

SYMPOSIUM S-PIF-07

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION AND CAPACITY BUILDING TO CONSERVE OUR SHARED BIRDS

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This symposium will showcase a series of projects and partnerships that have been successful in broadening international collaboration and capacity to conserve our shared birds. Topics will include Partners in Flight Western Working Group priorities to build the capacity of partners in bird monitoring and the development and implementation of science-based bird conservation to benefit shared species, including State of the Birds Watch List species. The focus will be on partnership models that link migratory species that breed in the western United States and Canada and migrate and or winter in Mexico, Central and South America to actively support increased international conservation capacities and connections for those species. While the catalyst for these partnerships are most often migratory species, this work has far reaching benefits for regional residents, a critical component to the success of these programs. Presentations will emphasize training, mentoring, education materials, and facilitation for grass roots bird monitoring and conservation partnerships. Presenters will provide examples of training models that include 1) development of education tools for use by partners for domestic and international training, 2) intensive training for international partners at field stations in the United States, 3) support for international training and collaborative network building sessions, and 4) continued mentorship and collaboration for sustainable program development. Additional topics will focus on facilitation and leadership for economic and community development for ecological conservation. Presenters will showcase successful bird conservation initiatives that grew out of mentorship of in-country leadership and support of emerging self-directed conservation science and education programs in the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America. This symposium seeks to broaden awareness of existing capacity building programs, expand partnerships, and foster new ideas that are imperative to the conservation of our shared birds.

M S-PIF-07-01. CONNECTING PEOPLE TO BIRD CONSERVATION THROUGH RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

CONECTANDO A LA GENTE A LA CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS AVES

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International collaborations are essential to effective conservation of migratory birds throughout their life cycles. Environment for the Americas (EFTA) works across the Western Hemisphere to engage youth and adults in bird conservation through education programs, citizen science, research, and other activities. This presentation shares three international programs, International Migratory Bird Day, Celebrate Birds, and the Western Hummingbird Partnership, that connect people from Canada to Argentina and the Caribbean for bird conservation. International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is the largest hemispheric celebration of birds. It engages communities and connects partners in recognizing migratory birds, promoting their conservation, and learning about birds and their conservation through hands-on activities. Surveys of over 100 IMBD program coordinators highlight the importance of the program in providing opportunities to work with new audiences and the significance of joining our voices for bird conservation. EFTA provides important training to youth interested in avian research and community-based conservation education and places them at research sites across the United States. In the western United States and Latin America, these youth become part of the Copper River Migratory Bird Initiative by conducting research on migratory shorebirds through our Celebrate Birds internships. The data they gather contribute to hemispheric efforts to better understand the movements and habitat requirements of these long-distance migrants. Interns are also responsible for

conducting education programs in nearby communities. The Western Hummingbird Partnership (WHP) connects researchers and educators in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in the conservation of migratory hummingbirds. Since 2014, WHP has provided funds to support more than 15 research and education projects that raise our understanding of migratory hummingbirds and help to identify mechanisms to conserve them across borders. The group engages diverse groups, including the Botanic Garden Association of Mexico, the U.S. Forest Service, and other organizations in participating in these efforts.

S-PIF-07-02. FIVE YEARS AND 100 TRAINED BIRD BANDERS LATER: THE INTERNATIONAL BIRD BANDING AND MOLT ANALYSIS COURSE

CINCO AÑOS Y 100 ANILLADORES ENTRENADOS MÁS TARDE: EL CURSO INTERNACIONAL DE ANILLAMIENTO Y ANÁLISIS DE MUDA

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Bird banding and the analysis of molt are research tools that have been used by ornithologists for more than a century. The research applications of data on captured and marked individuals are wide and far reaching. However, these skills require specialized training that has not been easily accessible for researchers in Central or South America. Five years ago, the International Bird Banding and Molt Analysis Course (BBMA) was created as a means to provide such specialized training and to promote the use of capture data in research from Central and South America. An alliance between university professors and instructors of five countries has made this initiative possible and since 2012, 92 young ornithologists have received high quality training. The course involves intensive fieldwork and specially designed lectures which provide the knowledge base that participants must acquire. A personalized training strategy allows each participant to advance at their own pace and to maximize their learning potential. The course emphasizes on ethics and bird safety, ageing and sexing techniques using the WRP methodology, and research applications of data from captured and marked birds. The success of this training initiative is not only measured in the number of new trained bird banders covering 10 countries in Latin America. At least 6 participants have gone on to receive their NABC certification as banders or trainers after receiving the course, 18 have used banding data for their graduate theses and 15 have produced scientific publications involving capture data or currently use this technique for their research. Furthermore, through the contacts and friendships forged during these courses, many new alliances and collaborations have surged, ultimately increasing communication for research and bird conservation across the Americas.

M S-PIF-07-03. MONITORING NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS IN WINTER: SUCCESSES, CHALLENGES, AND NEW INITIATIVES IN THE *MOSI* PROGRAM

EL MONITOREO DE MIGRANTES NEOTROPICAS EN INVIERNO: ÉXITOS, DESAFÍOS Y NUEVAS INICIATIVAS DEL PROGRAMA *MOSI*

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The Monitoreo de Sobrevivencia Invernal (Monitoring Overwinter Survival, or MoSI) Program is a collaborative, international network of bird monitoring stations across the northern Neotropics that bolsters conservation efforts through population monitoring. Since 2002, the program has coordinated more than 200

stations in 15 countries to help answer questions such as: What factors affect site persistence on the wintering grounds? Where is population regulation strongest, on the breeding or non-breeding grounds? What can we do to reverse bird population declines? In addition to information about Neotropical migrants, cooperators gather important data on resident birds. All participants are independent and contribute to the program through a shared understanding of the importance of international collaboration. Recent technological advances, such as genotyping to map and link subpopulations, have given momentum to the program and new stations have recently begun operating in Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Colombia, and Venezuela. This presentation will provide a brief history of MoSI, discuss its successes and challenges, and describe several new initiatives, including a micro-grants program for equipment purchase, a fellowship program to enable cooperators to study in the U.S., and our recent work in linking breeding, wintering, and migratory pathways for several species.

**M S-PIF-07-04. FROM A SINGLE MONITORING STATION TO A NATIONAL BIRD OBSERVATORY:
AN INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING SUCCESS STORY**

**DE UNA ESTACIÓN DE MONITOREO A UN OBSERVATORIO NACIONAL DE AVES: UNA
HISTORIA DE ÉXITO DE CONSTRUCCIÓN DE CAPACIDAD INTERNACIONAL**

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The tropics are home to about two-thirds of the world's biodiversity, and the birds that inhabit these regions suffer in many cases from deforestation and habitat loss. In order to properly manage and preserve birds and their ecosystems, we depend on reliable scientific information, which can provide estimates on survivorship, condition and demographics, leading to informed conservation strategies at a regional scale. Bird observatories are a key to conservation of these bird species. Bird observatories function as specialized centers for generating scientific information relevant to the understanding of the full life history parameters of importance. This includes the population dynamics of multiple migratory and resident bird species, the habitats they occupy, and limiting factors for species conservation, and also act as disseminators of information and promoters of environmental education programs as well as implementing specific and successful conservation strategies. The role of the observatories also has to do with the creation of regional capacity in the training of the new generations of biologists and ecosystem managers. The Costa Rica Bird Observatories, (CRBO) has many accomplishments. It has: trained over 500 biologists in advanced scientific bird monitoring techniques; authored more than 50 scientific papers; implemented various species conservation programs, including the first payment for ecosystem services based on birds in the region; and maintains a strong initiative for environmental education with different audiences at the local, regional, and national level. CRBO currently operates 15 stations, country-wide and year around, supporting specific research, education and conservation initiatives that have a strong focus on declining species. We think we have shown that the use of relevant and rigorously collected scientific information, in combination with strong community involvement, communication and market based incentives, has led to successful experiences in bird conservation through bird observatories. The CRBO model has an interesting history and our experiences may well be applicable to other countries and regions.

**M S-PIF-07-05. SOUTHERN WINGS - AN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION OF U.S. STATES
WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND IN-COUNTRY PARTNERS TO CONSERVE SHARED MIGRATORY
BIRDS THROUGH FULL-LIFE CYCLE CONSERVATION**

**SOUTHERN WINGS - UNA COLABORACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE LAS AGENCIAS ESTATALES
DE PESCA Y VIDA SILVESTRE DE ESTADOS UNIDOS JUNTO A SOCIOS LOCALES PARA LA
CONSERVACIÓN DE LAS AVES MIGRATORIAS COMPARTIDAS DURANTE SU CICLO DE VIDA**

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Responding to decreasing populations of some waterfowl in the 1970s, such as northern pintails and mallards, Canada, the United States and state wildlife agencies came together in the 1980s and embarked on a united strategy to conserve wetland habitats for waterfowl. Since 70 percent of waterfowl breed in Canada, maintaining and enhancing Canadian wetlands is vitally important. U.S. states have invested over \$60 million to conserve these “duck factories” that have allowed waterfowl populations to grow and thrive. Southern Wings -modeled after the Canadian collaboration- sets the stage for international collaboration south of the U.S. by bringing state fish and wildlife agencies together with colleagues from Latin America and the Caribbean to conserve shared migratory and resident species. Sustaining migratory populations through financial investments in full-life cycle conservation provide mutual economic and social benefits to the states and local communities. Southern Wings is a framework that facilitates state fish and wildlife agency participation in conservation of migratory birds on their breeding, migration, and wintering sites. Southern Wings and its partners help to focus vital conservation funds for more than one-half of North America’s breeding birds, while also benefiting resident species. To date 30 states have contributed over 2.5 Million USD (leveraging a million more) for conservation across 22 projects in 9 countries. Particular effort has gone into the conservation of high priority species such as Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Bicknell’s Thrush, Sprague’s Pipit, Grasshopper Sparrow, and many others. Southern Wings and the numerous partners across Latin America and the Caribbean are enabling sustained successes in the monitoring and management of populations and full-life-cycle conservation of species and habitats.

M S-PIF-07-06. A COOPERATIVE EFFORT USING RESEARCH AND HABITAT PROTECTION TO HELP CONSERVE WILLOW FLYCATCHERS AND YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS DURING THE NON-BREEDING SEASON

UN ESFUERZO COOPERATIVO MEDIANTE LA INVESTIGACIÓN Y PROTECCIÓN DEL HÁBITAT PARA AYUDAR A CONSERVAR EL MOSQUERO SAUCERO Y EL CUCLILLO PICO AMARILLO DURANTE LA TEMPORADA NO REPRODUCTIVA

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It has long been recognized that a lack of information on the non-breeding ecology of many species of conservation concern hampers effective conservation. The Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*) and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) have experienced substantial population declines, leading to conservation and restoration efforts in the southwestern United States. Nevertheless, non-breeding season mortality also drives these declines. We have little understanding of the migratory routes, overwintering areas, habitat preferences, or survival rates of these two threatened species during this time period. This lack of basic information on non-breeding season ecology is a major barrier to designing effective conservation interventions across the full life cycle. Our project helps solve this problem by collecting data on these species during the non-breeding season. Our primary objectives were to 1) determine key hotspots for the conservation of Willow Flycatchers and Yellow-billed Cuckoo in Western Nicaragua; 2) link breeding, migratory, and overwintering habitats for these species; 3) restore and protect riparian and dry forest habitats in partnership with landowners; and 4) increase awareness of Neotropical migrants among local community members while building capacity across Nicaragua’s scientific community.

S-PIF-07-07. INTERNATIONAL CAPACITY BUILDING FOR MIGRATORY BIRD MONITORING AND CONSERVATION

CREACIÓN DE CAPACIDAD INTERNACIONAL PARA LA VIGILANCIA Y CONSERVACIÓN DE AVES MIGRATORIAS

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Klamath Bird Observatory collaborates with the United States Forest Service International and Wings Across the Americas Programs supporting efforts to build the capacity of partners in bird monitoring and the development and implementation of science-based bird conservation. We offer training, mentorship, education materials, and facilitation for grass roots bird monitoring and conservation partnerships and development of strategic conservation business plans. Our training model involves 1) intensive training for international partners at our field station in the Upper Klamath Basin of southern Oregon, 2) development of education tools for use by partners for domestic and international training and education, 3) support for international training and collaborative network building sessions, and 3) mentorship for in-country leadership and support of emerging self-directed conservation science and education programs. We also offers facilitation and leadership using a collaborative participatory research model that emphasizes community control and reciprocal production of knowledge and results in actionable outcomes that are of utility to the community involved. We will provide examples of how this model is being used to actively support increase of international conservation capacities in Mexico, Costa Rica, Trinidad and Tobago, Peru, and Brazil, where migratory species including State of the Birds Watch List Species (e.g., Mexico – Flammulated Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Golden-cheeked Warbler; Costa Rica – Golden-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush; Brazil and Peru – Olive-sided Flycatcher, Connecticut Warbler; Trinidad and the Caribbean – Prothonotary Warbler) migrate and or over-winter.

M S-PIF-07-08. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION

DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO Y COMUNITARIO PARA LA CONSERVACIÓN ECLOÓGICA

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In Mexico as well as in many other countries of Latin America nature conservation strategies must include strong stewardship, community-engagement and economic-development components basically because the land is largely owned by people in different forms of communal ownership organizations such as the indigenous communities or ejidos. Over the last decade, the San Pancho Bird Observatory develops a bird and habitat conservation strategy that integrates education and capacity-building, economic development mostly through ecotourism and science. Both national and international collaborations through partnerships such as those resulting from Partners in Flight have been a key element in providing a wide range of opportunities and expertise to deliver this conservation model, which has proven to be successful in raising awareness amongst the locals and creating grass-roots, long-term economic opportunities for community sustainability and biodiversity conservation in different communities at the Sierra de Vallejo-Banderas Bay region in western Mexico. The main challenges and opportunities in developing this conservation model are presented.