



Incorporating Annual Life Cycle Conservation of Migratory Birds into SWAPs

Learning Series #18

Date: June 12, 2024

Time: 2:00pm-3:30pm (ET)

Meeting Link: <https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/89408409720?pwd=Gzx6rkqWllbAqmPZQA00Lbdqgo9WnS.1>

Meeting ID: 894 0840 9720

Passcode: 937587

One tap mobile: +13017158592,,89408409720#,,,,*937587#

Overview: As we have demonstrated with waterfowl conservation through efforts such as the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, if we are to successfully conserve migratory species, we must have conservation action across their range and lifecycle. Most of the priority SGCN migratory birds are on the nonbreeding or wintering grounds for up to 8 months of the year. Therefore, it is imperative that we work across their lifecycle if we are to meet SWAP objectives and successfully conserve these species. This is an opportunity to hear from other states and partners about the resources available to incorporate annual lifecycle conservation into SWAPs, including tools available to support decision frameworks.

MEETING AGENDA

Time (ET)	Topic	Speaker(s)
2:00 PM	Welcome and Introductions (5 min)	Mark Humpert, AFWA & Jason Goldberg, USFWS
2:05 PM	Overview of Southern Wings (5 min)	Deb Hahn, AFWA International Relations Director; Bradley Wilkinson, US NABCI Coordinator/AFWA Bird Program Manager; Eric Gardner, Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife Wildlife Program Director
	Ohio Division of Wildlife Case Study (5 min)	Laura Kearns, Ohio Division of Wildlife
	National Audubon Society’s Migratory Bird Explorer (10 min):	Jill Deppe, NAS Senior Director Migratory Bird Initiative and Melanie Smith, NAS Director, Digital Science & Data Products
	Cornell Lab of Ornithology, State agency annual life-cycle data (20 min)	Viviana Ruiz, CLO Conservation Science Program Leader; Andrew Stillman Postdoctoral Fellow
	Q&A (10 min)	

2:55 PM	Breakout Groups	
3:20 PM	Reconvene	Report highlights
3:30pm	Adjourn	

Overview of Southern Wings (5 min)

Deb Hahn, AFWA International Relations Director; Bradley Wilkinson, US NABCI Coordinator/AFWA Bird Program Manager; Eric Gardner, Washington Dept. Fish & Wildlife Wildlife Program Director

- Southern Wings is celebrating its 15-year anniversary this year.
- We know and have demonstrated with waterfowl conservation that we will not have successful migratory bird conservation if we are not working to curb the threats they face when they're beyond our borders. Southern Wings works for habitat conservation and management and research on stop-over sites and the wintering grounds where "our" migrant breeding birds spend up to 8 months of the year outside of our states and they need our help.
- States employ numerous sources of funding (e.g., SWG, PR, license sales, tax check offs). There is flexibility as to how states move funds to the partners (e.g., flyway councils, US-based NGOs, Regional Associations).
- The program focuses on supporting successful implementation of SWAP objectives for SGCN species. To do this we leverage state funds, provide non-federal match (for SWG and PR), work with incredible and capable partners, and are strategic about what projects and actions we support.
- 41 State agencies have contributed over \$4,200,000 to the conservation of 81 shared SGCN species in 11 countries through 24 projects.
- For the 15-year anniversary we will highlight our impact such as supporting partnerships that have enrolled over 600,000 acres in a sustainable grazing network in the Chihuahuan Desert, conserved and managed almost 11,000 acres in Guatemala, and created a 6-mile corridor to connect to reserves in the Colombian Andes for cerulean and Canada warblers.
- Reach out [Deb Hahn](#) or [Bradley Wilkinson](#) with any questions.
- [On our website](#), you will find the 2024-2025 project list and project opportunities handout, Southern Wings infographic, SWAP Resource Guide for FAC including template language, project success stories, and webinar recordings.

Ohio Division of Wildlife Case Study (5 min)

Laura Kearns, Ohio Division of Wildlife

- We were asked to think about how we're incorporating full lifecycle conservation in our SWAP. It wasn't part of our last SWAP, but it is in the next one, especially for birds.
- We've done some other work laying groundwork for how we hope to include it in the plan. The Ohio Bird Conservation Initiative worked with a variety of partners – NGO, government, private, etc. – to revise the Ohio bird conservation plan (All-Bird Plan). We wanted to revise that before working on the SWAP.
- For the All Bird Plan revision, we worked with the two Joint Ventures in our state to step down their guidance for bird conservation in Ohio. We also had to identify focal species, including tools developed by Partners in Flight and focal species established in the regional joint venture conservation plans. We considered all aspects of bird life histories.
- Considering other stages of the lifecycle, including both wintering and migrating species, is a relatively new idea for the state. In the revised All-Bird Plan, we considered species that are

wintering and/or migratory and spending time here in Ohio. We're working to identify the habitat needs of those species while they're in Ohio.

- Plan also emphasized working with partners.
- It was completed in January / February 2023, and it includes full lifecycle conservation. 2025 SWAP will incorporate many of the approaches from the All-Bird Plan.
- It has already inspired work on this issue, such as by local universities on wintering species like the American tree sparrow, and Lights Out Ohio focuses work on monitoring and how to mitigate building collisions, and the Ohio Division of Wildlife has supported projects using Motus – Automated telemetry system for tracking migratory wildlife such as birds that will help to identify wintering areas and migratory stopover areas important for management and conservation. The Ohio Division of Wildlife also sells a stamp to support wildlife diversity initiatives, with a portion of funds this year going to Southern Wings: <https://ohiodnr.gov/buy-and-apply/gifts-and-mechandise/wildlife-legacy-stamp>
- Ohio All-Bird Conservation Plan - <https://obcinet.org/resources/all-bird-conservation-plan/#:~:text=In%202010%2C%20the%20Ohio%20Bird,species%20and%20habitats%20in%20Ohio.>

National Audubon Society's Migratory Bird Explorer (10 min)

Jill Deppe, NAS Senior Director Migratory Bird Initiative and Melanie Smith, NAS Director, Digital Science & Data Products

- Bird Migration Explorer – www.birdmigrationexplorer.org, exploraves.org (Spanish)
- Each day we can track smaller and smaller species.
- Prior to 2018, there was a lot of tracking data, but it was scattered. Migratory Bird Initiative at Audubon developed to help consolidate this information, help develop a more complete understanding of what is needed across the landscape, and support people working to make decisions affecting the landscape.
- Has various resources for visualizing data and understanding conservation challenges.
- Partnership among science, conservation, and technology organizations and 318 institutions/agencies that shared 648 studies.
- Migration visualizations has consolidated and integrated information on 457 North American migratory bird species
- Data has been used to help develop species migration maps that cover annual cycles.
 - Found that half of species in the database had never been tracked before.
 - Offers various conservation statistics such as climate vulnerability.
- Location Connections – Tracking data combined with other data sources on tagging to develop location connection maps, showing where birds from one place can be found at other times. You can also see data based on species connections. Offers summary of where birds travel to. List of conservation sites near primary and secondary locations.
- For the Southern Wings program, they are currently creating custom maps showing where species from one state went. These will be available outside of the Bird Migration Explorer.
- Conservation challenges
 - Brought together hemispheric extent maps for 19 different challenges.
 - Builds out threat sensitivity matrix and includes exposure maps.
 - Data has been used to identify patterns and show how different challenges affect different species.

Cornell Lab of Ornithology, State agency annual life-cycle data (20 min)

Viviana Ruiz, CLO Conservation Science Program Leader; Andrew Stillman Postdoctoral Fellow

- eBird Status and Trends website: <https://science.ebird.org/en/status-and-trends>
- State-level summaries and resources: <https://www.birds.cornell.edu/home/us-state-level-conservation-data-summaries/>
- eBird is working to support conservation efforts with multiple partners such as the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service.
- Relative abundance maps are a valuable tool for understanding full lifecycle conservation needs.
- A variety of other data products are drawn from relative abundance maps.
 - Seasonal abundance
 - Weekly relative abundance
 - Breeding season trend maps 2012-2022. Trends can be viewed based on different standards.
 - Can use data to study habitat correlates of trends
- State-level applications – FWS worked with eBird on rules for permits for incidental take for eagles for wind energy production.
- Data available in different formats, including geospatial data format.

U.S. State-level e-Bird Data Summaries

- Data is available online for every bird in every U.S. state. Goal is to make the data easy to work with.
- Data available by state.
- Links available to download table-style summaries with a variety of information, such as full-year maximums.
- Data can be used to better understand where and how trends are changing.
- Maximum full-year abundance, for example, can show important breeding locations.
- Shared Stewardship Maps are available, shows where species that breed in a state are concentrated during the nonbreeding season.
- Maps can be used to highlight uniqueness of shared stewardship.
- Vr45@cornell.edu
- Ans95@cornell.edu

Q&A (10 min)

- How is AI used?
 - Viviana – This work is based on machine learning. We have AI-driven models in the works. We will be switching to new models in time that allow us to integrate different data sources together using deep learning.
- For the Audubon explorer website- is there a way to download lists (e.g., in excel/csv) of species impacted by the different conservation challenges? I see that you can view the species impacted by each challenge.

- Bird species panel has several different filters including the 19 conservation challenges. You can see a list of species sensitive to a challenge. There is a copy list button that will copy them all to your clipboard.
- Full lifecycle conservation is often a difficult conservation concept for our agency to fully embrace or for us to communicate with our Commission or public (e.g. why would our state agency prioritize limited resources - staff, funding, data, etc. - to share with big regional efforts if a species isn't considered rare IN the state). SO, these products are great for helping make that concept easier to visualize and share in our SWAP.
- Question for Cornell folks - how are you letting state folks know when there are updates made to the products?
 - Just had our first update. We'll let Mark know through his updates, but if there's another way to communicate with you, let us know!
- Are there other products or information that you need to make the case and make things easier to understand and visualize?
 - Not all states are in the same place.
 - Important to emphasize that these aren't binding decisions, but leaving the door to providing support if needed.
- Have any States already incorporated the FAC far along enough to share how they look like in their respective SWAPs?
 - Arizona and Missouri?
 - Missouri did include Southern Wings and Fall Flights.
 - Arizona also includes it in our SWAP, as a case study on how we do full life cycle conservation.

Discussion (After Breakouts)

- Some good questions about how you talk with your leadership about full annual lifecycle, how to fund it, and which species are priorities?
 - It is the same conservation model that states use to manage and conserve waterfowl.
 - The projects have clear species linkages, project reporting, and highly reliable and credible partners.
- States could include a generic section about full annual lifecycle conservation.
- For the full annual lifecycle online guide, it would be useful for states to have general section on conservation beyond specific species/ A summary would be helpful in addition to static maps.
- There's an opportunity to use e-Birds to understand retrospective trends and how SWAP performed. In earlier years.

Breakout Group Discussion Trigger Questions

Question- What are the benefits of adding full lifecycle conservation to your SWAP, either for birds or for other species?

Question- What are ways you've included full lifecycle conservation in your SWAP?

Question- What additional tools might you need to include full lifecycle conservation in your SWAP?

Links to Video and Notes from Past SWAP Learning Series and Tentative Future Topics

Date*	Topic (w/Recording Link)	Recording Password	Link to Notes
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Wednesday, November 16, 2022	#1 Engaging Tribes and Indigenous People in State Wildlife Action Plans	OT?41Gz.	SWAP & Tribal Engagement Notes
Wednesday, December 14, 2022	#2 SWAPs and Climate Adaptation Guidance	XU.=69*j	SWAP & Climate Adaptation Notes
Wednesday, January 18, 2023	#3 State Wildlife Action Plans and Renewable Energy	=7NSqgQT	SWAP & Renewable Energy Notes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023	#4 Interactive data and tools for SWAP planning and implementation	+6@f9jQW	SWAP & NatureServe Notes
Wednesday, April 19, 2023	#5 Engaging Diverse Partners & Making your SWAP More Relevant	\$p?!=lg95	SWAP & Engaging Diverse Partners Notes
Wednesday, May 17, 2023	#6 Using the SWAP & Landscape Conservation Framework for Interjurisdictional Landscape Conservation	B=Jg^@8=	SWAP & Landscape Conservation
Wednesday, June 21, 2023	#7 Making Your SWAP RAWA-Ready	FnJane%1	Making SWAP RAWA-Ready
Wednesday, July 19, 2023	#8 Incorporating corridors into your SWAP	2r#+^rla	Incorporating Corridors into SWAP
Wednesday, August 16, 2023	#9 Roundtable Discussion	LtnZ1x\$V	SWAP Open Discussion
Wednesday, September 20, 2023	# 10 SWAPs, Federal Planning, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	3v4O08?X	SWAPs and Federal Planning
October 18, 2023	#11 SWAPs and Bat Conservation	?2W2UA*B	SWAP and Bat Conservation
November 15, 2023	#12 Incorporating Fish & Wildlife Health into your SWAP	7XvFM&a\$	SWAP & Fish & Wildlife Health
December 13 th , 2023 (2 nd Wed of Dec.)	#13 2023 Round-up on Lessons Learned & Open Forum	M&md51We	
January 17, 2024	#14 Species of Greatest Conservation Need	?Zc7+aL3	
February 21, 2024	#15 Dashboards & Paperless SWAP	\$aBp*6Yt	
March 20, 2024	No Learning Series (See you in Portal, AZ for the WDPM Annual Meeting)		
April 17, 2024	#16 Incorporating Private Lands	F&q72Rt1	

	Conservation into your SWAP		
May 15,2024	#17 Using Social Science in your SWAP	exAMc#u1	
June 12, 2024 2 nd Wed of the month	#18 Addressing Full Lifecycle Bird Conservation in your SWAP		
July 17, 2024	#19-Topic TBD		
August 21, 2024	#20 Open Forum		
September 18, 2024	#21-Topic TBD		
October 16, 2024	#22-Topic TBD		
November 20, 2023	#23-Topic TBD		
December 18, 2024	#24-Topic TBD		
* Note all SWAP Learning Series sessions will be held from 2:00pm-3:30pm ET unless otherwise indicated.			