E-mail listserve: Contact Julie Hagelin (julie.hagelin@alaska.gov) to be added to the BPIF listserve, which provides periodic announcements on topics related to BPIF and other relevant landbird issues in Alaska and northwestern Canada.

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Introduction

The 22nd annual meeting of Boreal Partners in Flight was held 14–15 November 2013 in Anchorage, Alaska. This year’s meeting was attended by nearly 50 individuals representing a variety of state and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and universities — from Southeast to the Arctic Coastal Plain. This year’s meeting covered several topics of interest including: understanding declines of aerial insectivores, population status of cliff-nesting raptors, efforts to model changes in the distribution and abundance of landbirds in Alaska, and increasing communication and collaboration within BPIF. In addition, several action items were identified for the upcoming year.

We were joined this year by invited speakers Dr. David Winkler of Cornell University, Dr. Susan Haig of the U.S. Geological Survey and Oregon State University, and Diane Stralberg of the University of Alberta. We were fortunate to have had the opportunity to learn about their important contributions to bird conservation and research.

This report contains the minutes from the meeting, brief notes on topical discussions, and recommended actions for 2013. Unless noted, Co-Chairs are responsible for the completion of action items.

We offer our thanks to attendees for their participation, and extend an invitation to all who are interested in the conservation and research of northern landbird populations to join Boreal Partners in Flight (contact Julie Hagelin).

Jim Johnson

Co-chair (2011–2013)

15 April 2014

Leadership of Boreal Partners in Flight

Executive Committee:
Julie Hagelin – Chairperson
Term: Oct 2012 – Dec 2014
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Diversity Program
1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 459-7239; Email: julie.hagelin@alaska.gov

Brian Logan – Co-Chairperson
Term: Nov 2013 – Nov 2015
U.S. Forest Service, Tongass National Forest
8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801
Phone: (907) 789-6298; E-mail: blogan@fs.fed.us

Steve Matsuoka – USFWS Landbird Coordinator
Term: ongoing
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Management
1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 786-3853; E-mail: steve_matsuoka@fws.gov

Colleen Handel – USGS Landbird Researcher
Term: ongoing
U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center
4210 University Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508
Phone: (907) 786-7181; Email: cmhandel@usgs.gov

Travis Booms – Alaska Raptor Group Chair
Term: Oct 2012 – Dec 2014
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Wildlife Diversity Program
1300 College Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701
Phone: (907) 459-7335; Email: travis.booms@alaska.gov
John Haddix – Elected Member

Term: Nov 2013 – Nov 2015

Directorate of Public Works

ATTN: IMFW-PWE, 1060 Gaffney Road, #4500, Fort Wainright, AK 99703

Phone: (907) 361-4213; E-mail: john.a.haddix.civ@mail.mil

Caroline Van Hemert – Elected Member

Term: Nov 2013 – Nov 2015

U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center

4210 University Drive, Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: (907) 786-7181; Email: cvanhemert@usgs.gov

Vacant –Elected Member (Secretary)


BCR 1: Steve Matsuoka and Jim Johnson (jim_a_johnson@fws.gov)

BCR 2: Susan Savage (susan_savage@fws.gov) and Kristine Sowl (kristine_sowl@fws.gov)

BCR 3: Travis Booms (travis.booms@hotmail.com) and Debbie Nigro (dnigro@blm.gov)

BCR 4: Julie Hagelin and Maureen deZeeuw (maureen_dezeeuw@fws.gov)

BCR 5: Melissa Cady (mcady@fs.fed.us)
**Action Plan – 2014**

**Special Session: Species of Conservation Concern – Aerial Insectivores**

- **Action 1:** Communicate with D. Winkler about Tree Swallow Citizen Science program and coordinate among interested parties in Alaska. A. Taylor will provide an update on this topic at 2014 BPIF meeting.
- **Action 2:** S. Matsuoka will communicate with D. Winkler about obtaining support (e.g., graduate student) to analyze Alaska Songbird Institute and McCarthy Tree Swallow monitoring data.
- **Action 3:** There is broad interest in attaching geolocators to Tree Swallows in Alaska. The Alaska Songbird Institute did this in 2013 at Creamer’s Field. ASI will provide an overview of relevant results (e.g., return rates, adverse effects) at the 2014 BPIF.

**Survey and Monitoring**

- **Action 4:** S. Matsuoka will work with B. Logan to help recruit local volunteers for BBS routes on Tongass National Forest.
- **Action 5:** Increase participation in ALMS on refuge system.
- **Action 6:** C. Handel and S. Matsuoka will report on peer-review process of ALMS protocols by Refuge I&M program.

**BPIF Business**

- **Action 7:** T. Booms and C. Barger will provide an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the ARG Metadata Database. Vote whether BPIF adopts a similar database in the place of the annual project summary report.
- **Action 8:** BPIF elections:
  - Elect the 3rd (of three) Executive Committee member and appoint a Secretary.
  - Elect BCR Coordinators.
  - Elect co-Chair.
- **Action 9:** Update BPIF webpage.

**Increasing Connections and Collaborations**

- **Action 10:** L. Fuller and M. deZeeuw will discuss steps/goals in identifying land acquisition priorities using best available data.
- **Action 11:** Co-chairs will work with Executive Committee and current BPIF members in Canada (e.g., H. Cooke, C. Machtans, W. Nixon, P. Sinclair) to:
  - Define BPIF’s area of involvement in Canada.
  - Invite partners in these areas to participate in annual meetings.
  - Invite/elect at least one representative from Canada to serve on BPIF Executive Committee.
Conservation Planning

**Landbird Conservation Plan** – C. Handel

- The plan is in the final layout stage.

**State of Alaska Wildlife Action Plan** – D. Tessler

- The Wildlife Diversity Program at the Alaska Department of Fish and Game is in the process of updating and revising the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). The new plan will be complete by October 2015. The original document, created 10 years ago, was previously known as the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS).
- The purpose of the State Wildlife Action Plan is two-fold. First, it provides a blueprint to guide priority conservation needs for wildlife species of concern throughout Alaska. Second, the plan enables Alaska to qualify for State Wildlife Grant (SWG) funds. SWG funds facilitate wildlife conservation activities that have not been adequately funded through traditional means (i.e. license revenues, Wildlife Restoration and Sport Fish Restoration Programs).
- A new online tool for conservation managers, called the Alaska Species Ranking System (ASRS; [http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/zoology/wildlife-diversity/asrs/](http://aknhp.uaa.alaska.edu/zoology/wildlife-diversity/asrs/)), has resulted from SWG funds, thanks to the efforts of the Alaska Natural Heritage Program. The ASRS provides a means of ranking and evaluating the status of terrestrial vertebrate taxa for state-focused conservation efforts.

Special Session: Species of Conservation Concern – Aerial Insectivores

**Tree Swallows as the Workhorse Aerial Insectivore to Help Understand Population Declines: Research Needs and Aspirations** – D. Winkler

- There is considerable evidence of declines among 85% of North America’s aerial insectivore species. Declines may have been ongoing since 1970s. Population declines are greatest and most widespread among swallows, swifts, and nightjars.
- There are currently several collaborative efforts to address widespread declines of Hirondinidae (particularly Tree Swallow) focus on:
  - Reproductive success including: nest site limitations, carry over effects, predation, climate, land use.
  - Adult survival including: predation, food supply, climate, alteration or loss of wetland roost sites.
  - Modelling: annual life cycle and migratory flow network of Tree Swallow.
- Visit Golondrinas de las Americas website: [http://golondrinas.cornell.edu/](http://golondrinas.cornell.edu/)
Visit Caz Taylor’s lab to learn more about Migratory Network models and more:
http://caz.tulane.edu/

**Aerial Insectivores – State-wide Summary** – S. Anderson & G. Baluss

- Eleven species with significant breeding populations in Alaska plus three rare or local breeding species.
- Significant population declines noted for many species during 1969–2012; Hammond’s Flycatcher population trend has increased.
- **Current or potential future studies in Alaska include:**
  - Tree Swallow nest box study ongoing at King Salmon – S. Savage.
  - There could be an opportunity for Tree Swallow nest box monitoring at Bethel – K. Sowl.
  - Approximately 600 Cliff Swallow nests are built on Department of Defense buildings in Interior Alaska. Many or most of these nests are removed (?). There is interest in creating alternative nesting substrates – J. Haddix.
  - Community buildings at St. Marys are used by nesting Cliff Swallows and may provide an opportunity to study the species – K. Sowl.
  - Tree Swallow nest box monitoring continues at Creamer’s Field. Inclement weather events are a major cause of chick mortality. There is evidence that Tree Swallow nesting chronology is earlier compared to long-term average; earlier nesting birds tend to fare more poorly – J. Hagelin.

**Recommended action(s):**

- **Action:** Communicate with D. Winkler about Tree Swallow Citizen Science program and coordinate among interested parties in Alaska. A. Taylor will provide an update on this topic at 2014 BPIF meeting.
- **Action:** S. Matsuoka will with D. Winker about obtaining support (e.g., graduate student) or advice to analyze Alaska Songbird Institute and McCarthy Tree Swallow monitoring data.
- **Action:** There is broad interest in attaching geolocators to Tree Swallows in Alaska. The Alaska Songbird Institute did this in 2013 at Creamer’s Field. ASI will provide an overview of relevant results (e.g, return rates, adverse effects) at the 2014 BPIF.

**Preliminary Report on Olive-sided Flycatchers** – J. Hagelin

- See Project Summary for detailed description:
Species of Conservation Concern

From Chickadees to Eagles: a Brief Update from the Wildlife Diversity Program – T. Booms

- See Project Summary for detailed description:

Smith’s Longspur Studies in Alaska: the Final Chapter – H. Craig

- See Project Summary for detailed description:

Alaska Raptor Group: Recent Efforts and Updates

Peregrines and Cliffs with “No Legs” – P. Bente

- See Project Summary for detailed description:

Update on Cliff-nesting Raptor Surveys in the Kilbuck Mountains – K. Sowl

- See Project Summary for detailed description:

Alaska Raptor Group Steering Committee Update & Issues – T. Booms

- Two steering committee meetings were held in 2013. Issues discussed include:
  - Raptor Metadata Database (see below).
  - Updates to Raptor Management Plan including action plans to address species and issues. Action plan templates are being developed.
  - Golden Eagle population estimate. ARG is soliciting information from other biologists.
  - An ARG website will soon be created.
  - A manuscript focused on raptor data legacy in Alaska is being prepared by B. Ritchie and others.
  - ARG completed a comprehensive review of the Alaska Landbird Plan, ver. II to ensure raptors were adequately addressed.
  - Booms and others collaborated on a white paper focused on Short-eared Owl status and conservation/research needs. This paper was recently accepted in Journal of Wildlife Management.
Owl surveys were conducted at Cordova and King Salmon. See Project Summaries by J. Jablonski, and S. Savage and S. Anderson for detailed descriptions: [http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/bpif/meetings/reports/BPIF_2013_project_summaries.pdf](http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/bpif/meetings/reports/BPIF_2013_project_summaries.pdf)

Raptor surveys were conducted were continued at NPRA in 2013. See Project Summary for detailed description: [http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/bpif/meetings/reports/BPIF_2013_project_summaries.pdf](http://alaska.usgs.gov/science/biology/bpif/meetings/reports/BPIF_2013_project_summaries.pdf)

**Alaska Raptor Metadata Database** – C. Barger & T. Booms

- An online database has been developed to archive essential descriptive information on past and current raptor projects. The form can be found here: [http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifediversity.raptors](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wildlifediversity.raptors)
- A similar online database may serve as an effective, streamlined structure to archive BPIF projects. Booms and Barger will provide an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of the ARG database at the 2014 BPIF/ARG meeting, which will enable BPIF to decide whether we want to adopt this approach.

**Recommended action(s):**

- **Action**: T. Booms and C. Barger will provide an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the ARG Metadata Database. Vote whether BPIF adopts a similar database in the place of the annual project summary report.

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**Survey and Monitoring**

**A Bayesian Hierarchical Model Combining Distance-Sampling and Time-Removal to Estimate Detection Probability and Relative Abundance during Avian Point Counts** – C. Amundson

- Distance sampling and removal model were combined to estimate availability and detectability. There are difficulties meeting assumptions of both methods (including inability to include covariates).
- Amundson et al. developed a model extension that linked removal model (Farnsworth et al 2005) with hierarchical multinomial mixture model (Royle 2004). Model extension was implemented in a Bayesian framework, which allows estimates of availability, detectability, and number of birds; covariates; and spatial autocorrelation, and zero-inflation.
- Applied to SWAN National Park bird surveys, and will be useful for a variety of other datasets, including ALMS.
• Model is extendable to include various survey methods, trend analysis, multiple types of autocorrelation.
• Minimum of 80 observations / species is best.

Landbird Abundance and Associations with Timber Harvest, Old Growth Forest Volume, and Environmental Characteristics in the Tongass National Forest – C. Amundson

• Used ALMS data from 2003–2012 (1162 surveys at 369 points in 20 blocks).
• Objectives:
  o Identify habitat preferences of select species.
  o Determine population size and trend for species of concern.
  o Determine the amount of sampling needed to detect population change on the Tongass using ALMS.
• Over 10,000 detections from 22 species.
• This is a work in progress. Stay tuned!

Monitoring Autumn Passerine Migration on Middleton Island, Alaska – L. DeCicco


Overview of Grouse and Ptarmigan Studies in Alaska – R. Merizon

• ADFG will hire a second small game biologist for Interior.
• The grouse and ptarmigan hunter wing collection program is currently used to determine age, sex, and species composition of harvest birds. This collection is available for population genetics analyses.
• ADFG’s small game hunting (including grouse and ptarmigan) website can be found here: http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=smallgamehunting.main

2013 Update on Breeding Bird Survey – S. Matsuoka

• “On the Road Again for a Bird Survey that Counts” provides an overview of BBS program. Article is located here: https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bbs/bbsnews/Pubs/Birding-Article.pdf

Recommended action(s):
• **Action:** S. Matsuoka will work with B. Logan to help recruit local volunteers for BBS routes on Tongass National Forest.

2013 Update on Alaska Landbird Monitoring Survey – C. Handel

• Majority of BBS routes are on the road system. ALMS attempts to supplement BBS through a randomized design.
• The primary objective of ALMS is to monitor population trends, i.e., detect 50% decline over 25 yrs (-3.5\% / yr).
• Upcoming ALMS products include:
  o Bayesian hierarchical models (see description above).
  o Estimate landbird population trends for Alaska.
  o Landscape level projections of landbird distribution and abundance (AK Peninsula product forthcoming).
  o Descriptions of bird-habitat relationships (Tongass National Forest product forthcoming).
  o Climate-related models of projected distribution across Alaska and North America (partially in conjunction with Boreal Avian Monitoring program).
• Recent discussions about the future of ALMS among agency biologists yielded the following insights:
  o All agencies have clear mandates for monitoring.
  o All agencies are interested in participating.
  o Funding and staffing are primary constraints for participation.
  o Agencies desire products on trends, habitat use, and distribution / abundance maps.
  o Information needs are centered on individual or groups of conservation units (i.e., refuges, parks).
  o Difference among ALMS data collection protocols must not hinder existing programs (e.g., BBS).
• K. DeGroot sent a questionnaire to biologists at 14 refuges. Summary of results include:
  o Four refuges are currently involved in ALMS, 9 were involved in the past, and 11 expressed desire to participate.
  o Refuges would benefit from logistical support (11 refuges), additional funding (5 refuges), and additional staff (3 refuges). This is the major stumbling block preventing increased refuge participation.
• Group discussion yielded the following input and questions:
  o It would be advantageous to look at past ABO model for ways to improve observer training and conducting ALMS surveys with roving crews.
  o Recruiting staff for short durations is difficult.
  o Training includes not only bird surveys but first-aid, firearm, aviation, etc. It is difficult to complete these trainings in smaller, remote communities.
  o Should ALMS surveys include acoustic monitoring (i.e., soundscapes)? C. Handel experimented with recording equipment and concurrent observers.
Recommended action(s):

- **Action**: Increase participation in ALMS on refuge system.
- **Action**: C. Handel and S. Matsuoka to report on peer-review process of ALMS protocols by Refuge I&M program.

**Migratory Connectivity**

**The Importance of Establishing Migratory Connectivity in Boreal Birds throughout the Annual Cycle** – S. Haig

- Connectivity defined as the relationships among locations of individuals over predetermined spatial and temporal scales, regardless of migratory status.
- Relationships include:
  - Within seasons (e.g., patch use, movements among habitat patches).
  - Among seasons (e.g., migration, full life-cycle connectivity: geographic linking of populations among different stages of the annual cycle).
  - Seasonal interactions: effects of different stages of the annual cycle on the next stage (i.e., carry over effects).
  - Among species, sub-species, and populations.
- Connectivity types:
  - Strong connectivity: strong one-to-one connections between summer and winter areas.
  - Weak connectivity: example of broader winter areas.
- Connectivity has not been defined for most species.
- Reasons for studying connectivity:
  - To better understand population structure, dispersal, mating strategies, etc.
  - Pathogens and diseases. E.g., track and predict movements of infectious diseases.
  - Energy extraction. Determine the species that are most likely to be affected by solar and wind farms, oil spills, etc.
  - Airstrikes. To help reduce airstrikes during migratory periods and within migratory corridors.
  - Climate change. Seasonal chronology shifting with changing climate. Prioritizing species and habitats can’t be done without understanding connectivity.
- How to study connectivity:
  - Satellite transmitters including new space station program ICARUS.
  - Miniaturized devices like geolocators, VHF radios, GPS tags.
  - Harmonic radar.
  - Stable isotopes.
  - Molecular markers: best at providing longitude (not latitude).
  - Acoustic monitors.
  - Weather radar.
  - eBird, BBL resighting data.
• The Migratory Connectivity Project aims to:
  o Map current and predict future distributions and connectivity for all birds living in the W. Hemisphere.
  o Solve technological issues.
  o Provide online course materials for teaching migratory connectivity.
  o Post relevant papers on latest tracking techniques and studies.

• The Migratory Connectivity Project website can be found here: http://www.migratoryconnectivityproject.org/

Climate Change

Changes in the Abundance and Distribution of Birds in the Boreal-Arctic Transition Zone of Alaska – L. McNew


Blood parasites in Alaskan Passerines: Distribution, Transmission, and Health Effects – C. Van Hemert


Update on the Boreal Avian Monitoring Program – D. Stralberg

• Climate change impacts include biome shifts. For example, a 22% reduction in the extent of Boreal Forest is projected to occur by 2095.
• The Boreal Avian Monitoring Program is using broad-scale bioclimatic models to assess avian responses. Parameters include: breeding bird abundances, human land modifications, topography, temperature, moisture, etc.
• Currently there are sufficient data for 74 bird species.
• Modelling approach includes a boosted regression tree approach using 18,000 bird surveys, 11 bootstraps, 2 variable sets (climate only / climate + land use + topography), and 7 temperature and moisture indices.
• Projections include winners (e.g., Veery, Red-winged Blackbird, and Song Sparrow) and losers (e.g., American Tree Sparrow).
• Changes in species distributions and abundances will demand shifting management responsibilities.
• For more information on the Boreal Avian Monitoring Project, visit: http://www.borealbirds.ca/
BPIF Business

Annual Project Summary Report – J. Hagelin

- The 2013 summary contains 37 reports, which detail a total of 58 projects led by more than 60 investigators.

Recommended action(s):

- **Action:** Decide whether an online database similar to one ARG developed will replace the BPIF annual project summary report. A second option is for an online database to compliment the BPIF annual project summary report.

Terms of Reference Revision – S. Matsuoka

- Revised Terms of Reference were adopted and can (soon) be accessed at the BPIF website.

Elections

- B. Logan will serve as co-chair (with J. Hagelin).
- C. Van Hemert and J. Haddix were elected to Executive Committee.
- The 3rd Executive Member / Secretary position is vacant.

Recommended action(s):

- **Action:** Elect the 3rd (of three) Executive Committee member and appoint a Secretary.

Increasing Connections and Collaborations

PCJV and Land Trusts – L. Fuller

- The PCJV will be restructured and future program goals will be defined. The PCJV has a new coordinator and new members on the management board.
- The PCJV will continue to focus on habitat prioritization, outreach and communications, and habitat protections. The new PCJV will reach across bird communities and habitats. Communication will continue to occur across state and international boundaries.
- There is a spring 2014 meeting that will focus on regional issues and priorities.
- The PCJV webpage can be accessed here: [http://www.pcjv.org/home/](http://www.pcjv.org/home/)

Recommended action(s):
• **Action:** L. Fuller and M. deZeeuw will discuss steps/goals in identifying land acquisition priorities using best available data.

**Increasing Partner Communication and Collaboration across Jurisdictional Boundaries** – M. deZeeuw & H. Cooke

- Group discussion led to several ideas for increased collaboration with partners in Canada:
  - Define BPIF’s focal extent in Canada.
  - Re-identify and invite partners in British Columbia and Yukon Territory (and perhaps other Provinces and Territories?). It would be valuable to have a representative from Canada on BPIF Executive Committee.
  - Share the BPIF Landbird Conservation Plan with partners in Canada.

- Group discussion also focused on development of a communication strategy for BPIF and how to better reach out to potential new partners:
  - Increased use of list-serve for sharing reports and publications.
  - Develop educational materials for government, industries, and the public.
  - Support existing or develop new targeted campaigns (e.g., cats inside).

**Recommended action(s):**

• **Action:** Co-chairs will work with Executive Committee and current BPIF members in Canada (e.g., H. Cooke, C. Machtans, W. Nixon, P. Sinclair) to:
  - Define BPIF’s area of involvement in Canada.
  - Invite partners in these areas to participate in annual meetings.
  - Invite/elect at least one representative from Canada to serve on BPIF Executive Committee.
# Agenda for Boreal Partners in Flight and Alaska Raptor Group Meeting

14-15 November, 2013

Anchorage, AK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Agenda topics</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30–8:45</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45–9:00</td>
<td>Announcements &amp; Introductions</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Landbird Conservation Plan, V 2.0</td>
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<td>State of AK Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)</td>
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<td>9:00–10:00</td>
<td>Invited Speaker: Tree Swallows as the Workhorse to Help Understand Population</td>
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<td>Aerial Insectivore to Help Understand Population and Aspirations</td>
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<td>10:00–10:20</td>
<td>Aerial insectivores – state-wide summary</td>
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<td>10:20–10:40</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:40–11:00</td>
<td>Preliminary report on Olive-sided Flycatchers</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00–11:15</td>
<td>From Chickadees to Eagles, a Brief Update from the Wildlife Diversity Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15–11:30</td>
<td>Smith's Longspur studies in Alaska: the Final Chapter</td>
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Please read: Where: USGS, Glen Olds Hall, 4210 University Dr. (on the APU campus)

Time: 8:30–5:00

Beverages and snacks will be provided.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session/Activity</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30–1:00</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00–1:30</td>
<td>National &amp; Regional Updates (PIF, Canada, JVs)</td>
<td>All</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:30–5:00</td>
<td><strong>Alaska Raptor Group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Recent Efforts and Updates:</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Peregrines and cliffs with no “legs” (1:30-1:50)</td>
<td>P. Bente, ADFG</td>
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<td>Update on cliff-nesting raptor surveys in the Kilbuck Mountains (1:50-2:10)</td>
<td>K. Sowl, USFWS</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Break</strong> (2:10-2:30)</td>
<td>T. Booms, ADFG</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alaska Raptor Group Steering Committee Update &amp; Issues (2:30-2:45)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alaska Raptor Metadata Database (remainder of day)</td>
<td>C. Barger &amp; T. Booms, ADFG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Overview of the database</td>
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<td>- How to enter data online</td>
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<td>- General discussion: Using database in place of BPIF Annual Summaries??</td>
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<td><strong>Agenda Topics: Friday, 15 November</strong></td>
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<td>8:30–8:45</td>
<td><strong>Welcome, Overview, Announcements</strong></td>
<td>All</td>
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<td><strong>Survey and Monitoring</strong></td>
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<td>8:45–9:00</td>
<td>A Bayesian hierarchical model combining distance-sampling and time-removal to estimate detection probability and relative abundance during avian point counts</td>
<td>C. Amundson, USGS</td>
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<td>9:00–9:15</td>
<td>Landbird abundance and associations with timber harvest, old growth forest volume, and environmental characteristics in the Tongass National Forest</td>
<td>C. Amundson &amp; C. Van Hemert, USGS</td>
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<td>9:15–9:30</td>
<td>Habitat associations of breeding songbirds in Yukon’s Tintina Trench</td>
<td>H. Cooke, WCS</td>
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<td>9:30–9:45</td>
<td>Monitoring autumn passerine migration on Middleton Island, Alaska</td>
<td>L. DeCicco, USFWS</td>
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<td>9:45–10:00</td>
<td>Overview of grouse and ptarmigan studies in Alaska</td>
<td>R. Merizon, ADFG</td>
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<td>10:00–10:15</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
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<td>10:15–10:40</td>
<td>Update on BBS</td>
<td>S. Matsuoka, USFWS</td>
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<td>10:40–11:05</td>
<td>Update on ALMS</td>
<td>C. Handel, USGS</td>
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<td>11:05–11:30</td>
<td>ALMS: future direction</td>
<td>S. Matsuoka &amp; D. Granfors, USFWS; C. Handel, USGS</td>
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11:30–1:00  Lunch

**Migratory Connectivity**

1:00–2:00  *Invited Speaker:* The importance of establishing migratory connectivity in boreal birds throughout the annual cycle  

S. Haig, USGS

**Climate Change**

2:00–2:15  Changes in the abundance and distribution of birds in the boreal-Arctic transition zone of Alaska  

L. McNew, USGS

2:15–2:30  Blood parasites in Alaskan passerines: distribution, transmission, and health effects  

C. Van Hemert, USGS

2:30–2:45  Assessing responses of boreal songbird distribution and abundance to climate change  

D. Stralberg, Univ. of Alberta

2:45–3:00  Break

**BPIF Business**

3:00–3:15  Annual Project Summary Report  

J. Hagelin, ADFG

3:15–3:30  Terms of Reference Revision  

S. Matsuoka, USFWS

**Increasing Connections and Collaborations**

3:30–3:45  PCJV and Land Trusts  

Lynn Fuller, PCJV

3:45–4:00  Increasing partner communication and collaboration across jurisdictional boundaries  

M. DeZeeuw, USFWS; H. Cooke, WCS

4:00–4:15  Elections

4:15–4:30  Closing remarks
## Appendix 2. Meeting attendees

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