

**BOREAL *PARTNERS IN FLIGHT* WORKING GROUP**

**1994 ANNUAL REPORT**

by

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## INTRODUCTION

The publication of widespread declines in populations of birds that breed in North America and winter in the Neotropics catalyzed the formation of a vigorous conservation strategy for nongame, migratory landbird species. Launched by the Fish and Wildlife Foundation in 1990, the Neotropical Migrant Bird Conservation Program (*Partners in Flight/Aves de las Americas*) has been embraced by agencies and non-governmental organizations across the continent. To conserve Neotropical migratory birds, the *Partners in Flight* program promotes monitoring, research, habitat protection, professional training and public outreach.

Modelled after the national *Partners in Flight* organization, the Boreal *Partners in Flight* Working Group (BPIF) was formed in March 1992. BPIF members come from a variety state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations across Alaska and Yukon. The main purpose of BPIF is to develop and coordinate a network of integrated research, monitoring, and educational programs specific to Neotropical migratory landbirds that breed in Alaska and Yukon. Within BPIF, regional and technical working groups direct activities in their region or area of interest. Regional working groups of BPIF are comprised of representatives from Alaska's six biogeographic regions and Yukon. Five technical working groups collate information, develop methods, and draft recommendations for the Breeding Bird Survey, Management, Netting and Banding, Off-road Point Counts, and Information and Education.

In the past, members of BPIF focused much of their attention on the development and implementation of standardized monitoring techniques. Because many boreal forest species and subspecies of Neotropical migratory birds can be monitored on their breeding grounds in Alaska and Yukon, but not elsewhere (e.g., Alder Flycatcher, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Blackpoll Warbler), BPIF encourages state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations to participate in landbird monitoring programs.

*Partners in Flight* regional working groups have recently begun to formulate conservation plans for Neotropical migratory birds. Although solid information is often lacking for many species and in many regions, most groups feel they must begin to tackle this important, and critical, task. Limited financial and personnel resources make prioritization of species and habitats a necessary. Throughout the *Partners in Flight* program, we need to maintain broad-scale monitoring and formulate specific questions that address high priority species-habitat groups. We must also continue to educate the general public, colleagues and supervisors on the issues of Neotropical migratory bird conservation and our progress toward meeting those goals.

The fifth meeting of BPIF was held on 6-7 December, 1994 in Anchorage, Alaska. This report contains the minutes from the meeting, reports on accomplishments in 1994 and action items for 1995. The report is generally organized by technical committees (Research and Monitoring, I&E, and Management). Action item numbers refer to, or continue from, items outlined in the previous Action Plan (1/94). Unless noted, Chairs of the committees are responsible for action items. Please point out any inaccuracies, or send any comments on content or format, to Brad Andres, USFWS.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS, ANNUAL MEETING TOPICS, AND ACTION ITEMS**

### **RESEARCH AND MONITORING**

#### **BBS Routes**

The goal for the BBS in Alaska is to strive for consistent yearly coverage and to gradually increase coverage in western and northwestern Alaska. We have made great strides toward increasing coverage in Alaska in the past few years and we should strive to maintain coverage on all existing routes. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center plans to analyze Alaska data in the next few months (Brad Andres, USFWS).

#### **1994 Accomplishments**

- A total of 75 BBS routes were run in Alaska in 1994. Four short routes (<50 stops) were also surveyed. All but 2 routes covered in 1993 were surveyed in 1994. Routes surveyed by boat along rivers provide a feasible way to penetrate the roadless interior. Western and northwestern areas still need better coverage.

#### **1994 Annual Meeting Topics**

- The goal for BBS routes is to have the same observer on any given route for 5 years (3 years of the same observer is the minimum requirement for data to be used). Any new person should do the route as an apprentice before taking over the route.
- Members discussed the importance of paying attention to possible hearing loss. If you don't hear Blackpoll Warblers in late spring, you may have a problem.
- BBS routes do not have to be on one straight stretch of road. Spurs to one side or the other can be included in the total distance.

- Fred Zeillemaker, Izembek NWR, commented that he has installed permanent markers at BBS stops along his route. These markers also double as mileage posts. Remember to contact DOT if you consider doing this on a road that they maintain.
- There are several river routes statewide. Mark Bertram, Yukon Flats NWR, wrote up procedures for conducting river routes. River routes take a little longer than road routes, but this is not a problem as long as the route itself is consistent among years.
- There are some routes in Alaska that are <50 stops. Although data from these routes will not be incorporated into the national database, we should continue to do them because they provide valuable information for remote areas of Alaska.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- Maintain 1994 BBS coverage and expand by at least a few routes, particularly along western and northwestern rivers in 1995.
- B. Distribute BBS forms, collate information, identify data gaps and prepare summary for annual report in 1995.
- C. Develop recommendations for statewide BBS expansion (12/96).
- C.2. Initiate collection of habitat data along BBS routes (8/95).
- I.3. Draft letter to Director, NBS supporting the BBS (completed 1/95). Response by Dr. Pulliam was favorable for maintaining funding for BBS. Contact Brad Andres for copies.

#### **Mist-netting and Banding**

Mist-netting and banding for the purposes of monitoring Neotropical migrants in Alaska started in 1991, and has grown each year since then. Netting and banding have been used to sample birds during spring migration, the breeding season, fall migration, and for training purposes. The largest amount of participation is in the MAPS (Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival) program that uses mist-netting and banding to estimate adult population sizes, productivity, and survivorship. Fall migration monitoring, a likely useful monitoring tool for boreal forest birds, has also been widely used. Most stations operated in 1994 are likely to continue operation in 1995.

Although coverage has increased in recent years, gaps in coverage still exist in Alaska. Little coverage exists in western Alaska, despite that is an important breeding area for Neotropical migrants. Other areas that need attention and increased coverage are southeast Alaska and the Yukon Valley.

#### 1994 Accomplishments

- Systematic mist netting and banding in Alaska and Yukon in 1994: report from the mist netting committee of Boreal *Partners in Flight* (T.H. Pogson, ABO)

This report contains a summary of the systematic use of mist-netting and banding to study the abundance, reproduction and survival of landbirds breeding in Alaska and Yukon in 1994. These studies were conducted by governmental and non-governmental organizations as part of the BPIF group. Organizations participating in the netting and banding program in 1994 included: Alaska Bird Observatory, Alaska Biological Research, Birchside Studios, Institute for Bird Populations, National Biological Survey (Anchorage), National Park Service (Denali National Park, Northwest Areas National Parks, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve), U.S. Army (Ft. Richardson), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alaska Peninsula-Becharof NWR, Izembek NWR, Migratory Bird Management, Tetlin NWR), and U.S. Forest Service (Juneau Ranger District, Misty Fjords National Monument, Portage Ranger District, Yakutat Ranger District). Any omission of participants is not intentional but an error by the author. A more detailed summary of the 1994 banding activities will be prepared and presented in the Alaska Bird Observatory's newsletter, *The Arctic Warbler* later in 1995. Seasonal and overall numbers of species banded in Alaska and Yukon are given in Table 1.

Forty netting stations were operated at 17 locations in all biogeographic regions of Alaska except the North Slope; only 1 station was operated in Yukon. This effort represents a 38% increase in the total number of stations operated by BPIF participants in 1993. Two spring, 7 fall migration and 27 MAPS stations were operated in 1994. Netting stations were also operated at 7 training sites and 1 colonial bird site.

There was a reduction in the number of spring migration stations operated in the region; 3 were operated in 1993 but only 2 in 1994 (both in central Alaska). The 27 MAPS stations were operated at 13 locations around the state: 10 in central Alaska, 7 in southcoastal Alaska, 4 in southeastern Alaska, and 3 in southwestern Alaska. Two were operated in western Alaska and 1 was operated in Yukon. This represents a 107% increase in the number of MAPS stations and a 63% increase in the number of locations where MAPS stations were run over 1993. Sixteen of the MAPS stations were operated in 1993, 10 were also operated in 1992, and only 2 were operated in 1991. It seems likely that most of the stations operated in 1994 will continue operation in 1995. Seven fall migration stations were operated in 1994; a reduction of 13% (one station) from the number of fall stations operated in 1993 (2 in central Alaska, 3 in southcoastal Alaska, and 2 in southwestern Alaska). Five of the stations operated in 1994 had also been operated in 1993 (ABO, Tetlin, Homer, Portage, & Izembek), and ABO's station in Fairbanks has been run since 1992. In 1994, new stations were established and run on the Alaska Peninsula NWR and on the Yakutat District of the Tongass National Forest.

In 1994, the participating BPIF members banded a total of 17,548 birds of 73 taxa on a combined 581 days of netting while accumulating 54,613 net-hours. When compared to 1993, these results represent a 99% increase in the number of birds banded, a 44% increase

in the number of days of netting, and a 32% increase in the number of accumulated net-hours. In 1994, the overall capture rate of the number of birds banded in Alaska and Yukon was 32.1 birds/100 net-hours, a 50% increase in the capture rate over 1993 (24.1 birds/100 n-h).

Netting stations in central Alaska expended the highest effort in Alaska and Yukon in 1994 (40,430 net-hours). This represents a 31% increase in net-hours in central Alaska over 1993 and provided 76% of the total net-hours in 1994. The central Alaska stations also banded the largest number of birds in Alaska and Yukon in 1994, 8,872 individuals, representing 51% of the total. Southcentral Alaska stations banded 25% of the birds (4,332) while accumulating 14% of the net-hours (7,256). Southwestern Alaska netting stations banded a surprising 21% of the birds (3,745 individuals) while turning in only 6% of the net-hours. The stations in central, southcentral and southwestern Alaska accounted for 96% of the effort and 97% of the birds banded in Alaska and Yukon in 1994.

Largely because of the much higher effort, the stations in central Alaska sampled the largest number of taxa (50). Stations in southcentral Alaska sampled 44 taxa, and stations in southeastern and southwestern Alaska each sampled 30 and 32 taxa, respectively. Stations in other regions sampled fewer taxa. The most abundant species banded throughout Alaska and Yukon in 1994 included: Wilson's Warbler (2,537), Slate-colored Junco (1,960), Orange-crowned Warbler (1,879), Myrtle Warbler (1,516), Hermit Thrush (885), American Tree Sparrow (873), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (804), Common Redpoll (769), Yellow Warbler (759), and Lincoln's Sparrow (679). These species comprised 73% (12,661 individuals) of the total number of birds banded in 1994.

The 27 participating MAPS stations in 1994 banded a total of 5,395 birds on 206 days of netting, accumulating 12,560 net-hours. The 10 most abundant taxa banded at all MAPS stations in Alaska and Yukon in 1994 included: Wilson's Warbler (1,118), Orange-crowned Warbler (402), Slate-colored Junco (374), Common Redpoll (263), White-crowned Sparrow (215), Hermit Thrush (209), Myrtle Warbler (181), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (143), Lincoln's Sparrow (142), Swainson's Thrush (141). These species comprised 69% (3,188 individuals) of the total birds banded at MAPS stations. Many of the abundant taxa were banded at >50% of the locations where MAPS stations were run. Although the proportions of young of the total numbers of birds banded varied widely among locations and individual stations, the overall ratio of AHY:HY birds banded at all MAPS stations in Alaska and Yukon in 1994 was 46:54.

The 7 fall migration stations represent the largest effort for the 1994 banding season, accounting for 26,260 net hours and 227 days of netting. A total of 10,496 birds of 52 taxa were banded; this effort represents 48 % of the total net-hours, 39% of the days of netting, and 59% of the birds banded in 1994. Two stations in Central Alaska (Creamer's Field in Fairbanks, and Pump Station near Tok) accounted for the largest effort and the largest numbers of birds banded: 20,763 net hours (79% of fall total) and 6,070 birds of 37 taxa banded (56% of fall total). The Creamer's Field Station accounted for two-thirds of the net-hours and 58% of the birds, banded and the Tok station accounted for one-third of the net-hours and 42% of the birds banded in central Alaska. Three stations in Southcoastal Alaska (Homer, Portage, and Yakutat) accumulated 3,783 net-hours (14% of the fall total) while banding 2,741 (25% of fall total) birds of 40 taxa. The largest station was the Yakutat station that accounted for 85% of the net-hours and 78% of the birds banded in southcoastal Alaska. The 2 fall stations in southwestern Alaska accumulated only 1,714 net-hours (7% of fall total) but banded a surprising 2,102 birds (19% of fall total) of 22 taxa. The Alaska Peninsula station accounted for 95% of the net-hours and 96% of the birds banded in

southwestern Alaska in fall 1994.

The 10 most abundant taxa banded during fall migration of 1994 included: Slate-colored Junco (1,515), Orange-crowned Warbler (1,344), Myrtle Warbler (1,220), Wilson's Warbler (1,184), American Tree Sparrow (766), Ruby-crowned Kinglet (636), Hermit Thrush (625), Yellow Warbler (621), Lincoln's Sparrow (518), Swainson's Thrush (237). These 10 species comprised 80% (8,666 individuals) of the birds banded during fall migration. Like the abundant taxa banded at the MAPS stations, many of the abundant taxa banded in fall 1994 were captured at least 50% of the locations and the stations. In contrast to the almost 50:50 AHY:HY ratio of the birds banded at MAPS stations during the breeding season; most of the birds banded in fall were HY birds. The AHY:HY ratio of birds banded in fall was 16:84. The only 2 fall migration stations operated in a consistent manner in both 1993 and 1994 recorded an increase in capture rates of approximately 100% in 1994 when compared to 1993. The increase in capture rates was recorded in spite of the fact that the capture rates of AHY birds showed a reduction between 1993 and 1994. Thus, the increased capture rates of HY birds accounted for the increase in the numbers of birds banded in 1994. These results suggest that 1994 was a year in which many abundant species sampled during fall migration in central Alaska experienced better reproductive success than in 1993.

Three band recoveries of Alaska passerines were reported in 1994. An AHY Brown Creeper banded near Arcata, northwestern California, in June 1993 was recovered in Juneau in July of the same year. A Lincoln's Sparrow (HY) banded in Fairbanks by ABO personnel in August of 1994 was recovered in Edmonton, Alberta, in September of the same year. A White-crowned Sparrow (HY) banded by Alaska Bird Observatory personnel in east-central Alaska in fall of 1991 was captured and released near Albuquerque, New Mexico in fall 1993. These are the first recoveries for Lincoln's Sparrow and Brown Creeper for Alaska, and the first recovery of a White-crowned Sparrow from central Alaska.

The increase in the interest and participation in systematic netting and banding in Alaska and Yukon has produced a volume of data on the population parameters of landbirds that is probably unequaled in the history of northwestern North America. Standardization of effort at existing stations and continued increase in participation, will undoubtedly reveal that systematic netting and banding is one of the most powerful sampling tools available for studying population dynamics of landbirds in the North. There are 2 regions of Alaska where landbirds were poorly sampled by netting and banding programs in 1994: western and southeastern Alaska. Yukon also had correspondingly poor coverage. The hope is that BPIF participants in these regions can increase the netting and banding of landbirds in these areas in 1995.

Table 1. Seasonal and total numbers of birds banded in Alaska and Yukon in 1994 by BPIF members.

Migr. strat.	Species	Spring migration	MAPS/ summer	Fall migration	Training, etc.	Total number
B	Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	2	7		13
B	American Kestrel	1			1	2
A	Solitary Sandpiper	3			1	4
A	Least Sandpiper				1	1
A	Spotted Sandpiper				1	1
B	Common Snipe				1	1
A	Rufous Hummingbird		14	2		16
B	Belted Kingfisher			5		5
B	Red-breasted Sapsucker		7			7
R	Downy Woodpecker	1	3	7	5	16
R	Hairy Woodpecker		2			2
R	Three-toed Woodpecker		5	4		9
R	Black-backed Woodpecker				1	1
B	Yellow-shafted Flicker	2		2		4
A	Olive-sided Flycatcher			2		2
A	Western Wood-Pewee			2		2
A	Yellow-bellied Flycatcher			3		3
A	Alder Flycatcher	10	119	137	5	271
A	Hammond's Flycatcher	21	29	51	10	111
A	Pacific-slope Flycatcher		12			12
A	Tree Swallow		21			21
A	Violet-green Swallow		3			3
A	Bank Swallow	33		6		39
R	Gray Jay		14		1	15
R	Steller's Jay		3	6		9
R	Black-billed Magpie			4		4
R	Black-capped Chickadee	3	99	135		237
R	Boreal Chickadee	2	42	56	3	103
R	Chestnut-backed Chickadee		8	45		53
N	Red-breasted Nuthatch			101		101
B	Brown Creeper		10	14		24
B	Winter Wren		7	24		31
P	Arctic Warbler		49	6		55
B	Golden-crowned Kinglet		6	116		122

Migr. strat.	Species	Spring migration	MAPS/ summer	Fall migration	Training, etc.	Total number
B	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	11	143	636	14	804
A	Gray-cheeked Thrush	29	55	98	17	199
A	Swainson's Thrush	84	141	237	71	533
B	Hermit Thrush	3	209	625	48	885
B	American Robin	36	52	59	39	186
N	Varied Thrush	1	90	46	1	138
B	American Pipit			7		7
N	Bohemian Waxwing				1	1
N	Northern Shrike			7	2	9
A	Warbling Vireo		2			2
A	Tennessee Warbler			1		1
A	Orange-crowned Warbler	63	402	1,347	67	1,879
A	Yellow Warbler	31	108	608	12	759
B	Myrtle Warbler	74	181	1,237	24	1,516
B	Audubon's Warbler		1			1
A	Townsend's Warbler		34	17		51
A	Palm Warbler			1		1
A	Blackpoll Warbler	27	36	58	3	124
A	Northern Waterthrush	66	115	34	19	234
A	Wilson's Warbler	153	1,118	1,184	82	2,537
N	American Tree Sparrow	9	82	766	16	873
B	Chipping Sparrow		19	5		24
B	Savannah Sparrow	37	131	203	59	430
B	Fox Sparrow	23	97	236	20	376
B	Song Sparrow		1	11		12
A	Lincoln's Sparrow	15	142	518	4	679
N	Golden-crowned Sparrow		91	117	14	222
B	White-crowned Sparrow	39	215	141	53	448
B	Slate-colored Junco	37	374	1,524	25	1,960
B	Oregon Junco		24	185	3	212
B	Dark-eyed Junco		14			14
N	Rusty Blackbird	1	1			2
N	Lapland Longspur	1			2	3
N	Pine Grosbeak		6	6	2	14

Migr. strat.	Species	Spring migration	MAPS/ summer	Fall migration	Training, etc.	Total number
N	Red Crossbill		1	2		3
N	White-winged Crossbill		6	15		21
N	Common Redpoll	232	263	196	78	769
N	Hoary Redpoll	5	1	1	1	8
B	Pine Siskin		5	83		88
	All Species	1,057	4,615	10,946	707	17,325
Total Netting Effort						
	No. stations	2	28	7	7	
	No. days netting	64	207	227	83	581
	No. net-hours	13,288	12,758	26,260	2,307	54,613
	Range of dates	4/25-6/14	5/20-8/25	7/3-9/29	4/29-7/29	4/25-9/29

- Donna Dewhurst operated 2 MAPS stations and fall migration banding on the Alaska Peninsula NWR with an Earthwatch grant. Earthwatch funds research through volunteers that participate directly in the research activities. Eight teams of volunteers spent 2 weeks netting, banding and nest-searching with Donna. Earthwatch was a partner for Challenge Cost Share Grant funding for this project.
- USFWS has completed guidelines for public educational programs at MAPS stations. Copies are available from Brad Andres.
- A summary of 1993 mist netting and banding activities in Alaska was published in the *Arctic Warbler* (Alaska Bird Observatory newsletter).
- Tom Pogson presented a paper at the Western Bird Banding Association meeting summarizing banding and netting activities in Alaska.
- Fred Zeillemaker initiated a banding program for Bank Swallows this year at Lower Russell Creek near Cold Bay. Birds were captured using a net that was lowered over the side of the nesting cliff for several minutes. As many as 20 birds were caught during each net lowering. A summary of the methods is available from Fred.

#### 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- Security at banding stations is important issue. Tom Pogson pointed out that:
  1. Signs must be posted at EVERY net warning against vandalism (this is legally required). Standard signs are available from the Bird Banding Laboratory. Signs must be posted in order to enlist the cooperation of law enforcement officials should vandalism occur, and
  2. Signs were installed around the banding station stating that video surveillance equipment is operating at all times (even if it isn't) which seems to deter vandals.
- In general, productivity in Alaska in 1994 appeared to be higher than productivity in 1995 (Tom Pogson).
- Members discussed the problem that an influx of immigrants occurs earlier at Alaska MAPS than those in the lower 48 states. The cut-off dates for operation of MAPS stations may be too late for Alaska. Members proposed drafting a resolution to continue MAPS monitoring only through August 1 (or perhaps until between August 1 and August 15). This letter was drafted by Fred Zeillemaker and forwarded by Brad

Andres to Dave DeSante. Dr. DeSante responded, via telephone, to Brad Andres. **He suggested that BPIF continue running the MAPS stations as in past years.** The Institute for Bird Populations will be undergoing a thorough analytical review of the MAPS data after 1995 and will address our concerns at that time. He appreciated our suggestions and welcomed any further comments.

- Kent Wohl, USFWS, submitted a Challenge Cost Share Grant to fund preparation of a summary of 1994 banding and mist netting activities in Alaska. Unfortunately, this proposal was not funded. Alaska Bird Observatory funded preparation of the 1993 banding and mist-netting summary to get the effort off the ground. Funding of subsequent annual summaries will have to be through creative interagency funding avenues.
- If anyone would like advice for how to start and run a MAPS station, contact Donna Dewhurst. She is willing to provide advice after successfully completing her first year of MAPS station operation.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- Maintain coverage of mist-netting programs in 1995.
- B. Distribute forms, collate information, identify data gaps and prepare summary for annual report in 1995.
- C. Develop recommendations for statewide implementation and prioritization, following results of Institute of Bird Population's review (12/96).
- C.3. Draft a letter to Dr. David DeSante to address the issue of immigrant influx to MAPS stations at the end of the season (Fred Zeillemaker, completed 2/95, see above).
- C.4. Prepare report on recommendations for migration monitoring (completed 2/95, see Appendix 1).
- D.4. Prepare session on age and sexing and "forms" for 1995 annual meeting (12/95).
- D.5. Register all MAPS stations with the Institute for Bird Populations (12/95).

## Forest Bird Habitat Research

Forest bird habitat research activities in Alaska include point count studies as well as individual studies outlined below. The point count program is evaluating bird-habitat relations on a statewide basis.

### 1994 Accomplishments

- Phillip Martin, USFWS, conducted bird habitat sampling in the Fairbanks area.
- Peter Paton and Tom Pogson, Alaska Bird Observatory, are developing sampling methods and analytical procedures for measuring bird habitat relations and population trends of landbirds in Denali National Park. Sample size requirements, measures of abundance and factors affecting detectability of birds (observer experience and season) are being evaluated. A review of this research in Denali National Park was given at the annual meeting by Peter Paton and a draft report will be available soon. Contact Peter for more information about this study.
- Jackie Canterbury, USFS, conducted research on Red Crossbills in sitka spruce and western hemlock forests in the Tongass National Forest.
- Steve Matsuoka, NBS/UAF, is continuing to investigate nesting biology of Townsend's Warblers in high and lower quality habitats.
- Colleen Handel, Julia Ricketts and Diane Sotak, NBS, are continuing studies on forest bird habitat relations, with point counts and netting, and on spring migration with the phenology of green-up in the Anchorage area.
- Tom Pogson coordinated a Townsend Warbler project in Fairbanks. A pool of volunteers were enlisted to look for Townsend Warblers in the Interior. The birds tended to occur in low elevation, medium to high volume white spruce forest. This project is trying to evaluate habitat use and distribution. Data gathered to date have not yet been compiled.
- John Wright, ADF&G, is continuing research on Olive-sided Flycatchers. He is evaluating how well the BBS functions in tracking Olive-sided Flycatcher populations (birds may be showing up on BBS routes but not breeding), searching for nests and collecting habitat information. Several nests were found in low elevation black spruce habitat. Olive-sided Flycatcher territories are generally large (this species is called the "hawk of songbirds"). Song playback was used to capture birds in this study. This technique works well during the stage when the adults are feeding nestlings.
- Brian McCaffery commented has recorded Olive-sided Flycatchers at all 3 point count sites on the Yukon Delta NWR (open spruce forest, birch forest, closed spruce forest).
- Subsequent to the meeting, John Wright and Dave Yokel (BLM) identified research needs for Central and Northern bioregions. Both identified collection of bird-habitat relationship data as a high priority. In Central Alaska, threats of large-scale logging of white spruce and aspen forests dictate the need for studies of habitat selection by birds breeding in undisturbed forests and those breeding in various successional stages. In Northern Alaska, most avifaunal attention has focused on the coastal plain. Therefore, little information is available on the habitat use of riparian shrublands, isolated cottonwood stands, and montane shrublands by breeding passerines. Little information is available on migration pathways of

birds breeding in the Brooks Range. Lastly, analyses of the optimal design for implementation of monitoring programs, comparisons of the efficiency and precision of methods to estimate productivity, and examinations of seasonal and diurnal phenology will greatly increase the efficiency of monitoring programs at the bioregional scale.

#### 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- Discussion centered around the above activities.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- C. Analysis and statewide design of monitoring methods for Alaska (12/96).
- D.3. Coordinate between Boreal *Partners in Flight* and the Alaska Land Cover Committee (Dave Yokel).
- E.1. Identify research needs by biogeographic region and initiate projects that address important species and habitats (12/95).

## Off-road Point Counts

Identifying and counting all of the birds seen and heard during a given segment of time at fixed points, when conducted on a periodic basis, is one method for monitoring trends in landbird populations. Point counts require a relatively modest amount of effort and can be conducted by many agencies or groups with limited resources. The number of point counts being conducted in Alaska has expanded tremendously in the last few years. During 1994, counts were conducted at over 2000 points within all six bioregions of Alaska and Yukon by a variety of land managers and organizations (Table 2). Over 70% of these points were part of a pilot study sponsored by *Boreal Partners in Flight* to develop a standardized methodology for conducting off-road point counts in Alaska. With this promising start to the landbird monitoring effort, members of *Boreal Partners in Flight* hope that point count efforts continue to expand in 1995, especially into areas of Alaska and neighboring Canada where point count coverage is minimal or non-existent. Currently, over 50% of the points are located in either the Southeastern, Western, and Northern biogeographic regions. The upcoming field season will also be the third and final year of the pilot study for standardizing boreal region point counts. Hopefully, members will maintain their previous year's level of effort for this study. Once the data have been processed, it will be analyzed, and then used to develop a statewide monitoring plan (Kristine Sowl, Yukon Flats NWR).

Table 2. 1994 accomplishments in off-road point count program in Alaska

Bioregion	Agency/ NGO	Land unit/area	No. 12-stop transects	No. other transects	No. indep. points	Total points
Southwestern	USFWS	AK Maritime NWR	12	--	--	144
	USFWS	AK Peninsula NWR	6	--	--	72
		All sites	18	0	0	216
Southcoastal	BLM	Anchorage District	1	--	--	12
	USFWS	Ft. Richardson	--	--	20	20
	NBS	Anchorage area	14	--	--	168
	USFS	Cordova RD	2	2 (23 pts)	--	47
	USFS	Glacier RD	1	--	--	12
	USFS	Seward RD	--	6 (70 pts)	--	70
	USFWS	AK Maritime NWR	--	--	7	7
		All sites	18	8	27	336
Southeastern	USFS	Hoonah RD	3	--	--	36
	USFS	Juneau RD	10	--	--	120
		All sites	13	0	0	156
Western	USFWS	Togiak NWR	3	--	--	36
	USFWS	Yukon Delta NWR	4	--	28	76
		All sites	7	0	28	112
Central	BLM	Steese-White Mt. Dist.	1	--	--	12
	BLM	Kobuk District	1	--	--	12
	ABO	Denali NP	8	--	194	290
	NPS	Wrangell-St. Elias NP	4	--	--	48
	NPS	Yukon-Charley NP	1	--	--	12
	USFWS	Innoko NWR	30	--	--	360
	USFWS	Kanuti NWR	7	--	--	84
	USFWS	Teilin NWR	7	--	--	84
	USFWS	Yukon Flats NWR	6	--	--	72
	CWS	Yukon Territory	--	--	178	178
	USFWS	Fairbanks area	--	--	51	51
	All sites	65	0	423	1203	
Northern	BLM	Arctic District	1	0	0	12
All areas			122	8	478	2035

## 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- As mentioned above, BPIF is in the second year of a 3-year pilot study for the use of point count routes. After the third year of field work, Colleen Handel will analyze the data and a statewide monitoring plan will be developed.
- Some researchers have had good luck using GPS units to relocate point count stops on their routes.

## 1995 Action Plan

- Maintain coverage on off-road point count transects in 1995. Increase coverage in western and northwestern Alaska.
- B. Distribute point count forms, collate information, identify data gaps and prepare summary for annual report in 1995.
- C. Develop recommendations for statewide implementation and prioritization of off- road point counts (12/96).

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Nineteen-ninety-four brought a groundswell of interest in information and education activities focusing on migratory birds. Everyone should be applauded for their education efforts, as they are often an "add-on" to other higher priority duties. Just a few unique efforts are summarized here (Charla Sterne, USFS).

### **General Public Information**

#### 1994 Accomplishments

- Alaska Bird Observatory -- The Alaska Bird Observatory hosted 729 visitors in 45 groups during the Fall and 530 visitors in 30 groups during the Spring for a total of 1200 visitors over the course of the season. In addition to this extensive information and education program which includes presentations and talks as well as demonstrations, Tom has an ambitious training program. During 1994, 5 National Park Service biologists took part in the mist netting and banding program, and 4 interns participated in the training program and then continued to work for the Observatory for a large portion of the season. The Observatory trained and put to good use the help of 40 volunteers during 1994.
- Misty Fiords National Monument, Tongass National Forest -- During the winter of 1994, Jackie Canterbury started a radio show featuring neotropical migrants as they arrived in Ketchikan. Each three minute spot provides a description, natural history information and teaches identification by song and sight. This cooperative project between Juneau Audubon Society and the Forest Service has been picked up by satellite and is now heard throughout Southeast Alaska year round. During the winter Jackie provides similar information for resident birds. In addition to this project, Jackie provides presentations on *Partners in*

*Flight*, neotropical migratory birds, and birds and their habitat requirements for a variety of audiences, writes a feature for Juneau Audubon and has developed displays for her district office. Her educational efforts may be paying off in the form of citizen action -- a new breeding bird survey route has been established in Hyder.

- Juneau Ranger District, Tongass National Forest -- Judi Falk is teaching her third semester of "Techniques for monitoring songbirds" at University of Alaska, Southeast. Her 25 students learn about *Partners in Flight*, learn how to identify 60 birds by sight and sound, and culminate their course by assisting in the field. Some real benefits have been realized by this effort. Judi can usually get between 5 and 10 of her students committed to work through the summer -- 2 to 3 of her students have become involved in the goshawk project in Southeast, and one person volunteered to do year round weekly murrelet dawn watches. Once again, educational efforts are helping interested citizens cross the threshold from observer to active participants in management. Her efforts have also yielded some valuable information. While the students have proven very helpful at the MAPS station, Judi has found that it takes up to 2 years of field work before volunteers can take on breeding bird survey and point count routes themselves. Judi emphasized the need to identify effective methods for evaluating the success of educational programs.
- National Park Service -- Mark Schroeder is working on "Alaskanizing" the *Partners in Flight* slide program "Migrant Birds: A Troubled Future?". To accomplish this task, Mark has indicated a need for bird slides to replace those in the existing program, and slides of habitat (reclamation and destruction). His goal is to have one in every park by the end of the calendar year (or the fiscal year if he's lucky). Anyone who has slides which may be appropriate for the slide program, or who would be interested in reviewing the revised script for the program should contact Mark Shroeder (257-2472). Mark has also been working with Brad Andres and Terri Nelson, USFWS on "Alaskanizing" the Songbird Blues kits. The kit has been revised to include the Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wilson's Warbler, Bank Swallow, Northern Wheatear, Yellow-rumped Warbler and Swainson's Thrush, along with the addition of fact sheets, the migration game and additional reference materials. Original kits are available through the Montana Natural History Museum @\$1600.00. The kit, appropriate for elementary through high school levels, can be borrowed from the USFWS library at the USFWS Regional Office in Anchorage (hopefully by summer 1995). The U. S. Forest Service and the National Park Service plan to purchase 5 additional kits.
- Bureau of Land Management -- Ruth Gronquist, Anne Morkill, Randi Jandt and Sean Brennan brought together BLM's Annual Outdoor Days event in Fairbanks. During these three days of hands on, interactive lessons, more than 400 sixth grade students actually became migratory birds faced with the rigors of survival experienced by species worldwide. Lesson plans from Project Wild were adapted to focus on Alaskan species and issues, and bird populations were tracked through successive migration seasons. Skills in geography, math and bird identification were all rolled into one action-packed lesson on conservation. An article on this project may appear in the next *Partners in Flight* newsletter. For more information or lesson plans contact Ruth.
- 1994 International Migratory Bird Day -- In 1993, Alaska surfaced as one of the most active states in celebrating International Migratory Bird Day and spreading the word about migratory birds and the issues they face. We out did ourselves in 1994. This year's schedule of statewide events highlighted the efforts of 18 different land and resource management units, 2 chambers of commerce, and 5 non-governmental organizations. These totals include only those activities that were received in time to be included in the schedule!

This is an outstanding increase over last year's 11 participating agencies and organizations. Participants deserve a special thanks for their efforts:

Anchorage Audubon Society, Trevor and Julia Ricketts  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Nancy Tankersley  
USFWS-Yukon Delta NWR, Brian McCaffery  
University of Alaska, Fairbanks  
USFWS-Izembek NWR, Fred Zeillemaker  
Cordova Chamber of Commerce  
USFS-Copper River Delta Institute, Wendy Weisel  
USFWS-Togiak NWR, Heather Johnson  
Friends of Creamer's Field, Sara McDaniel  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, John Wright  
Alaska Bird Observatory, Tom Pogson  
NPS-Denali National Park, Carol McIntyre  
BLM, Ruth Gronquist and Anne Morkill  
USFWS-Koyukuk NWR, Heather Johnson  
USFWS-Nowitna NWR, Heather Johnson  
Homer Chamber of Commerce, Derotha Ferraro  
USFWS-Alaska Maritime NWR, Denise Witte  
USFS-Hoonah Ranger District, Kris Rutledge  
USFS-Juneau Ranger District, Judi Falk  
Juneau Audubon Society, Deborah Rudis  
USFWS-Selawik NWR, Janet Warburton  
USFWS-Tetlin NWR, Terry Doyle  
USFS-Yakutat Ranger District, Dorin Walter  
USFS-Glacier Ranger District, Charla Sterne  
USFWS, Brad Andres

The brochure was created by Charla Sterne and Dave Allen, both of the Chugach National Forest; Brad Andres was invaluable in getting the materials and getting them printed.

#### 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- An information brochure on Partners In Flight has been created. It is entitled: "Will we lose our songbirds?: Not if we can help it! Available from Brad Andres.
- Alaska Bird Observatory has issued the second edition of the Alaska songbird tape. Tapes are available from Tom Pogson for \$10.00
- Public information exhibits are currently being completed at Creamer's Field in Fairbanks.
- An information pamphlet on Migratory Songbird Conservation is also available from Brad Andres.
- There is a new Partners In Flight poster with a wetlands/prairie emphasis. These are available from Tom Pogson or Brad Andres.
- There is a Partners In Flight slide show, and a Western Working Group slide show available for loan from Brad Andres.
- John Wright submitted a proposal for a Challenge Cost Share Grant with USFWS to put together a pamphlet and poster on neotropical migrants. Unfortunately, this proposal did

not get funded. Back to the drawing board!

- Brad Andres developed a felt migration game for grades K-4. The game re-enforces the threats that meet migrants along their journey. Contact Brad to discuss the game, or, borrow it.
- Brian McCaffery commented that there is often a gap between I&E and science...we as scientists should be involved in I&E efforts and make sure that the information is correct.
- I&E is extremely important in conservation. Science and monitoring alone is not enough; the behavior of the public ("customers") needs to change as well. It is up to us, as wildlife biologists, to educate the public.
- Dan Wetzel, a private bird guide, was approached by Princess Tours for some input on incorporating information about songbirds into their tours.

- Members discussed the possibility of expanding distribution of the Alaska Bird Observatory newsletter *Artic Warbler*. For non-members, copies could be available on a charge per copy basis to schools and other interested parties. This may be a potential source of income for ABO.
- Tony DeGange approached Brad Andres about the impacts of coffee growth on Neotropical migrants. Research has shown that coffee can be grown in direct sun, or under a canopy of trees. Growth under a canopy preserves habitat for birds, but produced more expensive, gourmet-type coffee. There is an increased awareness of this problem, however, and may be a potential market for conservation-oriented coffee. "Seattle's Best" is starting to market shade-grown coffee as pro-conservation. PIF may want to play a role in increasing awareness on this issue, probably through the I&E committee.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- G.1. Update list of public outreach mechanisms (completed 2/95, Appendix 2).
- G.4. Coordinate awareness of and activities for International Migratory Bird Day (4/95). This year, IMBD is May 13, 1995. The theme is *Sharing a Passion for Birds*. Plan on activities for the week of 13-20 May.
- G.5. Develop information on shade-grown coffee, coordinate with the Audubon Society and present at annual meeting at Cape May (10/95).
- G.6. "Alaskanize" PIF slide show (12/95).
- G.7. Adapt *Songbird Blues* kits for use in Alaska schools (9/95).
- G.8. Develop pamphlet describing Alaska's Neotropical migratory birds and their conservation issues (12/96).

### **Publications, Meetings, and Resources**

#### 1994 Accomplishments

- Brad Andres and Charla Sterne put together technical posters for the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and the North Pacific Forum.
- An article summarizing Boreal *Partners in Flight* 1993 accomplishments and activities (authored by Brad Andres and Tom Pogson) was published in the national *Partners In Flight* Annual Report.
- Brad Andres attended the Western Working Group meeting in Reno, Nevada in October. Much of the meeting was spent on conservation planning and partnership building. Partnerships are more likely to be funded by granting agencies in the future than single party proposals.

#### 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- The second edition of the Alaska Landbird Bibliographic Database will be released in October, 1995. Diskettes will be available from Brad Andres. If you have any additions or corrections, submit them to Brad for the second edition.
- Sharon Ritter, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, has put together a packet of funding sources for *Partners in Flight* Western Working Group. Opportunities are discussed for government agencies to partner with non-government agencies to pursue funding opportunities that would not otherwise be available. Copies are available from Brad Andres.
- The project directory for BPIF is being updated. Committee chairs should provide a list of projects in their specific areas to Charla Sterne. Cathy Pohl, USFS, and Diane Sotak are interested in assisting.
- The Western Working Group of PIF will meet April 12-15, 1995 in Boise, Idaho. The meeting focus on I&E. Contact Brad Andres for information.
- A national meeting of PIF will be held from 1-5 October in Cape May, New Jersey. Brad Andres and Kent Wohl are planning to attend. Brad grew up near Philadelphia and may be able to help reduce some travel expenses for any other participants. Contact him for details.
- The Cooper Ornithological Society will hold a joint meeting with Birdlife International - Mexico in La Paz, Baja California Sud, Mexico, 4-9 April, 1995.
- A conservation partnerships publication with a section on grant funding. Available from: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, 1120 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC, 20036 (202-857-0166). Also available at the UAA library.
- *Conservation and Management of Neotropical Migrant Landbirds in the Northern Rockies and Great Plains* by David S. Dobkin. This is a series of annotated species accounts which are well done. Available for \$29.95 from Peg Harvey-Marose, Marketing/Sales Manager, University of Idaho Press (209-885-5939).

- The September, 1994 (4:2/3) issue of Bird Conservation International, *Growing Points in Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation* was dedicated entirely to neotropical migrants. Available (\$29.00 + postage) from Cambridge University Press, The Journals Department, 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY, 1001-4211.
- The Western Working Group has completed a document outlining a joint venture for riparian habitat. The preservation of riparian habitat is a primary concern in the West (similar to forest fragmentation in the East). This document could provide a model for similar ventures in Alaska. Copies are available from Brad Andres.
- Does everyone have the *Handbook of Field Methods for Monitoring Landbirds* by Ralph et al.? Copies available from Brad Andres.
- An article entitled "Logging to the Ends of the Earth" appeared in The Sunday Oregonian on October 2, 1994. This article examined the effect of increasingly stringent logging practices in the Pacific Northwest. One result is that logging pressures have increased in South and Central America.
- Tom Pogson encouraged BPIF members to join the Western Bird Banding Association. Membership is \$13/year and includes the newsletter, "North American Bird Bander".

#### 1995 Action Plan

- H.2. Update mailing list (completed 2/95, Appendix 4) and project directory (12/95).
- K. Attend Western Working Group meetings in April, October, 1995 and report on activities of BPIF.

### Technical Training

#### 1994 BPIF Accomplishments

- Alaska Bird Observatory conducted a successful training session for mist netting and banding at Creamer's Field in the spring of 1994.
- Ruth Gronquist and Anne Morkill attended BLM's training for neotropical migrant research and mist netting and banding in Arizona. Their evaluation of the training was good.
- Shelli Swanson, NPS, attended the 2-week Point Reyes Bird Observatory training in California. Her impression of the training was favorable.

#### 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- The production of compact disks of Alaska bird songs is being coordinated by John Wright with the Cornell Library of Nature Sounds. The first product, a training disk for field workers studying Alaska landbirds, will be complete this May and will include 160-200 species. Contributors to this project include USFS, BLM, USFWS, NPS. Ellen Campbell, USFS, was instrumental in finding end-of-the-year money to finance this project.

- Alaska Bird Observatory offers training in field techniques for monitoring landbirds. The program will provide training in two disciplines: 1) constant effort mist-netting (suitable for the operation of MAPS stations and migration banding stations) and 2) censusing birds using point counts. The training is conducted over a 2-week period (10-25 May) in the spring in Fairbanks. Ratio of experienced instructors to students is generally 1:5. ABO can also contract for a follow-up visit to banding stations during the field season. Training could also be arranged in the fall.

Participation in the training requires a letter of intent and deposit no later than 15 March. Cost for training is \$1,000 not including room and board. Contact Lisa Ingalls at 451-7059 for details.

- BLM offers a one-week training in neotropical migrant work. This is open to other agency personnel and is a good overview course for those without prior experience. Contact Anne Morkill or Ruth Gronquist for details.
- Point Reyes Bird Observatory will offer *Monitoring of Neotropical Landbirds Training Course* 17-28 April 1995 at the Palomarin Field Station in coastal California. Contact Geoffrey Geupel (415-868-0655) for information.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- F.1. Provide opportunities for training, particularly in mist-netting and banding.
- F.2. Develop and distribute CD of Alaska bird songs (5/95).
- F.3. Have at least 1 representative from each agency and, at least, 1 NGO representative attend the Cape May meeting (The birding will be great and Brad will arrange a trip to Hawk Mountain).

## MANAGEMENT

The Management Committee was only officially formed at the December meeting. However, several BPIF members have been involved with BPIF issues prior to the meeting. Below are some emerging thought on the role of the management committee (Anne Morkill, BLM).

PIF has proposed a general strategy for developing management objectives for neotropical migratory birds in North America, outlined in a paper by R. Bonney (Cornell Lab of Ornithology) and D. Pashley (TNC). The Western and Southeast PIF Working Groups have recently adopted these recommendations for their respective regions, as outlined in *A plan to monitor Colorado's breeding birds by the year 2000* and *Bottomland hardwood forest habitat goals and objectives for NTMBs in the East Gulf Coastal Plain physiographic region*, respectively (contact me for copies of these papers). The general strategy for conservation planning provided the basis for our discussion at the 1994 annual meeting during which we identified 20 species of "management interest" and their primary breeding habitats as outlined (Table 3).

The Bioregional Committees were tasked with cataloging land management units by their protected status (eg. protected versus multiple use), and to prioritize these species given consideration of known trends, potential threats, specialized habitats, restricted population distribution/size, and importance of Alaska, within each respective biogeographic region. These lists is not meant to replace the Species Prioritization Scheme's list, but rather it should complement the SPS for Alaska by relying on people's local knowledge and expertise, and refining the list by region. The Bioregional Committees are encouraged to include and exclude species that they feel are of "management interest" in their respective regions.

These are the initial steps for identifying important breeding bird habitats within each biogeographic region, and ultimately, for developing recommendations for management actions that should be taken by the appropriate land managers. Our efforts should be guided by principles of ecosystem management, whereby species and their habitats are managed on a landscape scale, rather than each unit independently trying to manage for the maximum number of birds of a given species at every location. Such an approach will help direct the efficient and wise use of scarce fiscal resources.

While other states and regions may already have sufficient population data to determine very specific management objectives, such as minimum tract size required to sustain source populations in the East Gulf Coastal Plain, our exercise will further identify data gaps in Alaska and reiterate the need for a coordinated statewide population and habitat monitoring program that is supported by all land management agencies. The Colorado proposal perhaps provides a more similar scenario for how conservation planning might proceed in Alaska, since Colorado and other western states are also faced with insufficient data based on BBS as compared to eastern states. Our rudimentary effort should identify bird-habitat associations that need our attention, where those areas are located, and subsequently, which agencies/partners should we encourage to document species' status, etc. The process of developing management objectives for neotropical migratory birds in Alaska will be an evolving and adaptive process.

Table . General habitat type, by biogeographic region , and monitoring coverage, of productivity and population size, of species of management interest - BPIF, 12/94.

SPP	Biogeographic regions						Coverage <sup>1</sup>	
	Southeast	Southcentral	Southwest	Central	Western	Northern	Prod.	Pop. size
AMDI	fluviale waters	fluviale waters	fluviale waters	fluviale waters	fluviale waters	fluviale waters	0	0
ARWA			med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	1:CE, 0:SW, 0:NO,WE	2:WE, 1:SW 3:CE, 0:NO
BBWO	coniferous	coniferous	coniferous	coniferous	coniferous		0	0
BLPW		forest w/ understory	forest w/ understory	forest w/ understory/ tall shrub	forest w/ understory/tall shrub		1	1:WE 2:others
GCKI	coniferous	coniferous	coniferous				1:SE,SC	3:SE,SC, 1:SW
HAFL	deciduous	deciduous		deciduous/tall shrub			1:CE, 0:others	1
MCBU					rocky tundra		0	0
NOWA	tall shrub	tall shrub	tall shrub	deciduous/tall shrub	deciduous/tall shrub	tall shrub	0:NO,SE, 1:SC 2: CE,WE	0: NO, 2:others
NSHR	coniferous/tall shrub	coniferous/tall shrub	coniferous/tall shrub/ deciduous	coniferous/tall shrub	coniferous/tall shrub	tall shrub	1	1
OSFL	open conifereous/ coniferous Edges	open conifereous/ coniferous edges		open conifereous/ coniferous edges	open conifereous/ coniferous edges		0	2:SE,CE 0:WE,SC
PSFL	coniferous						1:SE	1:SE
RECR	coniferous	coniferous - Sitka Spruce					0	1
RUHU	coniferous/muskeg	coniferous/muskeg	edges				1:SE,SC	1:SE,SC
SITI				deciduous?	deciduous	deciduous	0	0
SPGR	coniferous	x <sup>2</sup>	x	x	x		0	0
SWTH	deciduous	forest	forest	forest	forest		3	3
TOWA	coniferous	coniferous		coniferous			1:CE, 2:SE	3:SE,SC 1:CE
VASW	forest						0	0
YWAR	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	med/tall shrub	1:WE, 0:NO 3:others	2:SE,0:NO 3:others

<sup>1</sup> 0 = none, 1 = little, 2 = moderate, 3 = good

<sup>2</sup> x = species occurs in biogeographic region but of low interest

## 1994 Accomplishments

- BPIF sent a comment to the legislature concerning SB310 (forest management plan). BPIF's position was that management of neotropical migrants should be integrated into a forest management plan.
- Several BPIF members commented on HSI models developed by the Carol Hale, USFWS, Southeast Ecological Services, for the Yellow Warbler, Fox Sparrow and Swainson's Thrush. These models were produced to evaluate potential mining effects in a valley near Juneau.
- The final draft version of the ranking database and a preliminary manuscript *Relative abundance and habitat associations of Alaska landbirds during the summer season by biogeographic region* was circulated to the authors of the project. Contact Janey Fadely or Colleen Handel if you have any questions about this project.

## 1994 Annual Meeting Topics

- Management Committee -- The Management Committee was formed to address management-related issues concerning Neotropical migratory bird conservation in Alaska. This committee will provide a forum for discussing specific habitat management issues, recommending and refining habitat monitoring protocol, developing NTMB conservation objectives, and providing input into policy-making and program implementation by land management agencies that affect NTMBs.

The first task of the Management Committee will be to compile the information on species of management interest and the status of their habitats that is being developed by the Bioregional Coordinators; and subsequently, begin the process of identifying priority bird species and habitats that need immediate attention for inventory and monitoring efforts by appropriate land managers. Ultimately, this information will be incorporated in conservation objectives for priority species and their habitats in Alaska.

- Marilyn Davis (P.O. Box 405, Bodega Bay, CA, 94923; 707-875-3882) is gathering information on the impacts on domestic cats on birds. Some cities now have cat leash laws to protect birds. Carol Hale, USFWS, is trying to get some legislation implemented in Juneau. Cats are potentially a significant problem. This issue should be included in I&E efforts. Contact Marilyn Davis if you have information to add to her database, or if you have an interest in the subject.

- The Western Working Group of PIF issued a resolution supporting the Conservation Reserve Program. This Great Plains program, run by USDA, provides federal subsidies to farmers who set aside land as a conservation reserve. Lands are managed to maintain grassland habitat. The Program is up for reauthorization in 1995. To date, studies have shown that grassland birds concentrate in these reserve areas. PIF supports the program and its reauthorization.
- Brad Andres asked the members whether BPIF should pass resolutions on issues relevant to bird conservation and management, and if so, what should the review process be for these comments or resolutions?

In general, members responded that BPIF should be involved in commenting on issues, and that position statements could be issued without the consensus of all the members. Copies of any statements or resolutions should be sent out to all members. Members who have comments on current issues or legislation should contact the management committee chair. Comments could also be sent to the Executive Board of the Wildlife Society. the Management Committee may be the appropriate group to review and issue comments.

#### 1995 Action Plan

- A.2. Distribute final version of species prioritization scheme report (12/95).
- A.4. Determine species of concern (completed 12/94). Develop Alaska priority list by biogeographic region (6/95) and integrate with PIF prioritization scheme (12/95).
- I.1. Develop resolutions on conservation issues facing Neotropical migratory birds in Alaska and Yukon as the need arises.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

### OFFICERS

Chair	Brad Andres
Chair-Elect	Tom Pogson
Secretary	Janey Fadely

## BIOREGIONAL COORDINATORS

Northern	Dave Yokel
Western	Brian McCaffery
Central	John Wright
Southwestern	Donna Dewhurst
Southcoastal	Charla Sterne
Southeastern	Ellen Campbell

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR      Colleen Handel

## AGENCY COORDINATORS

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game	John Wright
U. S. Bureau of Land Management	Anne Morkill
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Brad Andres
U. S. Forest Service	Ellen Campbell
National Biological Survey	Colleen Handel
National Park Service	Mark Schroeder
U.S. Air Force	Gene Augustine
U.S. Army	Bill Quirk

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION  
COORDINATOR      Tom Pogson

## MONITORING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Chair, BBS:	Brad Andres
Chair, Netting and Banding:	Tom Pogson
Chair, Off-Road Point Counts:	Colleen Handel

## INFORMATION AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Chair:	Charla Sterne
Members:	Jackie Canterbury, Ruth Gronquist, Mark Shroeder, Chris Maack, Pat Owen, Bev Skinner, Brad Andres

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair:	Anne Morkill
Members:	Kent Wohl, Philip Martin, Shelli Swanson, Judi Falk, John Wright, Garvin Bucharia, Pam Bruce, Brad Andres

## MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- The 1995 Annual Meeting of Boreal Partners In Flight will be held in Anchorage on December 5,6 and 7, 1995.
- Members voted to change terms of officers and committee chairs from 1 year to 2 years.
- Chair proposed that British Columbia be invited to join BPIF.
- This working group should be referred to as Boreal *Partners In Flight* (BPIF) rather than Alaska *Partners in Flight* or Alaska Working Group. BPIF includes both Alaskan and Canadian members and issues.
- Anne Morkill commented that federal and state agencies in other states have started to create interagency positions which are specifically intended to conduct PIF activities. We might want to work towards this in Alaska.
- A copy of the BPIF mailing list is included in this annual report. If you would like your e-mail address included on the mailing list, or have corrections, contact Janey Fadely.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1. Recommendations for migration monitoring in Alaska.

On December 4, 1995, a subset of BPIF members met and discussed the development of a set of preliminary recommendations for conducting studies of landbirds during migration. The impetus for this meeting was the increased interest in migration studies in Alaska and the formation of a national committee to compile information on field methods for migration studies. Because most past effort has focused on banding, we devoted our discussion to this technique. Results of this meeting are presented below (Brad Andres, USFWS).

#### Site

- good accessibility
- long-term commitment (>10 years), new sites at least 2 years
- target figure of 20 HY and 10 AHY individuals of species of interest; 50% of captures should be type A/B migrants, 15-20% type N
- reconnoiter site to assess potential of having migrants (visually, small effort netting)
- try to provide housing and locate site near volunteer pool
- build partnerships with other agencies and NGOs to ensure long-term continuity
- select habitat with a mosaic of habitats that has high catchability, but is stable over the short-term
- be sure land managers are aware of netting activities and provide protection for the site
- priority regions for new sites include: the upper Yukon Valley, the lower Yukon Valley, western Alaska and southeastern Alaska

#### Methods

- mist-netting was identified as priority at migration sites
- maintain daily checklists (presence/absence or categorical) to compare abundance and species composition to captures
- if personnel are available, undertake a daily area search or transect survey (done systematically with standardized procedure)
- double-check that **all** nets are closed at end of daily session

#### Effort

- optimal seasonal period, 15 July - 7 October; essential window, 1 August - 20 September (for Neotropical migrants)
- netting should occur every day, or at least 4 out of 5 days
- maintain constant daily effort at  $\geq 6$  hours/day
- netting should be conducted under similar weather conditions from year to year
- try to maintain similar cumulative net-hours between years
- begin netting within 1/2 hour of sunrise
- begin with 5 nets and increase to a number that is readily handled by available personnel
- maintain net type, size and configuration between years; 30 mm mesh is recommended to maximize captures of warblers

#### Data Collection

- follow procedures of the MAPS program and in the handbook by Ralph et al.

- prioritization of data collected on an individual bird:
  1. location (given)
  2. band number
  3. species
  4. date
  5. age (how aged) - a) skull, b) wing molt, c) tail-shape, d) iris color
  6. bander and scribe
  7. sex (how sexed) - a) wing chord, b) BP/CP, c) plumage and crown
  8. fat
  9. weight
  10. other measurements
- species should be prioritized for processing; small, long-distance migrants should be done first (Rufous Hummingbirds, Wilson's Warblers, Ruby-crowned Kinglets)
- record net-hours (opening and closing of each net, or minimally the median of all nets)
- record weather (record open and closing): 1) wind speed - Beaufort scale, 2) visibility - km, 3) ceiling, 4) cloud cover - to 1/10ths, 5) temperature - °C, 6) precipitation - BBS scale, 7) pressure - millibars, 8) wind direction

## Equipment

- stream-line operation, have more than you think necessary
- bird bags, holding boxes, optivisors
- banding lab with heater, chairs, and good light (dive lights)
- good trails to nets
- spare nets, forms and bands

## Participants

Anne Morkill	Ruth Gronquist	Hank Timm
Cathy Pohl	Terry Doyle	Charla Sterne
Diane Sotak	Karin Kozié	Garvin Bucharía
Andy Adieman	Mark Schroeder	Pam Bruce
Brian McCaffery	Peter Paton	Tom Pogson
Brad Andres	Donna Dewhurst	Fred Zeillemaker

APPENDIX 2. Boreal *Partners in Flight* training and outreach mechanisms.

Compiled by Charla Sterne, USFS

**Existing training opportunities:**

Agency: Bureau of Land Management  
Program: Annual Alaska program review of Fish and Wildlife program  
Participants: Biologists and district managers for all Alaska BLM districts  
When: February  
Where: Alternates between Anchorage and Fairbanks  
Contact: John Payne  
Bureau of Land Management  
222 W. 7th Ave., #13  
Anchorage, AK 99513  
Tel: 907-271-3431

Agency: National Park Service  
Program: Annual Alaska resource managers' meeting  
Participants: Biologists and resource managers from National Parks in Alaska  
When: Winter  
Where: Anchorage  
Contact: Gary Vequist  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell St., Room 107  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Tel: 907-257-2560

Agency: Forest Service  
Program: Annual regional biologists' conference  
Participants: Wildlife and fisheries biologists, botanists, ecologists  
When: March  
Where: Juneau  
Contact: Ellen Campbell  
USDA Forest Service  
PO Box 21628  
Juneau, AK 99802-1628  
Tel: 907-586-7919

Agency: Fish and Wildlife Service  
Program: Meeting of managers and biologists from National Wildlife Refuges  
Participants: Refuge managers and biologists  
When: Irregularly scheduled; annually unless budgets prohibit  
Where: Anchorage  
Contact: Bob Bartels  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199  
Tel: 907-785-3600

**Existing outreach mechanisms for articles or announcements:**

Agency: Bureau of Land Management  
Newsletter: "BLM Frontiers"  
Contact: Dave Vickery  
Chief, External Affairs Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
222 W. 7th Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99413  
Tel: 907-271-5555

Agency: Fish and Wildlife Service  
Newsletter: "Reflections"  
Contact: Bruce Batten  
Public Affairs Officer  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199  
Tel: 907-785-3486

Note: This newsletter is primarily by and for employees in Alaska. As such, it does not normally take articles about "issues" unless they have a personal connection with an employee.

Agency: National Park Service  
Newsletter: "Special Projects Newsletter"  
Contact: Dale Taylor or Lyman Thorsteinson, Editors  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell St.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Tel: 907-257-2560

Agency: National Park Service  
Newsletter: "Beringia Newsletter"  
Contact: Dale Taylor or Lyman Thorsteinson, Editors  
National Park Service  
2525 Gambell St.  
Anchorage, AK 99503  
Tel: 907-257-2560

Agency: Anchorage Audubon Society  
Newsletter: "Okiatak"  
Contact: Cathy Gleason and Chris Maack, Editors  
Anchorage Audubon Society  
PO Box 101161  
Anchorage, AK 99510  
Tel: 907-248-0442 (Gleason) or 278-4265 (Maack)

Organization: Arctic Audubon Society  
Newsletter: "The Redpoll"  
Contact: Larry Mayo  
PO Box 82098  
Fairbanks, AK 99708

Organization: Juneau Audubon Society  
Newsletter: "The Raven"  
Contact: Mary Lou King, Editor  
1700 Branta Rd.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Tel: 907-789-7540

Organization: Kodiak Audubon Society  
Newsletter: "The Puffin"  
Contact: Barbara Rudio, Editor  
1711 Mill Bay Rd., #1  
Kodiak, AK 99615  
Tel: 907-486-8369

Organization: The Wildlife Federation of Alaska  
Newsletter: "Tracks"  
Contact: Bill Mans, Jr., President  
750 W. 2nd Ave., #200A  
Anchorage, AK 99510  
Tel: 907-274-3388

Organization: Alaska Bird Observatory  
Newsletter: "The Arctic Warbler"  
Contact: Tom Pogson  
PO Box 80505  
Fairbanks, AK 99708  
Tel: 907-451-7059

Organization:  
Newsletter: "Discovery Foundation Newsletter"  
Contact: Susan Goes, Director  
Tel: 907-463-1500

Newsletter: Kachemak Bay Bird Watch  
Contact: George West, Editor  
c/o Birchside Studios  
PO Box 841  
Homer, AK 99603  
Tel: 907-235-7095

Insert: National Wildlife Week Educators' Packet Alaska Insert (develops local perspectives  
from national topics)  
Contact: Cathy Rezabeck  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1011 E. Tudor Rd.  
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199  
Tel: 907-786-3351

Newspaper: Anchorage Daily News  
Contact: Howard Weaver, Editor  
1001 Northway Dr.  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
Tel: 907-257-4200

Newspaper: Tundra Drums  
Contact: James MacPherson, Managing Editor  
PO Box 868  
Bethel, AK 99559  
Tel: 907-543-3500

Newspaper: Fairbanks Daily News-Miner  
Contact: Kelly Bostian, Outdoor Editor  
PO Box 70710  
Fairbanks, AK 99707  
Tel: 907-456-6661

Newspaper: Juneau Empire  
Contact: 3100 Channel Dr.  
Juneau, AK 99801-7814  
Tel: 907-586-3740

Newspaper: Tundra Times  
Contact: Cheryl Hinkes, Publisher  
PO Box 104480

Anchorage, AK 99510-4480  
Tel: 907-274-2512

Newspaper: Alaska Highway News  
Contact: Linda Brown, Publisher  
PO Box 201894  
Anchorage, AK 99520  
Tel: 907-272-7500

Newspaper: Bristol Bay Times  
Telephone: 907-842-5572  
Dillingham, AK

Newspaper: Dutch Harbor Fisherman  
Contact: PO Box 472  
Dutch Harbor, AK 99692  
Tel: 907-581-2092  
Fax: 907-581-2090  
Dutch Harbor, AK

Newspaper: Mukluk News  
Telephone: 907-883-2571  
Tok, AK

Magazine: Alaska Magazine  
Contact: Outdoors Editor  
808 "E" St.  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Tel: 907-272-6070

Magazine: Alaska Outdoors  
Contact: Diane Clawson, Managing Editor  
PO Box 190324  
Anchorage, AK 99519  
Tel: 907-276-2672

Magazine: Alaska Geographic  
 Contact: Penny Rennick  
 PO Box 93370  
 Anchorage, AK 99509  
 Tel: 907-258-2525

Magazine: Anchorage Visitors Guide  
 Contact: Jeff Osborn, Editor  
 1600 A St., Suite 200  
 Anchorage, AK 99501-5147  
 Tel: 907-276-4118

News Service: Associated Press  
 750 W. 2nd Ave., Suite 102  
 Anchorage, AK 99501  
 Tel: 907-272-7549

News Service: Reuters News Service  
 1001 Northway Dr.  
 Anchorage, AK 99508  
 Tel: 907-258-7634

News Service: United Press International  
 1001 Northway Dr.  
 Anchorage, AK 99508  
 Tel: 907-277-1300

This list is not comprehensive, but includes most of the major opportunities for reaching the public through written articles.

**Other existing outreach mechanisms:**

Presentations at: Audubon Society Chapter meetings  
 Alaska Public Lands Information Centers (Anchorage, Fairbanks)  
 Local libraries (Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau)  
 "Friends of Creamer's Field" functions (through Arctic Audubon)  
 Treatment and Learning Center (rehabilitates injured birds, Anchorage)  
 Scientists in the Schools Program  
     Contact: Cathy Rezabeck (USFWS address above)  
 Alaska Educators Conferences  
     (Alaska Science Teachers Association, Multicultural/Bilingual  
     Conference, Alaska Natural Resources and Outdoor Education  
     Association, Alaska Science and Technology Institute) Contact:  
     Cathy Rezabeck (USFWS address above)

Demonstrations at: Alaska Bird Observatory  
 Tom Pogson  
 PO Box 80505  
 Fairbanks, AK 99708  
 Tel: 907-451-7059

Schools (for curriculum information dissemination to teachers):

Alaska Staff Development Network  
Contact: Kelly Tonsmeire  
University of Alaska Southeast  
1108 "F" St.  
Juneau, AK 99801  
Tel: 907-465-8745

Travelling exhibits: Schools, airports, visitor centers

Television and radio broadcasts (several outlets available)

APPENDIX 3. Mailing list of Boreal *Partners in Flight* members, March 1995.