

00:11:36 Courtney Baldo: Will we be able to get a copy of the recording?

00:14:05 Courtney Baldo: Is it preferable to turn off our video?

00:26:17 Cindy Staicer: This workshop is being recorded.  
A transcript of the Chat will be saved.  
Speakers will ask for input at certain times.  
If you want to speak, please raise your hand.  
When you are called on to speak, unmute your microphone.  
You can also write comments or questions in the Chat box. If there is time, these will be read aloud.  
You can also email comments or documents after the workshop to:  
dean\_demarest@fws.gov

00:29:24 Cindy Staicer: If your first & last name aren't shown, please rename yourself in the participant window (click on More next to your avatar and click rename)..

00:38:55 Luke L. Powell: Jay Wright has a manuscript in review showing results of GPS geolocation studies – a followup to the light-level geo study shown.

00:39:27 Luke L. Powell: spoiler: Jay's birds also stopped over for a very long time on migration

00:40:17 Steve Matsuoka: Do we need a Fall Blitz?

00:41:26 Luke L. Powell: (we have done a winter blitz and a spring blitz – 3 yrs each – results in Evans' report on the website)

00:43:08 Cindy Staicer: These talks are on our website.

00:43:31 Kate Slankard – KY Fish and Wildlife: <http://rustyblackbird.org/working-group/meetings/>

00:46:09 Luke L. Powell: @steve @Jay: with respect to a potential fall blitz, would it be a reasonable assumption to assume that spring and fall habitat use are similar?

00:47:02 Steve Matsuoka: Yes, but looking for concentration areas for IBA designations would also be useful

00:49:17 Luke L. Powell: two of those alberta birds spent as much time on stopover than breeding or wintering!

00:51:18 Luke L. Powell: good point @Steve. Plus we'd get more info on timing of migration etc

00:55:07 Jay Wright: Yeah, habitat use was basically the same for tagged birds in fall and spring, except pastureland was selected a bit in the spring – probably mainly depends on what areas are flooded.

01:05:15 Luke L. Powell: thanks @Jay. Didn't they also eat a bunch of dogwood berries in the fall?

01:05:40 Kate Slankard – KY Fish and Wildlife: They do in KY :^)

01:05:42 Jay Wright: Yes, at my study site in Ohio

01:07:32 Stacy McNulty: Will the plan focus on the entire continent/species range, or divide into the West and East populations, given there is much data suggesting they operate differently?

01:08:34 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas: We should include data from migration monitoring

01:10:54 Luke L. Powell: yes it was challenging to connect to researchers in the Canadian mid-west...the central boreal

01:11:50 Steve Matsuoka: To Chuck's question, here's a map of relative density so show where abundance is high in Canada <https://borealbirds.github.io/species/RUBL>

01:12:57 Luke L. Powell: that's a great map, Steve

01:13:04 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: are the breeding pop trends different between East and West?

01:14:29 Luke L. Powell: the genoscape project showed very little genetic structure in the massive area all the way from Alaska to Manitoba along Hudson bay (the dark green part on Steve's map)

01:14:38 Chuck Hunter: Also, from what I understand in bottomland forests, there may be rough similarities in using wetter sites and perhaps broad overlap with sites used by breeding Prothonotary Warbler. According to BBS, Prothonotaries are broadly declining though still relatively abundant where found. Perhaps there is a forest condition issue, with wetter sites (first bottoms) not as open as they used to be.

01:15:22 Pascal Côté (Tadoussac): There are also data from visual counts programs, like the one in Cape May, Hawk Ridge, etc.

01:15:45 Luke L. Powell: I would like to have more resolution on population structure in the boreal region between manitoba and labrador – we have poor coverage there but there's lots of birds

01:18:01 Chuck Hunter: Another thought, again while very different in terms of seasonal movements, has anyone looked into the life history traits of very rare and localized tropical blackbirds, in contrast to more abundant and more habitat generalized congeners that might lend clues to distinguish between Rusties vs. Brewers and other temperate blackbirds.

01:28:23 Patricia Wohner: I found on the wintering ground with a pretty big sample size of telemetered birds (~25) that after mid January, they stay in the same wintering area until about mid march.

01:40:38 Cindy Staicer: Has anyone quantified the loss of bottomland hardwood forest over time?

01:41:48 dan hudnut: The US Forest Service tracks forest area over time, by forest type and state/region. They have an interactive web site for queries.

01:43:08 Steve Matsuoka: [http://rustyblackbird.org/wp-content/uploads/Hamel\\_etal2009\\_4thPIF\\_341-3531.pdf](http://rustyblackbird.org/wp-content/uploads/Hamel_etal2009_4thPIF_341-3531.pdf)

01:43:52 Steve Matsuoka: maybe the plan could provide updated figures

02:02:23 Courtney Baldo: Has there been any thought to aligning the threats with the IUCN threats category?

02:07:40 Chuck Hunter: Steve, we include Rusty Blackbird as one of several "Resources of Concern" in our Refuge Habitat Management Plans in the Southeast (also with prothonotary and Swainson's warblers, as well as forest dependent bats, etc.) and so could definitely use recommendations from any broader Rusty conservation plans.

02:10:04 Chris Harwood: Chuck Hunter mentioned a nexus with Prothonotary Warbler on the wintering grounds. In the boreal, I frequently hear RUBL lumped with other declining boreal wetland species like Lesser Yellowlegs, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Grebe, swallows, etc.. Is there ultimately an interest in this group in

synergistic conservation of RUBL with other species sympatric with them during their annual cycle to leverage conservation support?

02:11:57 Cindy Staicer: I am interested and have been including CAWA and OSFL in my work in Nova Scotia.

02:19:24 Chris Harwood: Correct, Dean. We need not discuss here. It came to mind so I wanted to get it in the chat.

02:22:04 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): How pertinent would it be to manage RUBL in 2 "units": "Boreal" and "Hardwood" breeders? As it seems quite a different dynamics for habitat requirements and managements. This also seem to be the case for a lot of boreal/hardwood species

02:22:07 Anne Mini: Agree with you Chuck. I think forest structure/quality in those low bottomlands would be important to consider. We also need to consider how changes in hydrology are affecting forest structure.

02:22:11 Darroch Whitaker: Here's a link to the Newfoundland and Labrador RUBL management plan, for those who are interested. One of our key issues here is about the subspecies / genetic status of the Newfoundland population, which is of direct relevance to provincial stewardship responsibility. Glad to see some molecular genetics work being done on this species!

02:22:16 Darroch Whitaker: <https://www.gov.nl.ca/ffa/files/Rusty-Blackbird-Management-Plan-August-2020-Final.pdf>

02:23:28 dan hudnut: In the 'Guidelines for Managing Rusty Blackbird Habitat', Carol/we focused on defining desired future conditions. Could use the same for bottomlands, Chuck.

02:24:12 Patricia Wohner: What is good for one species might be bad for others, so just making sure there is something for every species is important. Dense early successional is important for some species and should be on the landscape, but including open areas may not be on the agenda and should be for RUBL.

02:24:19 Courtney Baldo: What about the plans for High intensity Forestry in Nova Scotia, would that fall under pollution or agriculture?

02:25:30 Luke M. Douglas: While I can't speak for the wintering grounds, we are investigating precommercial thinning on the breeding grounds. We hoped to assess planted stands as well, but none of our study areas had much/any of it happening.

02:25:56 Luke M. Douglas: I should mention that we're working in NH and ME

02:26:48 Mark McGarrigle: Forestry plantations may increase as a result of the new ecological forest model in Nova Scotia, with respect to High Production Forestry.

02:27:17 Cindy Staicer: I think High Intensity Forestry in NS would fall under plantations.

02:27:29 Darroch Whitaker: Here's a link to the Newfoundland study I just mentioned <https://www.mdpi.com/1424-2818/12/9/340>

02:27:45 Chuck Hunter: For Patricia and Anne:

02:28:50 Luke L. Powell: good point, Patty

02:30:22 Luke L. Powell: some years ago we found that nest success was

lower in regenerating cuts in ME, but work in NH shows that fledglings probably need that young scrubby stuff to hide in while they learn the ropes – these things might balance out and are poorly understood

02:31:50 Carol Foss: What is happening with budworm control in Canada?

02:31:57 Chuck Hunter: For Patricia and Anne, Anne perhaps providing a link to the LMV Bottomland Forest Desired Conditions would be good for folks to see. Also Patricia, yes need to find the balance, best early seral for priority forested wetland species (SWWA, WOTH, black bear, AMW0) would be on second bottoms, whereas open understory is best for lower first bottoms to support PROW, RUBL, and at least two forest bats that require low amounts of "clutter."

02:32:59 Courtney Baldo: What about Glyphosate?

02:33:23 Junior Tremblay: In the province of Québec, there is no herbicide or chemical product in public lands

02:34:00 Junior Tremblay: neither for SBW outbreak control, only biological control with Bt

02:34:56 Anne Mini: Link to the LMVJV Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife document. [https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb3865d2727be6f94acf2fc/t/5bedef53562fa78090470d0f/1542319976884/DFC\\_Report\\_to\\_LMVJV\\_2007.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb3865d2727be6f94acf2fc/t/5bedef53562fa78090470d0f/1542319976884/DFC_Report_to_LMVJV_2007.pdf)

02:36:45 Junior Tremblay: tk ou Bt, : *Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *kurstaki*)

02:38:34 David\_McCorquodale: Mimic is the insect growth regulator pesticide used for Spruce Budworm.

02:41:22 Luke L. Powell: name the birds you've heard in Chuck's yard!

02:42:43 Darroch Whitaker: Pesticides used in Canada for budworm control are Btk and tebufenozide. If the people working on that issue want they can contact me for some details / references / contacts regarding impacts on aquatic inverts etc.

02:45:01 Luke L. Powell: they use borrow pits and roadside ditches for foraging in industrial timberlands in Maine – probably loaded w/ inverts and tadpoles

02:45:42 Luke L. Powell: Claudia Mettke-hoffmann had them eating pecans crushed by cars in pecan plantations in MS

02:46:27 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): has any blood work been done on contamination by chemical pollution?

02:46:56 Luke M. Douglas: Yeah in Maine last year fledglings were either in wetlands or roadside ditches almost exclusively

02:55:03 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): Hunting RWBL is still legal in Québec, because of mix flocks, it could also impact RUBL

02:55:15 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): Although this hunt is barely practiced

02:56:01 dan hudnut: Presumably we could also look at those old CBC records and then try to figure out what changed in the local habitat. Maybe there would be something obvious, or maybe not. (Hearing Pam talk about landfill use, I was thinking about how those have been centralized and 'better managed' since the 1970s.)

02:57:26 Patricia Wohner: I've produced some plots including recent CBCs by SE states that I could show everyone, if not now, maybe

tomorrow.

02:58:38 dan hudnut: Yes, that was the idea.

03:02:07 Darroch Whitaker: What about ticks? They are spreading north... Don't know much about this.

03:03:19 Luke M. Douglas: Have blowflies been detected in nests outside of northern New England?

03:04:39 Chuck Hunter: West Nile Virus may have disproportionate impacts on smaller populations, but that would not explain steep declines historically.

03:05:11 pam sinclair: I collected 3 Yukon nests and two had none; one had about 6 (very low number)

03:07:13 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas: When I was trying to catch RUBL in Atlanta, I observed accipiters, RSHA and PEFA going after blackbirds group, but mainly accipiters

03:09:02 Darroch Whitaker: In the paper I posted earlier we didn't find an effect of red squirrels on RUBL distribution. Interesting because squirrels are important nest predators in boreal forests.

03:09:44 Patricia Wohner: Yeah, I've caught accipiters in my mistnets too!

03:10:14 dan hudnut: Call for odonate monitoring:<https://blogs.illinois.edu/view/7447/245188740>

03:12:16 Darroch Whitaker: Will the opening presentation be posted anywhere? I missed much of it...

03:12:36 Luke M. Douglas: Thanks everyone!