

SYMPOSIUM S-PIF-03

SUPPORTING CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION: INTEGRATING SINGLE SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

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Numerous avian conservation efforts are underway throughout North and South America at both the individual species and the ecosystem level. Single species initiatives, such as the Canada Warbler International Conservation Initiative, the International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance, the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group and the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group focus on full lifecycle conservation of long distance migratory species. Ecosystem conservation initiatives, such as the Partners in Flight Conservation Business Plans for the Central and South American Highlands and the Gulf-Caribbean Slope of Mexico and Central America focus on the identification and conservation of priority landscapes that support multiple migratory and resident bird species of conservation concern and the development of conservation strategies that address the primary threats to sustaining healthy bird populations in these landscapes. These efforts share common focal areas, focal habitats and conservation priorities, yet opportunities to integrate conservation actions can be limited. This workshop will focus on how the different initiatives can build on individual successes and work together more effectively in the future. Presentations and discussions will focus on identifying, implementing, and coordinating on the ground conservation actions to enhance benefits across species and ecosystems. Time will also be allotted for individual initiatives to highlight current projects and identify pressing needs in the context of integrating actions. This workshop will actively encourage participation by individuals and groups working towards the conservation of resident Neotropical birds and their ecosystems in order to integrate their work into the initiatives listed above.

S-PIF-03-01. LA INICIATIVA INTERNACIONAL DE CONSERVACIÓN DE LA REINITA DE CANADÁ

THE CANADA WARBLER INTERNATIONAL CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

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The Canada Warbler International Conservation Initiative (CWICI) was officially launched in June 2013 at the BirdLife International World Congress in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, as a multinational collaboration to support and coordinate recovery efforts for the Canada Warbler. The partners in this project are committed to acquiring and applying the best science as they collaborate to stop the severe population declines of this imperiled songbird: over the last 40 years, over 70% of the global population of the Canada Warbler has disappeared. CWICI recognizes that a full annual-cycle approach is required to understand the ecology of this species and the threats to its populations on the breeding grounds, wintering grounds and during its migration. The group further recognizes that on-the-ground actions and policies to recover this species must be respectful of local community values and include multiple stakeholder participation in management solutions. Indeed, the need for partnerships, with a diverse group of organizations, researchers and stakeholders is well-recognized by the CWICI. A full annual-cycle conservation plan for Canada Warblers is in development and includes an assessment of the major threats to Canada Warblers on the breeding and non-breeding grounds, including threats that may be especially relevant during the biannual migration period.

In addition, the plan recommends key conservation actions and outlines research needs to highlight areas where additional information would be particularly useful in identifying what actions should be prioritized and where on the landscape they would be most beneficial.

S-PIF-03-02. INTERNATIONAL WOOD THRUSH CONSERVATION ALLIANCE: FROM RESEARCH TO CONSERVATION PLANNING AND ACTION

ALLIANZA INTERNACIONAL PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN DE *HYLOCICHLA MUSTELINA*: DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y PLANIFICACIÓN A ACCIONES DE CONSERVACIÓN

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The Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*) is a Neotropical migratory songbird that breeds in the deciduous and mixed-forests of eastern North America and winters in southern Mexico and Central America. Across its wintering grounds, the Wood Thrush utilizes tropical evergreen forests found in lowlands and pre-montane areas. By using the Wood Thrush as a model organism, researchers have revealed how habitat loss and climatic factors on both the non-breeding and breeding grounds affect abundance and population trends. Research indicates that individual populations may face region-specific threats that further complicate our understanding of full life-cycle population dynamics. For instance, the southeastern U.S. population of Wood Thrush may be facing limiting factors on both the breeding and non-breeding grounds, while habitat loss and degradation specifically on the non-breeding grounds may be the primary threat for other populations. Understanding these nuances is critical to ensuring our limited conservation dollars are being put to best use. These results emphasize the complexities of understanding Wood Thrush population dynamics and the importance of developing a range-wide scheme to integrate conservation actions across borders to conserve and protect the Wood Thrush and its associated species and habitats. While the International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance (IWOTHCA) aims to promote the conservation of this specific Neotropical migratory songbird, we also aspire to use the SMBC/PIF VI workshop to identify areas of overlap and integrate efforts with other conservation groups with similar habitat-related goals in the tropical evergreen forests in lowland and pre-montane areas of Mexico and Central America.

Hylocichla mustelina es un ave migratoria Neotropical que se reproduce en los bosques deciduos y mixtos del este de Canadá y Estados Unidos y durante el invierno utiliza los boques tropicales siempreverdes y zonas pre-montanas de México y Centro América. Varias investigaciones centradas en *Hylocichla mustelina* como organismo de estudio han revelado cómo la pérdida de hábitat y factores climáticos en las áreas de invierno y de reproducción afectan la abundancia y las tendencias poblacionales. Las amenazas determinadas para cada área, de reproducción o invierno, afectan poblaciones específicas y complican la comprensión de la dinámica poblacional en el ciclo de vida de *Hylocichla mustelina*. Por ejemplo, la población del sureste de Estados Unidos está limitada por factores en las áreas de invierno y reproducción, mientras, en el área de invierno específicamente, la pérdida y degradación del hábitat posiblemente sean la causa primaria que afecte otras poblaciones. Es de importancia crítica especificar estos efectos entre áreas para asegurar que los fondos limitados destinados a la conservación sean utilizados de la mejor manera posible. Estos hallazgos señalan la complejidad en comprender las dinámicas poblacionales de *Hylocichla mustelina* y la importancia de desarrollar un esquema a nivel de la región para integrar acciones de conservación que crucen fronteras para conservar y proteger a *Hylocichla mustelina*, las especies asociadas y su hábitat. La Alianza para la Conservación de *Hylocichla mustelina* tiene como meta promover la conservación de esta ave migratoria Neotropical, no obstante, aspira a utilizar el taller en el marco del congreso SMBC/PIF VI para identificar áreas en común e integrar esfuerzos

con otros grupos de conservación que tengan metas similares, en los bosques tropicales siempreverdes en zonas bajas y pre-montañas de México y Centro América.

S-PIF-03-03. ADVANCES IN NON-BREEDING SEASON CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR THE GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER (*VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA*)

AVANCES EN PLANIFICAR LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LA REINITA ALIDORADA (*VERMIVORA CHRYSOPTERA*) EN LA TEMPORADA NO REPRODUCTORA

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Conservation planning and action for the Golden-winged Warbler has advanced considerably with the publication of the Golden-winged Warbler Nonbreeding Season Conservation Plan (online at www.gwwa.org). This document represents a multinational effort to address the non-breeding conservation needs of this rapidly declining, migratory songbird. The Conservation Plan employs habitat and occupancy models to identify focal areas of high priority for the species across Central and South America. During the plan's development, strategic planning sessions of the Alianza Alas Doradas working group identified and prioritized threats to habitat and actions to address those threats across all focal areas. Specific projects have now been developed for the areas hosting the highest Golden-winged Warbler occupancy and with the greatest opportunities for successful conservation action (Golden-winged Warbler Focal Areas) in all countries within the regular non-breeding range. Implementation of these projects is underway in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. Here we summarize the conservation planning process and highlight successes in conservation action. Challenges to achieving sustainable outcomes and scaling up action throughout the remaining focal areas will also be addressed. The session will end with a discussion focused on achieving long term project sustainability, integrating conservation efforts with other ongoing initiatives, and building a network of conservation practitioners throughout the species' range.

S-PIF-03-04. FULL LIFE CYCLE CONSERVATION FOR THE CERULEAN WARBLER (*SETOPHAGA CERULEA*): STATE OF KNOWLEDGE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

CONSERVACIÓN DEL CICLO DE VIDA COMPLETO DE LA REINITA CERÚLEA (*SETOPHAGA CERULEA*): ESTADO DEL CONOCIMIENTO Y DIRECCIONES FUTURAS

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The Cerulean Warbler Technical Group, including El Grupo Ceruleo, is comprised of biologists and managers from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry who are dedicated to full life cycle conservation of the Cerulean Warbler (*Setophaga cerulea*). This group completed a conservation action plan in 2007, which suggested population growth could be limited by a combination of poor non-breeding survival and poor reproductive success. Priority conservation actions will be reviewed, with examples of actions undertaken during the past 10 years. Projects currently underway to fill critical information gaps and implement conservation actions include: 1) post-fledging ecology: initial results indicate about 50% survival up to 35 days post-fledging; 2) migratory connectivity: identifies potential importance of extended spring stopovers in Belize and Guatemala prior to trans-gulf flights, as well as possibility of migratory connectivity between breeding and wintering population; larger sample size needed to clarify these

patterns; 3) breeding habitat management guidelines: forest management guidelines were developed in 2013 and are now being implemented, in part through a USDA program that provides incentives for private landowners to enhance forest habitat for Cerulean Warblers; 4) defining priority wintering sites: In 2014, overlapping priority sites for Cerulean, Golden-winged and Canada Warblers were defined during a meeting in Colombia. Ten high priority sites were identified, with conservation strategies developed for four sites. Occupancy surveys were conducted at two of them in 2017. Long-term monitoring at three sites in Antioquia provides information on survival rates in different over-winter habitats. Future directions include full annual cycle modeling to better understand limiting factors and determine most meaningful conservation actions. This group's relatively slow progress over the past few years indicates that significant progress toward conservation action across the full annual cycle needs to be in the context of integration of single-species and ecosystem-scale initiatives.

S-PIF-03-05. BIRD CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLANS FOR THE HIGHLANDS AND GULF-CARIBBEAN SLOPE ECOSYSTEMS

PLANES DE NEGOCIOS DE CONSERVACIÓN DE AVES PARA ECOSISTEMAS DE LAS TIERRAS ALTAS Y DE PENDIENTES DEL CARIBE

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A Conservation Business Plan is an adaptive conservation plan that focuses on well-defined conservation actions and specific, measurable conservation outcomes. Such plans provide an overarching strategic framework needed to identify and rank conservation targets, threats to these targets, and strategies needed to address these threats. In 2013, the 5th International Partners in Flight Conference focused on developing Conservation Business Plans to reverse the decline of bird populations across the Western Hemisphere. The Plans developed as part of that conference present strategies and projects to address key threats to migratory birds within an ecosystem context. Two of the Plans developed from that conference cover broad geographic areas that support populations of wintering migratory birds that breed in eastern North America, with some overlap in species of concern such as Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla mustelina*), along with many resident birds of conservation concern. The Central and South American Highlands and the Gulf-Caribbean Slope of Mexico and Central America Conservation Business Plans both seek to address full life-cycle conservation needs of declining long-distance migratory birds along with resident birds utilizing the same habitats in Mesoamerica. Addressing the rapid loss and degradation of major ecosystems, especially forests, is a common goal across these two broad geographies. This presentation will review the bird conservation targets, priority threats and associated conservation actions, and example conservation projects from each of these Plans. This presentation will help provide a broad geographical and ecosystem context for integrating implementation activities among species-specific working groups and strategies identified in these Plans. Discussion time at the end of this presentation will allow symposium attendees to debate the utility of these Plans and suggest improvements that would make them more effective in catalyzing ecosystem conservation that benefits the full suite of migratory and resident bird targets.

S-PIF-03-06. ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSIONS: INTEGRATING CONSERVATION ACTIONS ACROSS SINGLE SPECIES AND ECOSYSTEM INITIATIVES FOR BIRDS AND BEYOND

MESA REDONDA: INTEGRANDO ACCIONES DE CONSERVACIÓN DE INICIATIVAS DE ECOSISTEMAS Y ESPECIE PARA LAS AVES Y MÁS

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A main goal of the symposium hosted by Partners in Flight titled “Supporting conservation implementation: integrating single species and ecosystem conservation initiatives” is to facilitate discussion and collaboration among existing bird conservation initiatives in order to identify projects that are likely to benefit multiple species and develop a path forward that fosters integrated conservation action. The discussions outlined below will take place following presentations earlier in the day on the work of single species initiatives, such as the Canada Warbler International Conservation Initiative, the International Wood Thrush Conservation Alliance, the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group and the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group as well as two ecosystem conservation initiatives - the Partners in Flight Conservation Business Plans for the Central and South American Highlands and the Gulf-Caribbean Slope of Mexico and Central America. The discussion will be composed of three themes: i) Increasing both public awareness of threats to habitat and biodiversity as well as outreach and education about the value of resident and migratory birds, ii) supporting best management practices and retention of habitat within working landscapes and, iii) engaging stakeholders in the development and support of protected areas and biological corridors. After the round-table discussions the group will come together to identify a small number of projects to pursue collaboratively. Following the process developed for the Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, projects will be explored to identify their scope and targets, identify threats to be addressed, develop goals and strategies, identify potential barriers to success, and begin to outline a work plan for the working groups and/or associated individuals. To advance these projects it will be necessary to identify and link key Latin American conservation leaders, NGOs, and/or governments with each project. A key aim of this workshop is to reach out to individuals and groups working towards the conservation of resident and migrant birds and their ecosystems in the Neotropics.