

00:41:52 Luke L. Powell: That's important! We have a nice, nearly comprehensive library going on the website, but if you see any documents or papers missing, please do email such docs to Levi and/or post them on the list serve!

00:43:48 Luke L. Powell: those theses are here:

00:43:49 Luke L. Powell: <http://rustyblackbird.org/research/resources/theses/>

00:45:27 Stacy Anne McNulty: Hi all, I'm coediting a special journal issue that has papers of interest (by many of you!), and we are looking for a few more – please consider publishing your Rusty Blackbird or related work here this autumn. https://www.mdpi.com/journal/diversity/special_issues/Boreal_Bird I am happy to answer questions via email. smcnulty@esf.edu

00:45:36 Luke L. Powell: For what it's worth, i think the year when i found most of my nests was a bad red squirrel year

00:47:56 Chuck Hunter: In Sinead's study, does anyone know off hand whether there was a preference for willow oak flats? If so, willow oak flats may be the shallow flooded sites (and doubles of course for having more red oak) than would be found in overcup oak dominated flats.

00:48:43 Luke L. Powell: the blitz report is here – by Evans...<http://rustyblackbird.org/research/resources/graylit/>

00:49:06 Anne Mini: I was wondering how shallow the shallow water preference was

00:50:52 Anne Mini: Ok. Thank you Patricia!

00:54:25 Patricia Wohner: Yes Chuck, the wetland worms and inverts occur in those shallowly flooded wl

00:56:27 Amanda Pachomski: In New Hampshire and Maine, I did observe some RUBLs standing on floating debris and foraging in deep water but they primarily foraged along shallow edges.

00:57:07 Chuck Hunter: Makes since, I was just trying to remember when I see them if they were more often on the edges of sloughs dominated by cypress, overcup oak–water hickory, or willow oak dominated flats and I honestly could not remember. I suspect the inverts would be at all these situations, but if red oak is important that would be mostly the latter scenario and one that matches well with other priority species (like waterfowl, etc.)

01:00:11 Luke L. Powell: @Jay was it Gray Dogwood?

01:00:59 Jay Wright: I think could be any dogwood that's producing berries, but yes at my field site it was mainly gray and rough-leaf dogwood

01:02:20 Jay Wright: I think that's a great idea. At my stopover site in Ohio, most of the edges had those rows of dogwoods, and RUBL used those edges an awful lot

01:02:39 Jay Wright: Often more than the interior of flooded forests

01:02:49 Luke L. Powell: i recall we did a little analysis and those gray dogwood berries were about 30% fat!

01:08:05 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): Same in Atlanta the sites that were used as wintering feeding grounds were parks with lots of

oaks and pecan trees

01:08:25 David Wiedenfeld: The BMPs should probably be drawn up by a subcommittee. Probably better for us to talk about what kinds of BMPs: BMPs for public lands, BMPs for private lands, BMPs for managed forests, etc.

01:10:07 Patricia Wohner: I think that's a great idea David.

01:10:37 Luke L. Powell: pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) groves

01:10:49 Luke L. Powell: that's the species in Mettke hoffmann's paper from 2015

01:11:11 Luke L. Powell: the rusties can't open the nuts themselves

01:11:25 Luke L. Powell: you need grackles or cars

01:11:34 Carol Foss: So when folks in the wintering areas talk about pecans are they including all the native hickories as well?

01:15:39 dan hudnut: Carol's breeding habitat BMPs at http://rustyblackbird.org/wp-content/uploads/RUBL_MGMT_Guidelines_NYNE_2017.pdf

01:17:11 Luke L. Powell: @Carol: I've only heard of "commercial pecans" being regularly eaten by rubl, rather than the native hickories, probably because the former are common

01:18:02 Patricia Wohner: I think the reason why is the natural pecans in a natural system don't get broken up and left behind whereas the commercial pecans are in anthropogenic habitat where they are pre-crushed

01:18:56 Angela Larsen-Gray: Just a point of clarification: state approved forestry BMPs refer to water quality BMPs and include SMZs (which are voluntary in most states but are required by most certification programs – such as SFI). Just wanted to point this terminology out. Thanks!

01:25:41 David Wiedenfeld: There should probably be BMPs for wintering, for breeding, and for migration habitats.

01:26:34 Anne Mini: Short on foresters, but also in places for harvested trees to go (mills, etc.)

01:30:34 tonra.1: We have folks in the Great Lakes

01:32:07 tonra.1: Ottawa NWR, Black Swamp Bird Observatory, and Winous Point Marsh Conservancy would all be good on the ground habitat partners here. They will also be a Focal Species for the Upper Miss Great Lakes Joint Venture in our upcoming revision of the Landbird Habitat Management plan

01:32:41 tonra.1: Specifically for the regions importance to stopover

01:34:00 Maria Leung: Wetlands policy is being rolled out in Yukon. Possible tool in retaining habitat in agricultural landscape.

01:35:15 tonra.1: We also suspect in our Ag landscape, where we have a lot of forest fragments that are generally wet, retention of those on private lands could be important, at least for stopover.

01:37:01 Chuck Hunter: the 2007 DFC document I'm referring to is linked to here: https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5bb3865d2727be6f94acf2fc/t/5bedef53562fa78090470d0f/1542319976884/DFC_Report_to_LMVJV_2007.pdf

01:37:15 Maria Leung: Altering the way that water licenses are

granted may reduce drawing water from wetlands. License can be granted on basis of quantity desired, and not source of water.

01:39:32 dan hudnut: To the extent odonates are critical to RuBls, we should be piggy-backing on odonate population research as well. I posted a link yesterday....

01:43:15 Stacy Anne McNulty: We may want to mention beavers as a factor influencing hydrology. <https://www.beaversww.org/2018/04/15/beaver-restoration/>

01:45:33 Shannon Luepold: In central NY, I also saw many RUBLS roosting in large Phragmites marshes during the Blitz in central in NY

01:46:02 dan hudnut: In our private northeastern forests, we manage the beaver dams, too. Timing point is good for guidelines.

01:46:38 Jay Wright: Yeah, they were definitely roosting in Phrag and cattail patches in Ohio as well. So not necessarily all bad, just don't want it to cover all the good foraging areas too

01:47:11 Paulson Des Brisay: In northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba there does not seem to be a strong association with beavers. Probably because of the abundance of habitat...

01:47:33 tonra.1: I would imagine there is plenty of roosting habitat available and they are more limited in good foraging habitat

01:47:38 Adrienne.J.Leppold: Yay, beavers :)

01:47:44 Jay Wright: Hatch-year birds were also using beaver-dam areas post-breeding in James Bay, Ontario in late July/early August

01:48:42 Adrienne.J.Leppold: It can be a contentious issue, though, so definitely important to bring in landowner stakeholders regarding this topic.

01:48:49 Luke L. Powell: I like that idea of an interaction with beavers and the drying of wetlands

01:49:04 Luke L. Powell: in drier places like nw maine, they probably really need the beavers to create hab

01:49:12 Luke L. Powell: but not so much in wetter places in the northern boreal

01:51:40 Jay Wright: Related to invasive species, just remembered that reed canary-grass was one of the main invaders of recently killed ash groves - these areas were never used for roosting or foraging, so definitely no up-sides to that

01:51:58 Luke L. Powell: someone yesterday mentioned that blackbird take is still legal in Quebec but is not really practiced

01:53:17 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): As an answer to Luke, yeah Blackbirds are legal to hunt in QC, but not RUBL, only COGR, BHCO, EUST and RWBL

01:53:25 Luke M. Douglas: Yes, wasn't it that taking red wings was legal and rusties may be collateral damage?

01:53:51 Luke M. Douglas: @Pierre-Alexandre thank you for the clarification

01:57:35 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: should WNV be on the list?

02:02:00 David Wiedenfeld: We need to have an implementation component to the conservation. how do we get this plan,

recommendations, and BMPs out to where they will be implemented? It will need an outreach component, an education component, a policy component, a fund raising component, etc.

02:02:11 David Wiedenfeld: I think working through the AFWA agencies, NRCS/USFS/USFWS/CWS, Birds Canada, Cthrough the JVs and their members, bird observatories, Boreal Avian Monitoring program, Boreal Songbird Initiatives

02:02:27 Cindy Staicer: Not sure whether this is explicitly on the list, but I'd like to see vegetated buffers or leave strips around any suitable wetland.

02:03:27 Amanda Pachomski: It might be worth reaching out to Jeff Wells, National Audubon's new VP of Boreal Conservation. Maybe he can help spread the word.

02:04:03 David Wiedenfeld: Also forestry certification programs like SFI, FSC,

02:05:12 Steve Matsuoka: Just making sure we have increased protected areas covering key rusty blackbird habitat across Canada

02:11:16 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: Just a suggestion, but I'd like to put in a plug for getting more state wildlife agencies from the wintering range involved in the working group. This may be important if Steve's work specifically points to non-breeding season survival as a potential bottleneck. RUBL is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the Wildlife Action Plan of the majority of SE states, so there is an avenue for engagement there. State wildlife agencies could be engaged in RUBL mgmt. on their WMAs, especially if hydrological control plays into their conservation. State agencies may also be able to help with collecting data to answer outstanding questions, or to fund universities to conduct such research if the agencies themselves lack the capacity. Amy Tegeler of SCDNR is the chair of the landbird committee on the nongame bird tech committee of the Atlantic Flyway Council – she couldn't make this meeting, but offered the Flyway's help, so introducing the group to the Flyway may help with state agency recruitment.

02:13:04 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: Finally, I would suggest making the output maps from the Blitz results available to states in order to evaluate the role that states can play in RUBL conservation in the winter/migration, from the perspective of how they are distributed and in what abundance. Breaking the Blitz results report down by individual states would be helpful.

02:17:15 Steve Matsuoka: Luke Powell, do you know if the spatial predictions from the winter and spring blitz's will be made available as gis data?

02:19:23 Luke L. Powell: hi steve – I think you just have to email Brian Evans

02:19:40 Luke L. Powell: evansbr@si.edu

02:19:56 Luke L. Powell: i don't think we posted the GIS-layers themselves, just the PDFs

02:20:23 Luke L. Powell: but we'll make it a priority to get those GIS layers into the supplementary materials of the winter blitz manuscript

that we're about to submit

02:24:27 Luke L. Powell: @sergio: that's a good idea with respect to a state-by-state breakdown

02:24:48 Luke L. Powell: I will ask Brian Evans if he is willing to put those together for our supplements section to the paper

02:26:13 Luke L. Powell: @sergio: if you'd like a specific state's data right now, feel free to email brian

02:26:17 Luke L. Powell: evans

02:28:45 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): For trends, eBird data and migration counts are, although not population specifics, probably the best options for trends along with CBC and BBS

02:30:00 Cindy Staicer: for eBird data, it would be ideal to get actual locations

02:30:50 Luke L. Powell: For what it's worth, the blitz data include ebird data

02:31:14 James Churchill (AC CDC): I second that Cindy, as opposed to just being attributed to checklist or hotspot coordinates

02:35:44 Luke L. Powell: spotty breeding bird atlas coverage in newfoundland

02:38:20 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): We are taking feather sample in Tadoussac, Québec for stable isotope analysis begin this fall.

02:38:36 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): around 50 birds/fall

02:43:56 Luke L. Powell: large flock map from the blitz

02:44:10 Luke L. Powell: corrects for where users looked

02:56:18 Luke L. Powell: worth reiterating that winter survival is poorly known, and the full cycle model identified this as particularly important

02:56:42 Luke L. Powell: the survival data we used were from telem studies designed for other things, so they're not terribly precise

02:57:52 Christopher M Tonra: Note, we were able in Ohio to supplement Motus tower data with hanbd tracking. So you can get good survival data if you employ both, and potentially get those "gravy" long distance detections also

02:57:54 Luke L. Powell: a study really focused on hab specific winter survival could do a really nice job

02:58:09 Luke L. Powell: nice one Chris

02:58:33 Kate Slankard - KY Fish and Wildlife: I agree- I have a lot of interest in this.

02:59:23 Christopher M Tonra: I know folks in LA and AR who have looked into SWG funding for this, but without success thusfar

02:59:49 Luke L. Powell: Than Boves? Would be great to get him involved

03:00:10 Araks Ohanyan: My grad study in AR, which has a survival component, is funded by SWG but we definitely need larger-scale studies

03:00:17 Christopher M Tonra: Yeah he was one. I think he got sidetracked with other projects, but worth reaching out again

03:00:23 Luke M. Douglas: I think looking more into GPS tags for both adults and fledglings would really help toward that end. I know Carol had adults moving far north directly after the breeding season (to the

point where VHF tags were of limited utility), though we weren't sure where the first years/fledglings went after the beginning of August. It'd be great to know where fledglings vs adults are going after the main period of the breeding season.

03:00:53 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: if looking for SWG funding, that's where engaging state wildlife agencies is also important; if it's not a priority for the agency, then they won't fund it

03:00:56 Luke M. Douglas: Then of course the GPS tags could continue to yield data once they head south

03:02:06 Luke L. Powell: good point, Luke. Those 2g Argos tags might do the trick because the GPS tags we used require a huge amount of effort and cost to get back (we got around 25% back max)

03:02:21 Christopher M Tonra: Agreed

03:02:43 Christopher M Tonra: Gotta go pick up my son from School, but thanks to you all for organizing this. Has been awesome!

03:02:49 Luke M. Douglas: Yes, sorry that's what I meant- the tags that we don't need to get back

03:02:56 Luke L. Powell: Thanks Chris!

03:03:59 Adrienne.J.Leppold: brief overview summarized here
<https://www.spacetechnology.com/products/end-to-end-systems/icarus>

03:05:18 Adrienne.J.Leppold: I don't know much but ICARUS should give us all the detailed level of information we're talking about needing

03:05:34 Luke L. Powell: ICARUS would be fantastic

03:05:54 Luke M. Douglas: Agreed

03:06:01 Luke L. Powell: they have been delayed many times in the past, so we'll have to take their 1-2 years for a 1g tag with a grain of salt

03:06:46 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): Do we have any informations on stopovers in Canada? Long point seem to be housing an important one and I am sure there is other ones

03:06:53 Adrienne.J.Leppold: seeing as they started in 2002 and just got deployed two years ago on the ISS...but they have them small enough to fit on European Blackbirds, so...

03:07:29 Adrienne.J.Leppold: full disclosure, I have no idea what the size of the "blackbirds" are across the pond

03:07:49 Luke L. Powell: they're basically a black american robin

03:08:04 Jay Wright: Long Point definitely catches RUBL occasionally

03:08:20 Stacy Anne McNulty: Hi all, I need to depart. Thanks for organizing! FYI there's a new paper on geolocators and impact on bird survival - <https://wildlife.org/tracking-devices-decrease-survival-of-migratory-birds/>

03:08:39 Luke L. Powell: 80-125g for euro blackbird

03:10:09 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): It will be hard to set a 2g tracker on RUBL in Canada, as once you have tags that are over 5% bird weight, permits get much harder to obtain

03:12:18 Adrienne.J.Leppold: yeah, we have a ways to go for a Rusty then, I guess

03:12:24 Luke L. Powell: worth re-plugging Stacy's special boreal issue of Diversity...papers due 30 nov

03:12:25 Luke L. Powell: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/diversity/special_issues/Boreal_Bird

03:12:39 Luke L. Powell: nice, quick and fair review process

03:14:55 Jay Wright: @Pierre-Alexandre there should be quite a few RUBL you can encounter over 50 grams, which should be good to get 2g tags (permit-wise)

03:18:11 Sergio Harding Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources: have to run, thanks everyone, I learned a lot!

03:20:40 Paulson Des Brisay: Manitoba would be a great place to look at dam impacts too. The Keeyask Dam (<https://www.hydro.mb.ca/projects/keeyask/>) is nearing completion and I know they have had consultants have been doing some baseline work on the RUBL around that development.

03:22:24 Steve Matsuoka: Seem like an overview paper would be a nice addition to the conservation plan

03:30:57 Anne Mini: Thanks everyone! I have to hop off the call. But please keep me in the loop of how our Joint Venture can help :)

03:32:00 Chuck Hunter: Interesting observation that southbound flocks may not be as large as northbound. Any thoughts as to why that would be? Are adults and juvs heading south separately?

03:33:28 Adrienne.J.Leppold: Thanks for organizing this! Glad to see the group moving forward. Gotta go, but good to see everyone!

03:33:34 Jay Wright: I think mainly because the southbound migration is more leisurely, so there's more opportunity to spread out and move around. And yes, possibly differences in movements between adults and young, maybe even sex differences

03:36:13 Angela Larsen-Gray: Thank you all!

03:37:03 Patricia Wohner: Great point Luke.

03:37:43 Luke L. Powell: thanks patti

03:37:46 Luke L. Powell: great point pam

03:41:07 Chuck Hunter: Lots an Lots of thought-provoking discussion. Thanks everyone!

03:41:50 Luke L. Powell: BIG thanks to Carol, Pam, Patti Kate and Dean who did the bulk of the organizing for this workshop!

03:41:51 Luke M. Douglas: Thanks everyone- great discussion!

03:41:53 James Churchill (AC CDC): thanks very much everyone!

03:41:55 Jay Wright: Thanks everyone!

03:42:04 Courtney Baldo: thanks for the informative sessions

03:42:15 Pierre-Alexandre Dumas (OOT): Thank you everyone

03:42:22 Amanda Pachomski: Thank you!