-Bird Workshop Overview IAFWA

Session 1

National Perspective

8:40

N.A. Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)	Ellie Cohen, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
N.A. Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)	Red Hunt,
Partners in Flight Continental Plan (PIF)	Bob Altman, <i>American Bird Conservancy</i>
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP)	Catherine Hickey, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
N.A. Waterbird Conservation Plan (NAWCP)	Jennifer Wheeler, <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>

9:55 am **Break**

Session 2

Regional Perspective

10:15

CA NAWMP Planning	Bob Shaffer, <i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
CA Partners in Flight Bird Conservation Plans	Kim Kreitinger, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Southern Pacific Shorebird Conservation Plan	Catherine Hickey, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
CA Current System Marine Bird Cons Plan	Brenna Langabeer, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Regional Conservation Planning (NCCP/HCP)	Gail Presley, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>

Session 3

Statewide Perspective

11:30

California Wildlife Diversity Project	David Bunn, <i>UC Davis</i>
Resource Assessment Program (RAP)	Eric Loft, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>
Bird Species of Special Concern	Dave Shuford, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Audubon CA Important Bird Areas	Dan Cooper, <i>Audubon California</i>

12:30 **Lunch**

Session 4

Habitat Perspective

1:30

Riparian	Ann Chrisney, <i>Riparian Habitat Joint Venture</i>
Coastal/Marine	Esther Burkett, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>
Wetland	Dean Kwasny, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>
Oak Woodland	Steve Zack, <i>Wildlife Conservation Society</i>
Coniferous Forest	John Alexander, <i>Klamath Bird Observatory</i>
Coastal Sage Scrub	Phil Unitt, <i>San Diego Natural History Museum</i>
Desert	Cali Crampton, <i>University of Nevada, Reno</i>
Shrubsteppe	Aaron Holmes, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Agricultural Lands	Alan Forkey, <i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>
Grassland	TBA

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Session 5

Monitoring and Evaluation

8:00

Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program	John Bart, <i>U.S. Geological Survey</i>
MAPS program	Dave DeSante, <i>Institute for Bird Populations</i>
Bird Atlas	Phil Unitt, <i>San Diego Natural History Museum</i>
Developing Population Objectives	Geoff Geupel, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Ducks Unlimited Habitat Modeling	Fritz Reid, <i>Ducks Unlimited</i>

9:15

Break

Session 6

Informational Resources for Planning and Implementation

9:30

Introduction to Informatics	Jim Quinn, <i>UC Davis</i>
CA Partners in Flight Study Area Database	Geoff Geupel, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
Waterfowl Monitoring Database	Dan Yparraguirre, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>
CA Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB)	Darlene McGriff, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>

Session 7

Programmatic Resources for Planning and Implementation

10:45

Overview of Programmatic Resources	Catherine Hickey, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
National Fish and Wildlife Federation Programs	Heather Chase, <i>National Fish and Wildlife Foundation</i>
Farm Bill Programs	Alan Forkey, <i>Natural Resources Conservation Service</i>
Wetland/Habitat Conservation Programs	Dean Kwasny, <i>CA Department of Fish and Game</i>

11:45

Lunch

Session 8

Regional Break Outs – Putting It All Together

1:00

Joint Venture Concept	Ellie Cohen, <i>PRBO Conservation Science</i>
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1:15 – 1:45

JV Overviews

San Francisco Bay Joint Venture	Beth Huning
Pacific Coast Joint Venture	Ron LeValley
Central Valley Habitat Joint Venture	Bob Shaffer
Intermountain West Joint Venture	Virginia Getz
Riparian Joint Venture	Ann Chrisney

1:45 – 3:30

Concurrent Breakout Groups

3:30 – 4:30

Breakout Summaries (10 minutes each)

4:30

INTEGRATING WITH STATE WILDLIFE DIVERSITY PROJECT

CLOSING REMARKS

TBA

Summary of the California All-Bird Workshop

Kim Kreitinger, PRBO Conservation Science
Sam Blankenship, California Department of Fish and Game

The California All-Bird Workshop was held November 15-16, 2004 at the Sacramento Radisson. This workshop was co-sponsored by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and PRBO Conservation Science with financial support from the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, CDFG, Central Valley Joint Venture, DMARLOU Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This event successfully brought together 147 representatives from 44 different agencies and organizations. Nearly 50% of the participants were state employees with the remainder being a mixture of representatives from each of the Joint Ventures in California, six different federal agencies, 18 non-profits, three universities, and four different private consulting firms. Additionally, "A Guide to North American Bird Conservation" was developed from a template provided by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory and was distributed to each workshop participant. This guide described each of the bird conservation initiatives and listed their national and state contacts.

The objectives of the workshop were to 1) provide all-bird conservation initiative orientation to state wildlife agency personnel, federal wildlife and land managers, and other non-state partners; 2) identify opportunities for integrated all-bird conservation projects within focus habitats; 3) provide opportunities to identify common objectives between Joint Ventures, bird conservation initiatives, and other conservation programs; and 4) identify all-bird priorities to support the State Wildlife Diversity Project. To accomplish these objectives, the workshop began with a broad overview of national bird conservation planning and continually narrowed the focus to regional, statewide and habitat conservation planning during the first day.

The regional director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Director of California Department of Fish and Game gave the opening remarks for the workshop. David Bunn, the coordinator of the State Wildlife Diversity Project, gave a brief workshop overview, and then the presentations on national, regional, and state conservation planning began. A habitat breakout session occurred after lunch, which was designed to provide a more interactive discussion on the familiarity and use of existing habitat planning documents and to identify opportunities for integrating all-bird conservation within certain habitat types. This session was structured as clustered breakouts with riparian/wetland/marine, coniferous forest/oak woodland, agricultural lands/grasslands, and shrubsteppe/desert/coastal sage scrub. Participants received handouts that highlighted the status, conservation threats, current planning efforts, and resources available for each habitat type.

Most of the habitat breakout sessions discussed the use of the California Partners in Flight habitat-based bird conservation plans. The consensus from the four breakouts was that the CalPIF plans are used in a variety of ways. Several examples included Joint Ventures using the planning documents to prioritize conservation areas and to set overall project goals; several conservation funding organizations use the plans for evaluating proposals; county agencies, private consultants, and state parks use the plans to develop research design and

inform decision-making processes. The groups also discussed opportunities to better disseminate the information within the plans to a more diverse audience. Suggestions included: incorporate bird conservation plan components into NRCS Field Office Technical Guide; create regional, synthesized versions of the plans that are more understandable for county planners, private landholders, etc.; work with the Fish and Wildlife Habitat Committee (State Lands and Facilities Branch – CDFG) to incorporate plan objectives in their evaluations; apply plan recommendations to mitigation and conservation banking scenarios to further promote all-bird conservation. The information and suggestions derived from this session will prove to be extremely useful as state and regional bird conservation initiatives continue to update and implement their planning documents.

The second day of the workshop focused on resources available to wildlife biologists and managers. The first session consisted of seven talks relating to monitoring and evaluation tools for different bird groups. The second session included presentations on archiving and analysis of the data collected from the various monitoring methods. Finally, the last session presented funding opportunities for bird conservation projects. The final breakout session was led by the Joint Venture coordinators. The objectives of this breakout session were to 1) provide an overview of each Joint Venture's new all-bird strategy; 2) identify common objectives between Joint Ventures, bird conservation initiatives, and state programs; 3) discuss areas of conservation importance within JV boundaries; 4) discuss priority/focal bird species within JV boundaries.

As a result of this workshop, existing partnerships were strengthened and many new partnerships were formed. The majority of the workshop participants expressed satisfaction that they received a thorough overview of the bird conservation planning resources available to them. The coordinator of the State Diversity Wildlife Project subsequently requested meetings with each of the Joint Venture coordinators to better integrate their bird conservation priorities into his strategic document. A CD of all of the presentations, electronic copies of the bird conservation plans, and summaries from the breakout sessions will be mailed to each of the workshop participants.

All-Bird Workshop Feedback

Dan Cooper, Audubon

You did a great job on this. Let's make this an annual event somehow. I think it's really important for this group to meet together. Too often, we're all at other peoples' conferences

Bob Shaffer, CVJV

I think PRBO did an excellent job of putting this on and the workshop exceeded my expectations. My only change would be to allow 8-9 am on the first day for registration and refreshments, before beginning the program.

Dale Steele, CDFG

Thanks for all your hard work. I think the workshop was quite a success. We will be following up here with discussions about what we have learned and what we should do next. I look forward to all the information you are gathering for that CD too.

Martha Schauss, CDFG

Thanks for doing a great job of putting the workshop together. I got a lot of good information re. resources available, what's going on re. monitoring, etc. I would say that, for my uses, less time could have been spent on the Joint Venture discussions, but my activities are mostly in the part of the state that isn't currently covered by Joint Ventures.

Esther Burkett, CDFG

1. If we do one again, it would be good to include a broader audience, specifically county planners and DFG/USFWS staff who work on CEQA /NEPA projects and HCPs/NCCPs. Maybe we need a separate workshop with joint venture leaders for this group. Some ecosystem restoration experts would be good too, for wetlands, grasslands, riparian, etc. We need them to tell us how to restore ecosystems for the focal species in the plans.
2. Breakout session facilitators did not do a good job covering the broad range of interests in the breakout groups. I heard this from more than one session.

Barbara Kus, USGS

Although I could only attend one day, I thought the workshop very useful in providing a sort of "one stop shopping" approach to familiarizing people with what's in these plans, both individually and synthesized. The speakers and facilitators were great and made very effective use of their time. I really appreciated the handouts, and found that that helped reduce the amount of note-taking I needed to do which freed me to just listen and think. You and the other organizers are to be commended on a great job!

Martie Kie, DWR

Thanks so much for all of your hard work on the workshop. I thought it was hugely successful. Though I had perused most of the plans on the web, the workshop gave me a much greater understanding of them, and more contacts to make the plans more useful.

Karen Hochgraf, DWR

I thought the workshop was just fantastic! I learned so much. Thank you to you and everyone who worked to bring this event to Sacramento.

Conrad Jones, CDFG

Thanks for providing this forum for networking and gaining a broader perspective of the bird conservation initiatives within our state.

Carole Combs, Sierra Los Tulares Land Trust

I felt the entire workshop was very useful and appreciated everything about it.

Dan Yparraguirre, CDFG

Operationally, the workshop was well run - a credit to the session moderators. We didn't make as much headway towards the real implementation of all bird conservation and maybe that's not really possible especially in large groups (even the wetland breakout was kind of large for productive conversation. Reviewing the plans and their continental objectives doesn't do that much on the project level where the real work is done. Maybe having folks think more broadly is a start, but frankly I'm not sure folks weren't anyway. How you take an individual project and "count" it toward continental objectives is still a problem for NAWMP.

Somehow, it would've probably helped to try to zero in a bit. Maybe a workshop on a hypothetical project - let folks face the realities perhaps. Given the large suite of species, some with "conflicting" habitat needs, we need to find some way to prioritize other than just funding sources (but with the matching requirements for most funding sources this will probably always be an issue). I guess my short answer is that I don't think we met my objectives, although those may have been unrealistic.

Rosemary Stefani, BOR

This Workshop exceeded my expectations -- I'm impressed with the leadership direction this conference provides -- all bird, and eventually all wildlife (...and then, all taxa!). If we are committed to managing, conserving, or restoring habitats, all the taxonomic specialists/groups need to work together strategically as well as "in the trenches" to manage, conserve, or restore habitats for native species diversity. Not just for political or monetary reasons, but also ecologically -- united we stand, divided we fall.

The only changes I have to suggest are logistical ones to facilitate NETWORKING, which is key to launching inter-taxa coordination.

- 1) Shorten talks to include 3-minute Q&A at the end of each talk.
- 2) Expand break durations (time for rest rooms, re-fueling, AND networking)
- 3) Try to have lunch "in house", again to facilitate interactions. (There's nothing to prevent those who need to conduct more private business from still doing that.) For a 2-day meeting, is it possible to order and pay for mini pizzas one day and sandwiches the next when one registers?

Viva PRBO and DFG! Excellent job! I hope to tap you all for advice someday on planning a smoothly run, well organized conference.

Chris Hildebrant, DU

Great job putting the workshop together, I really learned a great deal about the various plans and met some great conservation minded folks interested in wetlands associated wildlife.

Kevin Hunting, CDFG

Just wanted to say good job to both of you on the workshop. I heard many positive comments and satisfied participants. I tip my hat to you both.