



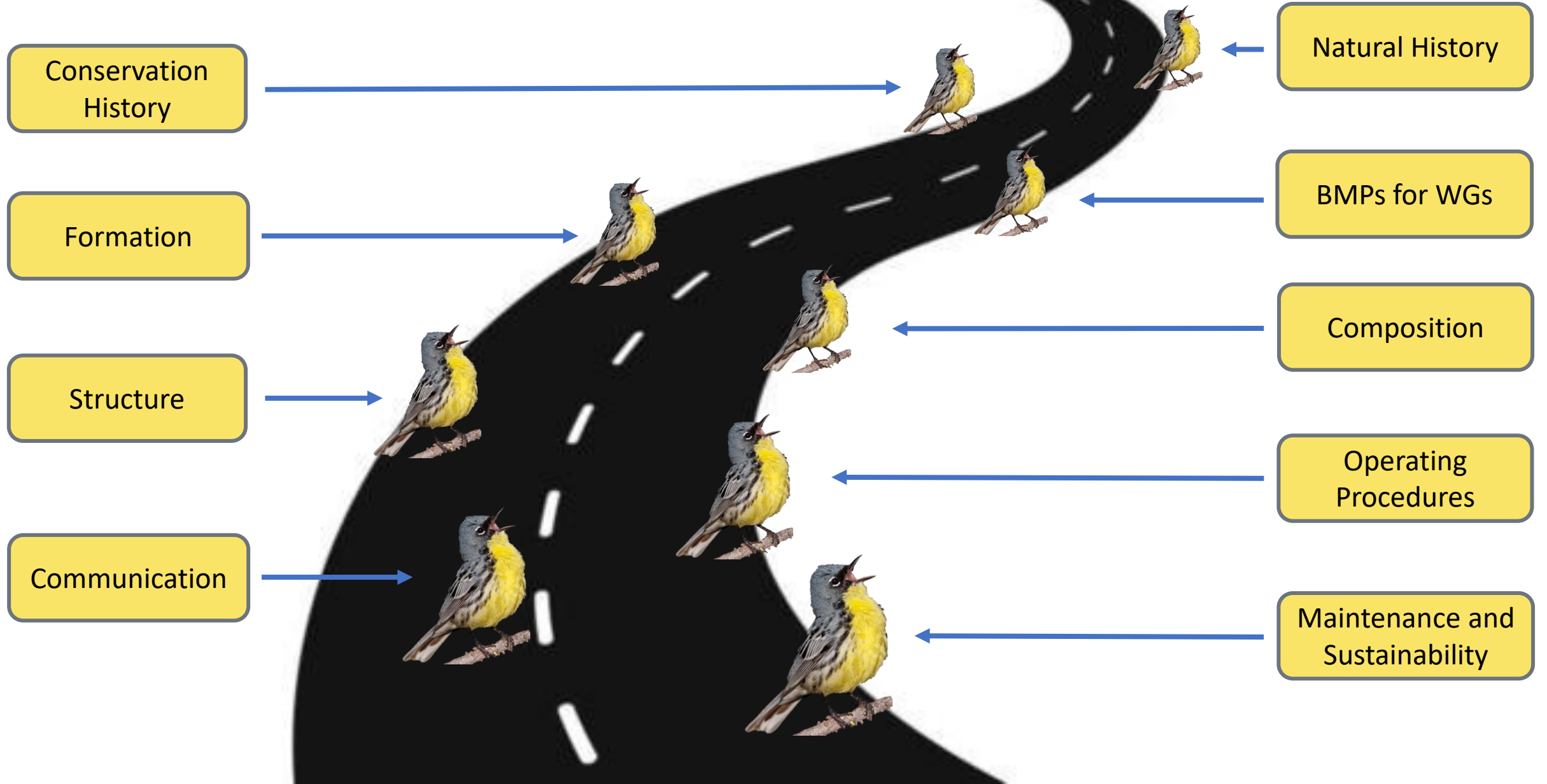
The Evolution of the
Kirtland's Warbler
Conservation Team in
the Post-Delisting Era

Steve Roels, PhD

Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team
Coordinator

Road to Recovery Webinar Series
September 13, 2024

Road Map

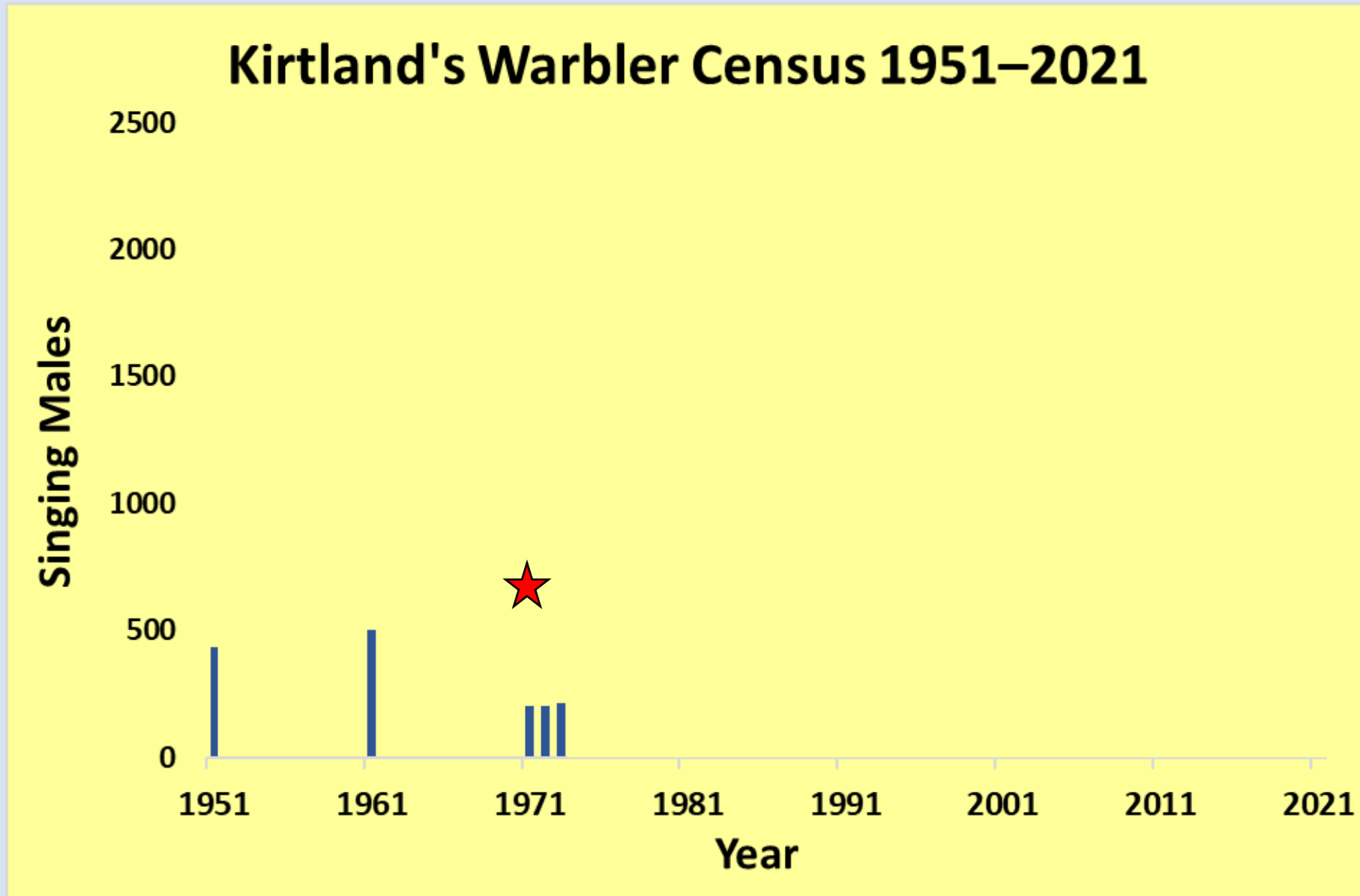


Kirtland's Warbler Natural History



- Rarest migratory songbird in NA
- Breeds: jack pine forests of Michigan
- Winters: scrub forests of The Bahamas
- Dependent on disturbance
- Near extinction in 20th century from fire suppression and cowbird nest parasitism

KW Conservation History



Formation: Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team



KW Recovery Team Meeting 2004

Federal



Huron-Manistee NF



State



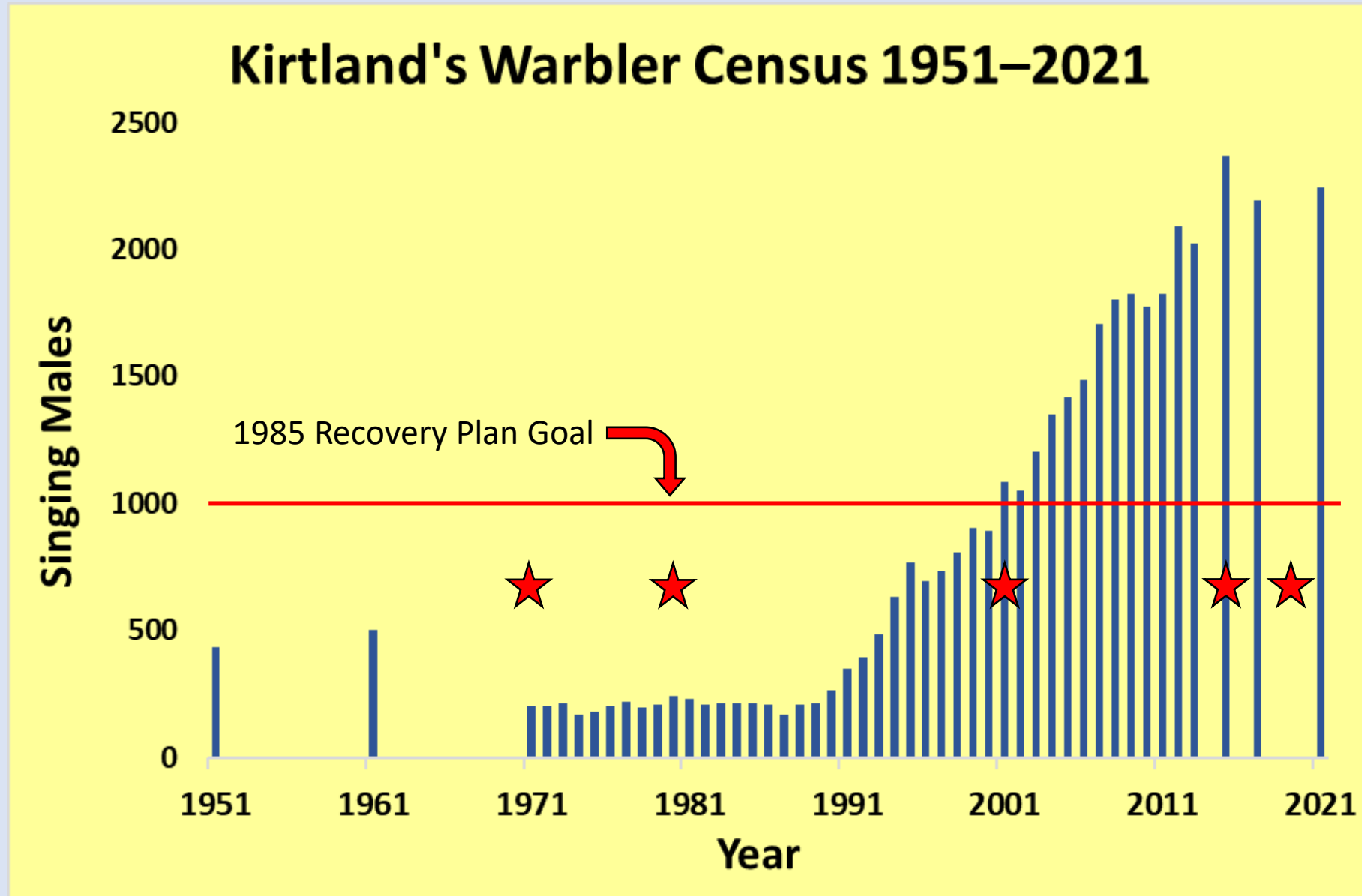
Non-profit



Academic



KW Conservation History



Delisted! Are We Done?

- 2019: Removed from the federal endangered list
- Conservation reliance
- Enduring risks:
 - Loss of agency funding and focus on habitat production
 - Concentration risk
 - Wintering grounds and climate change



Beneficial Management Practices for Working Groups

1. Formation
2. Composition
3. Structure
4. Operating Procedures
5. Work Plans and Responsibilities
6. Communications:
Internal and External
7. Founding Principles:
Collaboration, Transparency, and Trust
8. Maintenance and Sustainability



Jack pine managed for Kirtland's Warbler breeding habitat

Composition: Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team

Federal



- Huron-Manistee
 - Hiawatha
 - Ottawa



State



International



Non-profit



Kirtland's Warbler Alliance



Academic



University of
The Bahamas

ANTIOCH UNIVERSITY
NEW ENGLAND

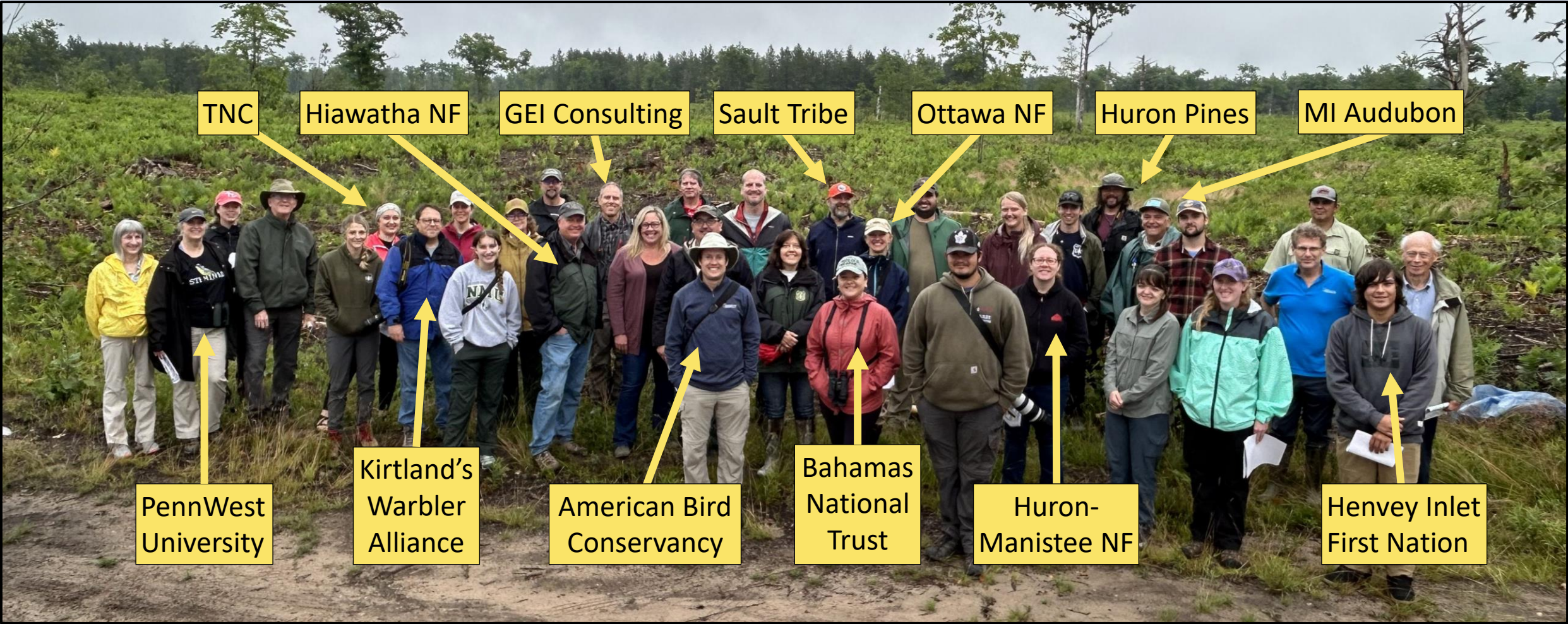


Smithsonian
Migratory Bird Center



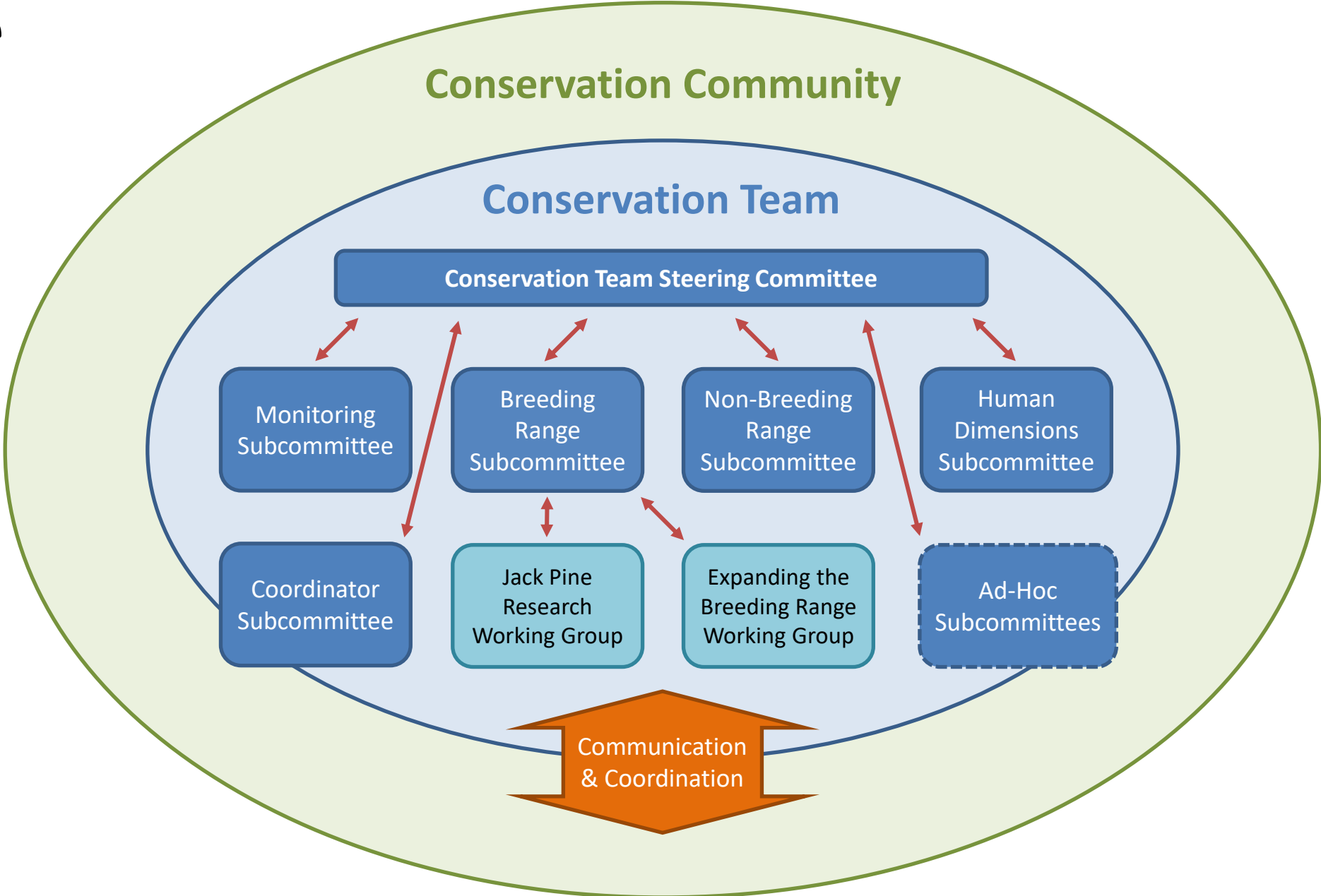
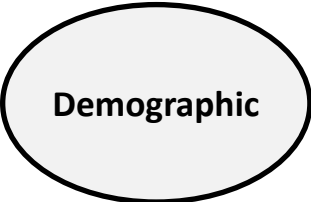
MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Composition: Getting Diverse Stakeholders Together



Structure

LEGEND



Operating Procedures

- Steering Committee Charter

- Mission
- Composition
- Decision making model
- Chair and Coordinator

- IT Infrastructure

- Zoom
- Cloud storage

- Meeting Schedules

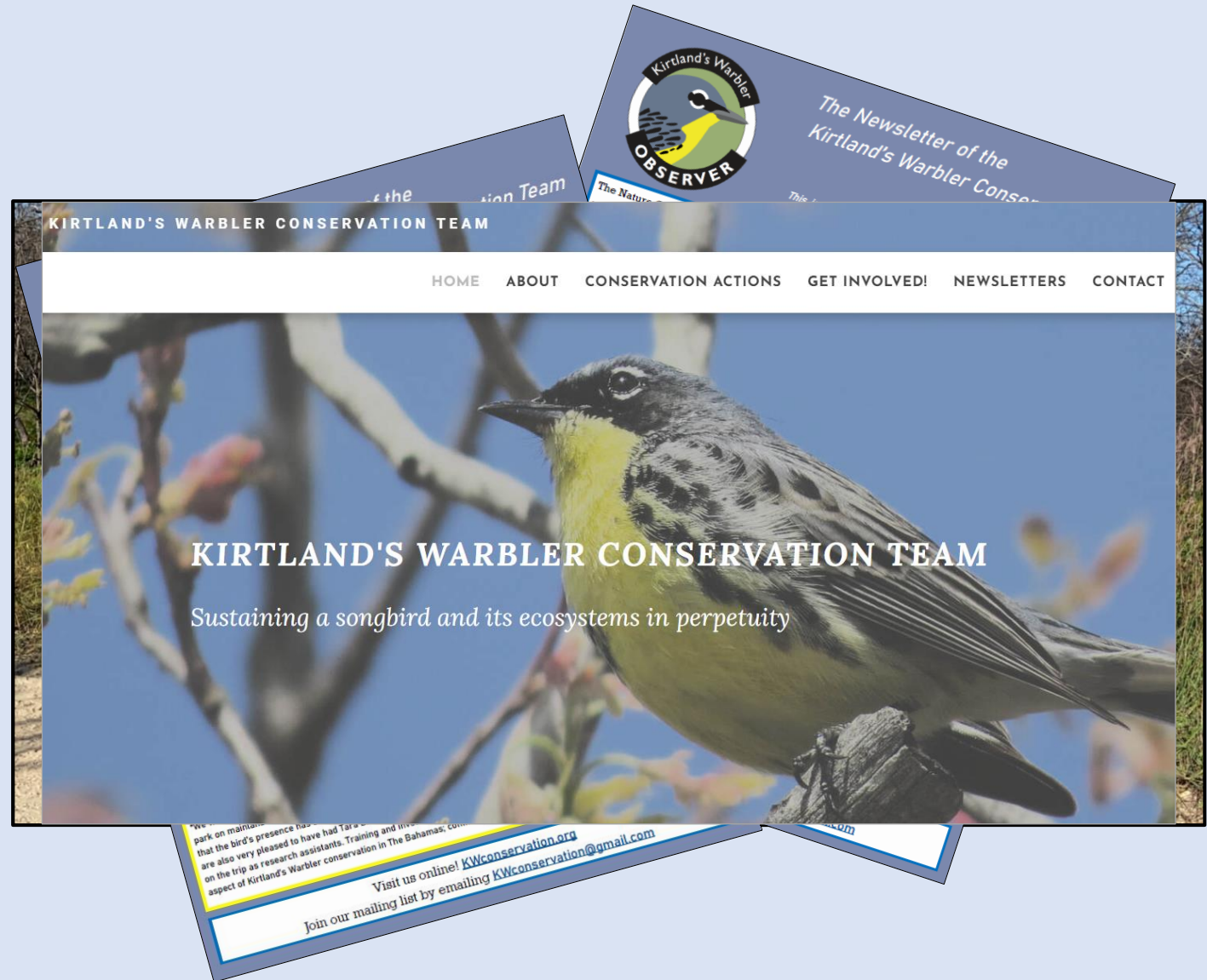
- KWCT: Summer and Winter
- Steering: Monthly
- Subcommittees and Working Groups: At least quarterly

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 ABC GL KW Agenda Presentation on Friday	10 KWCT Steering Committee https://us06web.zoom.us/j/98020576064?pwd=aldXRy9zZ3dVTENPeVJuUjFzKzExZz09 Steve Roels	11 ABC Great Lakes Kirtland's Wa https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81...	12 kwjp density research check-in Microsoft Teams Meeting Hartman, Jason (DNR)	13 Species Working Group Webinars https://georgetown.zoom.us/w/
FWS KW Recovery Forester Po https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8437 Steve Roels	KW Experime https://smithsc Cooper, Natha	Alvanna and Steve https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8618 Steve Roels	Launch: MiDNR MOU 2023- Northern Forest Bird Network Webinar	2024 Flock Talks Virtual Kacy Ray
Lunch & Learn: What does the https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8481 Annie Chester	Invitation:			
UW Class Project				

You are here.
Happy Friday!

Communications

- Internal
 - Semi-annual meetings
 - Meeting minutes
 - Email. Ugh.
- External
 - Quarterly KWCT newsletter
 - Website
 - Publications
 - Affiliates' social media



Maintenance and Sustainability



Kirtland's Warbler male. Michigan, USA.
Photo by Beau Cotter.

- Coordinator Position
 - Borrowed staff → Part-time → Full-time
- Coordinator Funding
 - Federal and state agencies (~50%)
 - Foundation grants (~50%)

- Kirtland's Warbler Investment Funds
 - American Bird Conservancy
 - Michigan DNR
- Capacity Building in The Bahamas



Kirtland's Warbler female. Eleuthera, The Bahamas.
Photo by Sarah Bodbyl.

The KWCT as a Model for Other Working Groups

- Collaboration in a open and honest environment
- Overlapping responsibilities is not redundant, it is resilient
- Institutionalize knowledge
- Accountability mechanisms
- Changing bird population trends takes decades!



Want to learn more about the
Kirtland's Warbler Conservation Team?

Foundational documents:
bit.ly/KWCTfoundations

Visit the KWCT online:
KWconservation.org

Steve's email:
sroels@abcbirds.org



Subscribe to our quarterly newsletter,
the *Kirtland's Warbler Observer*!

