Road to Recovery NCTC Workshop

Science, Partnership, and Action for Tipping Point Species Recovery

Draft Program Agenda – January 19-22, 2027

Welcome to R2R's 2027 Workshop at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. We are excited to bring together many Tipping Point Species Working Groups, government agency partners, NGOs, researchers, and local and Tribal partners from across the Western Hemisphere. During our time together, we will learn and share information with each other, strengthen our connections and collaboration, and develop concrete actions to accelerate species recovery research, planning, and implementation for Tipping Point Species. The program combines plenary presentations, technical breakout sessions and training, working group collaboration, and professional development opportunities to advance innovation, learning, and effectiveness.

This draft program is evolving, so please check back for updates.

Day 1: Tuesday, Jan 19 – Arrival and Networking	
5:30 - 7:30 pm	**Dinner**
7:30 - 8:30 pm	**Recovery Networking Event**
Day 2: Wednesday, Jan 20 – Building the Foundation for Species Recovery	
6:30 - 8:30 am	**Breakfast**
8:30 - 8:45 am	**Opening Remarks: Amy Gambrill, R2R Executive Director:** Our Recovery Network is Taking Hold
8:45 - 9:00 am	**Presentation:** Introduction to R2R's Interdisciplinary Species Recovery Framework **Dr. Katie Holland,** R2R Lead Social Scientist **Amy Scarpignato**, R2R Senior Species Recovery Specialist
9:00 - 10:00 am	**Keynote: Martin Harper:** Species, Sites, Systems, and Society

	Martin Harper is CEO of BirdLife International. He has nearly 30 years of experience of conservation leadership. He has been in the BirdLife community for 20 years, serving on many NGO boards and is a member of the Cambridge Conservation Initiative's council. He was educated at Oxford University and University College London and undertook research in the Comoros and Mongolia.
10:00 - 10:30 am	**Coffee Break**
10:30 - 12:00 pm	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (A)** – *speakers, panels, peer exchange, and working sessions* *Focus on beneficial management practices for species working groups, co-production for species recovery, the use and utility of Integrated Population Models (IPMs), and strategies for monitoring hard-to-detecs species.*
12:00 - 1:30 pm	**Lunch and Species Working Group Meetings**
1:30 - 2:30 pm	**Plenary Panel: Perspectives of Hope and Optimism in Conservation**
2:30 - 3:00 pm	**Coffee Break**
3:00 - 4:30 pm	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (B)** – *speakers, panels, peer exchange, and working sessions* *Focus on engaging with the experience of ecogrief, using social science data to refine focus areas, the assessment of species populations through innovative approaches, incorporating genetics, and the use of tracking technology.*
4:30 - 5:30 pm	**Species Working Group Meetings, Office Hours, Tool Trainings – Space Available**
5:30 - 7:00 pm	**Dinner**
7:00 - 8:00 pm	**Documentary Screenings from Birdstory** *Matt Aeberhard is one of the world's leading wildlife filmmakers, an Emmy-winning cinematographer with more than three decades of experience in the world's wildest places. Sir David Attenborough described Matt's work as "awe-inspiring." Melanie Finn is an award-winning novelist and screenwriter. She is the writer and producer of the Stories to Save Us series. On Thursday Matt and Melanie will host a breakout session about community engagement.*
8:00 - 9:00 pm	**Future Leaders in Conservation - Networking and Mentoring**

Day 3: Thursday, Jan 21 – From Assessment to Recovery Planning

6:30 - 8:30 am	**Breakfast and Species Working Group Meetings**
8:30 - 8:45 am	**Welcome**
8:45 - 9:45 am	**Plenary Panel: From Parallel Paths to Shared Practice: Integrating Social Science into Bird Conservation**
9:45 - 10:15 am	**Break**
10:15 - 11:45 am	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (C)** – *speakers, panels, peer exchange, and working sessions* *Focus on conservation planning and implementation, including strategies to estimate survival and integrate demographically informed conservation science, strategies for engaging with local partners for implementation, communications for community engagement, how listening to landowners can inform recovery strategies, and including species recovery strategies into conservation plans.*
11:45 -1:15 pm	**Lunch and Working Group Time**
1:15 - 2:30 pm	**Plenary Panel: Understanding the Relationship Between Threats and Limiting Factors**
2:30 - 3:00 pm	**Break**
3:00 - 4:30 pm	**Concurrent Breakout Sessions (D) –** speakers, panels, peer exchange, and working sessions *Focus on navigating policies relevant for species recovery, providing a methodological deep dive into causal inference to uncover limiting factors, monitoring and implementing adaptive research, and sharing successful pathways from science to delivery.*
4:00 - 5:30 pm	**Working Group Meetings, Technical Consultation Office Hours, Tool Trainings**
5:30 - 7:00 pm	**Dinner**
7:00 - 8:00 pm	**Tools Expo:** SPARRO, Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), Net-Map and Network Pattern Cards, Threats Assessment, Tagging

Day 4, Friday, Jan 22: Moving from Planning to Action

6:30 - 8:30 am	**Breakfast and Working Group Meetings**
8:30 - 8:45 am	**Welcome**
8:45 - 9:15 am	**Keynote: Shanna Challenger, Environmental Awareness Group:** Sustainable Island Conservation and Community Engagement in the Caribbean *Shanna Challenger is a wildlife conservationist from Antigua and Barbuda, known for leading endangered species recovery and island restoration in the Caribbean. With a decade of experience, she has spearheaded the rewilding of ecosystems, helped save one of the world's rarest snakes from extinction, mentored youth, and empowered communities to become environmental stewards. From connecting local action to global policy, Shanna's work blends science with storytelling to demonstrate how local-led conservation action can drive biodiversity resilience and climate solutions, especially in Small Island Developing States.*
9:15-10:15 am	**Plenary Panel: Sustainable Conservation through Community Engagement**
10:00-10:15 am	**Coffee Break**
10:15 -11:45 am	**Lightning Talks: R2R Grantee Success Stories** Moderator: Jeff Walters, Virginia Tech *These short presentations will feature R2R's recent grantee species working groups: Eastern Towhee, Yellow-billed Magpie, Henslow's Sparrow, Mountain Plover, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Bachman's Sparrow, Central Grasslands Bird Working Group, Hudsonian Whimbrel, and Lesser Yellowlegs*
11:45 - 12:00pm	**Closing Remarks, Amy Gambrill, R2R Executive Director**

Additional Opportunities Throughout the Workshop

- Species Working Group meeting space
- "Office hours" with R2R staff and experts
- Social science consultation sessions
- Recovery Wheel facilitation support
- Funding and partnership discussions
- Share your tool – Contact R2R