

A call for a formal plan for monitoring landbirds in Alaska Part II

Karen Oakley and Colleen Handel

U.S. Geological Survey - Alaska Science Center, Biological Sciences Office

Carol McIntyre

National Park Service - Denali National Park and Preserve

Steve Matsuoka

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Migratory Bird Management

Initial Goals: have they been met?

- Increase coverage and consistency of the BBS.
- Test methods for monitoring birds in roadless areas.
 - Off-road Point Count Program
 - Migration Monitoring network
- Test methods for monitoring demographic parameters.
 - Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survival

Considerations when refining our objectives

Why is it important to monitor landbirds, as opposed to monitoring other things?

- Trust species.
- Importance of landbirds to ecosystems, economies, and the public.
- Status unknown for most species.
- Monitoring of ecosystem processes—what can landbirds tell us that other things cannot?
- All terrestrial habitats used by landbirds.
- Close links of landbirds to habitat and habitat changes.
- Relatively easy to monitor compared to other things.
- Development pressure will increase.

Considerations when refining our objectives

What will the monitoring information be used for?

- If we find declines, what do we do to identify causes and enact conservation measures?

Avoiding competition with other bird groups and taxa.

- Coordinate our efforts more closely in the future with monitoring other taxa (i.e. shorebirds).
- Coordinated Bird Monitoring (CBM).

Considerations when refining our objectives

Would a steering committee be helpful in reassessing initial goals and setting new short- and long-term goals?

Do we need a formal plan for articulating our goals and methods?