

Birds Break-Out Group Notes
Maine Wildlife Action Plan Meeting #1 (July 8, 2014)

Facilitators: Brad Allen (MDIFW) and Tom Hodgman (MDIFW)

Note takers: Brad Allen and Steve Walker (MCHT)

Designation process discussion

- As we go through SGCN list think criteria first and species last in order to more systematically and objectively determine ranking approach.
- Question regarding Partners in Flight...Did we look only at BCR 13 and 30?
- We should consider life history traits rather than just preferred habitat otherwise we may miss suites of species such as aerial insect specialists
 - Won't we capture this through Threats and Actions?
- Much talk about break point between P1 and P2.
 - Declines (sudden vs long-term), rate of decline, etc.
 - How does P1/P2 split play out in terms of actions?
 - Priority 1 may be the priority for actions, but funding targets will also be based on cost-effectiveness as determined by next steps of assigning habitat and threat considerations
 - But, we will have to wait and see how the process unfolds
 - Many P2's will be picked up in certain Habitat Actions...this too needs to play out
 - Species are not coming off the P1 list (2005 12 P1s – 2015 19 P1s). How long of a list before everything is not a priority, and what is the balance between numbers of listed SGCN further driving policy vs discouraging policy?
 - Increased number is the result of more information, better data, etc. MDIFW feels this list more accurately meets the objective of USFWS.
 - If a species has two criteria met, why still a P2?
 - The group worked through the subcriteria table to show that specifics in those sub-criteria could push a species either to P1 or P2.
 - Several folks brought up whip-poor-will as species that may make P1 criteria, but it was explained that long-term declines do not hit the same urgency as rapidly declining species such as bank swallow. Triage drove some of the P1/P2 split.
 - How did you differentiate between the Priority 1 and 2's (BBS data only?)
 - An obvious natural break in the data helps select the break point
- Are different sets of criteria being used by different states?
 - Many more new lists included this time, but this does not mean double-dipping, as appearance on multiple lists only gives one "x" in larger criteria that drives ranking.
 - Some discussion about whether a species appearance on both USFWS BCC and PIF should bump it up.
 - It's very difficult to control for noise in the system as species ranges expand and contract with human activity and this factor is likely to be exacerbated by climate change.
- Comment that E & T species have Section 6 monies available for projects
 - In reality, not much money in Region 5 for this...only \$ for Piping Plovers in Maine

- Area responsibility criterion should be coupled with vulnerability
- No responses to query for any missed relevant bird priority lists

SGCN list discussion

- Golden eagle
 - Why not a P1 as Barrow's and Harlequins? Edge or range, Regional responsibility, Breeding vs. Wintering...are we inconsistent?
 - Disjunct populations of common western bird factor discussed.
- Whip poor will
 - long term decline..likely pre-BBS
- Chimney Swift
- Barn Swallow
- Broad winged hawk
- Common Gallinule
- Great Cormorants
- Atlantic Puffin
 - Why not a P1?
- Nelson's
 - Why not a P1?
- American Oystercatcher
 - On list last time, now gone from SWAP 2015; Why? Answer: this time treated as recent (<50 years) range expansion into Maine
- Leach's Storm Petrel
 - Why not on the list?
- Northern Harrier's
 - They did not show up on any list
- Why aren't scrub - shrub birds represented in the P1 list?
 - How will we incorporate this habitat type?
- Olive-sided fly recommended to bump to P1 as was Nelson's sparrow based on threat from SLR.
- Would the trends ever support black duck SGCN inclusion? Or is the concern by the joint venture just to maintain bag limits?

Participants

- Steve Walker (MCHT)
- Deb Perkins (NRCS contractor)
- Al Hutchinson (Forest Society of Maine)
- Andy Whitman (Manomet Center)
- Tom Hodgman (MDIFW)
- Brad Allen (MDIFW)
- Barbara Vickery (TNC)
- Andy Cutko (MNAP)
- Kate O'Brien (Rachel Carson NWR)
- Lindsay Tudor (MDIFW)
- Bob Houston (USFWS)

- Mitch Hartley (ACJV)
- Erynn Call (MDIFW)
- Susan Gallo (Maine Audubon)
- Mark Stadler (MDIFW)
- Danielle D'Auria (MDIFW)
- Robert Houston (USFWS)
- David Evers (BRI)