

**Road to Recovery's "Sustainable Recovery of North American Birds"
Breakout Session Descriptions**

**Wednesday, January 17th
Breakout Session A (10:50-11:45am)**

Title	Location	Description	Facilitator
<p>Bird conservation on working lands: engaging private landowners in solutions that benefit birds and people (Part 1)</p>	<p>I-East Room #201</p>	<p>Bird conservation solutions are most effective when they are developed in conjunction with the needs of human communities. When conservation challenges include working together on private lands, considering landowner needs, perspectives, and local knowledge is necessary for the success of management actions. This session will provide insight into how working lands can benefit declining birds and will provide a roadmap for building trust with landowners who bridge the gap between economy and ecology. The first half of the breakout will take participants on a journey of success and overcoming barriers. We will be joined by board members from Partnerscapes, a grassroots movement of private landowners working with agencies, non-profit organizations, and policymakers to collaborate on conservation projects that sustain working landscapes for present and future generations. Delta Wind Birds, an organization dedicated to wetland and migratory bird conservation, will discuss ways to integrate working lands into conserving migrating birds in the southeastern U.S.. Then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and Ducks Unlimited, Inc. will discuss the tools needed to build collaborative partnerships.</p>	<p>Kelly Srigley Werner</p>
<p>R2R Gap Analysis: Deep Dive and Feedback Session</p>	<p>I-East Room #111</p>	<p>Following the presentations, questions, and initial feedback in the preceding panel session, we will do a deeper dive in this breakout to further refine the R2R Gap Analysis structure and process. We will solicit feedback, hopefully with participation of species working group members, on several broad questions: How will species working groups use this tool and database? For use in garnering new funding for R2R species, what metrics, at what scale, will be most useful for tracking progress toward species recovery? Who will create and be the keeper of the publicly accessible database? We will also address specific questions and feedback from the panel session.</p>	<p>Ken Rosenberg</p>

**Wednesday, January 17th
Breakout Session A (10:50-11:45am)**

<p>Understanding wildlife viewers and their potential to support conservation</p>	<p>I-East Room #105</p>	<p>One out of every two Americans participates in wildlife viewing (intentionally observing, feeding, or photographing wildlife; traveling to parks or other natural spaces to view wildlife; and maintaining plantings or natural areas for the benefit of wildlife). Wildlife viewers have tremendous potential to positively impact the conservation of birds. Through a project supported by a 2021 Multistate Conservation Grant, researchers at Virginia Tech collaborated with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Working Group (WVNT) to survey 4,030 wildlife viewers nationwide. The study illuminates how to better engage this broad constituency of wildlife recreationists and their potential to support conservation through habitat management, citizen science, advocacy, donations, and more. This 60-minute session will review the results of the wildlife viewer survey, spotlight projects that engage wildlife viewers in conservation or increase ethical wildlife viewing, and allow for discussion of how species working groups are currently, or could in the future, engage wildlife viewers.</p>	<p>Emily Sinkular</p>
<p>Building transformative resiliency for the people in bird conservation efforts</p>	<p>I-East Room #103</p>	<p>Today, driven by continued habitat loss, climate change, and other human-induced disruptions, increased attention to bird conservation efforts is paramount. At the same time, this work can be difficult and stressful, with the severity of impacts differing across different identities and socioeconomic situations. In this interactive session we will be thinking through the ways in which a resiliency framework and mindset can strengthen the human capacity and engagement in species working groups. First, we will walk through the Transformative Resilience Framework, highlighting how focusing on building four key capacities in our teams can help us to navigate adverse and stressful situations in our work while promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. Then, breaking out into smaller groups, we will discuss strategies we could implement within working groups to ensure that all members of the team are supported and able to respond to stressors.</p>	<p>Nathan Thayer</p>

**Wednesday, January 17th
Breakout Session B (1:00-2:30pm)**

Title	Location	Description	Facilitator
<p>Bird conservation on working lands: engaging private landowners in solutions that benefit birds and people (Part 2)</p>	<p>I-East Room #201</p>	<p>Bird conservation solutions are most effective when they are developed in conjunction with the needs of human communities. When conservation challenges include working together on private lands, considering landowner needs, perspectives, and local knowledge is necessary for the success of management actions. This session will provide insight into how working lands can benefit declining birds and will provide a roadmap for building trust with landowners who bridge the gap between economy and ecology. Session 2 builds off Session 1 and will provide species working groups a space to explore their own needs and challenges, with help from the presenters and other experts, and discuss how to start a collaborative effort and solve problems together while balancing the needs of land stewards with the needs of species we are conserving.</p>	<p>Kelly Srigley Werner</p>
<p>Scaling up from species to landscapes- implementation and delivery</p>	<p>I-East Room #111</p>	<p>Understanding demographic characteristics and habitat needs of birds on a species-by-species basis is essential to identifying specific limiting factors that are driving population declines across the full annual cycle and a critical step in developing targeted and effective implementation strategies to recover populations. However, successful recovery often necessitates conservation efforts occurring over a large scale to achieve a positive population-level impact. The most efficient approach is to integrate species-specific information into a holistic framework that benefits diversity and health of the entire ecosystem and local communities in which these species occur. Landscape-level coordination bridges the gap between landscape-level goals for a species and conservation practices that offer guidance on how to create habitat for those species at the local-level. This missing piece is needed not only to help conservation practitioners know on which species to focus their management or how to manage for certain species, but also to help them decide where and at what scale to plan management relative to other habitat availability in the neighboring landscape. This breakout will explore 2 examples of using species-specific information to successfully inform and enhance landscape-level conservation design and implementation strategies – one from the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture and the second from the Grasslands Roadmap. Attendees with examples of scaling up species-specific information in their own work are encouraged to attend and share their experiences, as are those encountering challenges to scaling up to ask questions and explore successful approaches.</p>	<p>Todd Fearer</p>

**Wednesday, January 17th
Breakout Session B (1:00-2:30pm)**

<p style="text-align: center;">Nudges and Norms: Behavior Change for Bird Conservation</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I-East Room #107</p>	<p>Community-based social marketing is a behavior change framework that has been successful in the public health and transportation spheres, and more recently, in promoting pro-environmental behavior. This breakout session will introduce participants to the community-based social marketing framework, including identifying a focal behavior, barriers to the desired behavior and motivators to tap into, and strategies for overcoming barriers. Participants will then break into smaller groups to workshop a particular behavior change need relating to bird conservation.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Emily Gutierrez</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Leveraging Integrated Population Models and Alternatives to Fill Knowledge Gaps and Inform Species Recovery Planning</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I-East Room #103</p>	<p>Modeling efforts are often a key component to understanding population dynamics as well as identifying when and where population limitation occurs during the annual cycle. Integrated Population Models leverage both count and demographic data and are often considered the gold standard for understanding the contribution that specific vital rates make to population growth. However, alternative approaches that leverage count data (unmarked open population models, movement data, and traditional banding data) are being used to fill key knowledge gaps as it relates to population dynamics. This breakout aims to highlight some of the strengths and weaknesses of different data sources and modeling approaches as well as understanding the best use cases for different types of models. We will aim to discuss these approaches as it relates to understanding population limitation, spatial variation in population growth as well as how they relate to conservation planning and species recovery.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Brandt Ryder</p>

**Wednesday, January 17th
Breakout Session B (1:00-2:30pm)**

<p>Co-Producing Science with Communities of Practice to Overcome the Research to Implementation Gap</p>	<p>I-East Room #105</p>	<p>A disconnect exists between research and practice, which is commonly referred to as the research-implementation gap. Co-production, characterized by collaborative and iterative interactions between researchers and natural resource managers throughout the research process, has gained popularity as a mechanism for overcoming this gap. Despite the various best practices and recommendations available for facilitating co-production projects, the process and application of co-production in practice remains unclear. By design, Communities of Practice, which are groups of people that meet on an ongoing basis dedicated to solving a certain problem or focus, align with co-production best practices by fostering transdisciplinary collaboration and communication around a common goal. This presentation from Virginia Tech will provide attendees with information about Communities of Practice, then examine two case studies of conservation Communities of Practice to facilitate co-production and the implementation of science findings. The first example focuses on shorebird conservation, supporting partners in designing and implementing evidence-based Atlantic Flyway behavior-change campaigns to reduce shorebird disturbance. The second example showcases how state fish and wildlife agencies can be engaged in science-based program planning and implementing their own plans to support wildlife viewers – a possible model for bird conservation efforts. Attendees will leave this presentation with a greater understanding of the structure and function of Communities of Practice, as well as a draft plan for a Community of Practice that can support application of science from species working groups.</p>	<p>Ashley Dayer</p>
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**Thursday, January 18th
Breakout Session C (1:00-2:30pm)**

Title	Location	Description	Facilitator
<p>Making International Collaborations Successful (Partnerships across the full life cycle & flyways)</p>	<p>I-East Room #111</p>	<p>During the facilitated discussions from our November 16 R2R-BirdLife virtual engagement session—"Halting and Reversing Loss of Migratory Birds through Strengthened Linkages across Flyways: A Response to 3 Billion Birds Lost"—we identified Hemispheric Conservation Planning as the top priority topic. In this breakout session, participants will form smaller groups to brainstorm and strategize on three critical tasks that emerged as subsequent steps: (1) intentional collaboration with local partner organizations and groups in the development of proposals; (2) creation of guidelines for justice-based, equitable, diverse, and inclusive collaboration for bird conservation efforts across the Americas; and (3) participation in developing a stakeholder and conservation effort mapping exercise in the Neotropics in order to better understand existing initiatives and priorities in the region.</p>	<p>Esmeralda Bravo</p>
<p>Filling Knowledge Gaps: Current Tools & Future Directions</p>	<p>I-East Room #107</p>	<p>What tools are currently available for generating research hypotheses with respect to species population structure, migratory connectivity, migration pathways, threats, and vital rates? Do population trends differ among geographic areas? Using current tools, can we identify focal regions where conservation action might be most promising for population recovery? We will begin the session using Canada Warbler as an example to cycle through a series of short talks that demonstrate how each of six tools can be used to develop hypotheses or offer insight. Next we will have a brief panel where participants can ask broad-scale questions; following that, we will provide opportunities for participants to visit with presenters for live demonstrations to explore questions relevant to participant focal species. Throughout, we will gather participant ideas about tool refinement and suggestions for future research directions. What would be most helpful for you?</p>	<p>Tom Will</p>
<p>R2R and Multi-species/Ecosystem Approaches to Species Recovery</p>	<p>I-East Room #201</p>	<p>How do single-species and multi-species/ecosystem approaches to bird conservation complement one another? This breakout session will explore how priority species needs can be embedded within multi-species conservation plans for habitats and landscapes. Using examples of current multi-species conservation efforts, we will explore conservation designs that reverse declines of Tipping Point species while also sustaining ecosystem functions.</p>	<p>Edwin Juarez and Sarah Kendrick</p>

**Thursday, January 18th
Breakout Session C (1:00-2:30pm)**

<p>The Ecology of Trust: Building the Foundation for Successful Conservation Partnerships</p>	<p>I-East Room #105</p>	<p>We know "trust" is foundational to successful conservation partnerships, yet how to intentionally grow and maintain trust often seems as illusive as it is important. This session draws on the social science of Trust Ecology to review key concepts related to different forms and functions of trust, equipping participants with evidence-based approaches to enhance the trust diversity and resilience of their partnerships. Along with helping guide actions and behaviors, an understanding of Trust Ecology provides a common language to communicate with partners and sets the foundation for monitoring and evaluating trust. Overall, participants will walk away with greater capacity to collaborate and work in partnership to achieve conservation outcomes.</p>	<p>Kiandra Rajala</p>
<p>Leveraging Social Science Data and Insights to Make Conservation Delivery Decisions</p>	<p>I-East Room #103</p>	<p>Insights from the social sciences can provide valuable context for the planning and delivery of conservation plans. When it comes to migratory bird species, the range of human communities that impact the species can be overwhelming. Often, strategic efforts must be implemented in order to identify the most appropriate areas, or communities, to focus on for conservation. This session will provide an overview and example of what it looks like to use social data to assess suitability of human communities for participation in conservation. We will explore the many potential variables to include in such assessments as well as a look at approaches to data analysis and interpretation. The session will conclude with a "workshop" session where support will be provided in developing draft plans for using this type of approach to inform bird species recovery.</p>	<p>Katie Holland</p>

**Thursday, January 18th
Breakout Session D (3:00-4:00pm)**

Title	Location	Description	Facilitator
<p>Motivations and Barriers to participation in conservation programs by historically underserved groups</p>	<p>I-East Room #111</p>	<p>Environmental justice is a pressing issue for conservation and communities. As conservationists aim to address biodiversity loss, increased urbanization of our populations, globalization, and worsening impacts of climate change, they must also consider how our work is impacting the people who share these habitats, especially those who have been historically left behind in conservation considerations. In this session, we will provide a background on environmental justice and how it intersects with bird conservation. We will also share a case study of a collaborative project between Virginia Tech and the Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources' Nongame Wildlife Program. We conducted focus groups with Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) to better understand how conservation efforts, especially public data collection for species conservation, can best serve BIPOC communities in Minnesota through a lens of community science and environmental justice. Participants in this session can expect to learn how conservation intersects with environmental justice and how programs such as community science projects can be utilized to address environmental injustices while supporting species conservation. Overall, the session aims to foster a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness between conservation efforts and the well-being of communities, especially those historically underrepresented in conservation work.</p>	<p>Kelsey Jennings</p>
<p>Communications: Together, How We Can Build Momentum for Recovery of Tipping Point Species?</p>	<p>I-East Room #103</p>	<p>Communication is a powerful lever for conservation: it can shape how key audiences understand a conservation need, whether they see its relevance in their own lives and endeavors, and whether they are inspired to support it. In this session we will explore and generate communications takeaways to build momentum for the recovery of tipping point species. We will identify 1) What makes Road to Recovery approaches similar to and distinctive from other organizations and initiatives; 2) Examples of how R2R can build on and support the needs of others already working for conservation—and how it can help forge new capacity and strategic actions; and 3) Key audiences, what they care about, and how we might customize inspiration for each to build the support needed to help steeply declining bird species before they become endangered.</p>	<p>Miyoko Chu</p>
<p>Conservation Standards: Yet another annoying fad, or can this planning, implementation and learning framework actually improve our conservation impact?</p>	<p>I-East Room #107</p>	<p>This session on Conservation Standards (CS) aims to 1) show where the CS framework fits in the conservation planning landscape (alongside SDM, Evidence-based Practice, etc.), including CS strengths, limitations, as well as new and pending developments; 2) introduce the main practices and principles that form the basis of CS for adaptive, results-based management, 3) engage participants in hands-on learning activities that demonstrate two core CS practices, the situation model and results chains (aka theories of change) and, 4) field questions people may have on the value of using CS in their conservation work.</p>	<p>Jim Goetz</p>

**Thursday, January 18th
Breakout Session D (3:00-4:00pm)**

<p>Effective Practices for Species Working Groups</p>	<p>I-East Room #201</p>	<p>This session will explore what characteristics and practices allow working groups to function efficiently and to effectively achieve their goals. We will review some of the practices that are common among successful species working groups and solicit wisdom and shared experience from participants on additional recommendations for improving the functioning of these vital entities (i.e., working groups) for recovering the multitudes of declining bird species. The session will include opportunities to assess the current functionality and effectiveness of existing species working groups that session participants are involved with and get feedback on ideas for improving those groups' successes, with a goal of identifying several actions to take forward from this workshop.</p>	<p>Becky Keller and Randy Dettmers</p>
<p>Navigating Migratory Bird Conservation across Cultures</p>	<p>I-East Room #105</p>	<p>The conservation of migratory birds presents multifaceted challenges, encompassing distance, diverse habitats, and numerous threats. Adding to this complexity is the imperative to foster collaboration among varied partners, both within and across borders. This breakout delves into the intricate landscape of migratory bird conservation, examining the hurdles posed by language, culture, communication, and organizational structures. Through real-life scenarios, participants will gain insights into how these hurdles can potentially impede conservation progress and, more importantly, explore strategies to overcome these challenges. Some of the topics we will discuss include facilitating dialogue across different languages, understanding and accommodating different cultural norms, and including broad participation in local, national, and international conservation work.</p>	<p>Susan Bonfield</p>