Staff

U.S.

Monica Iglecia, U.S. Coordinator
Sara Evans-Peters, U.S. Assistant Coordinator
Lynn Fuller, Communications Coordinator
Helen Raine, Hawai‘i Wetlands Coordinator
Dave Mehlman, Grants Liaison
Mark Petrie, Waterbird Science Liaison

CANADA

Andrew Huang, Canada Coordinator
Kathleen Moore, Conservation Planner
Bruce Harrison, Technical Team Chair

International Management Board

Jeff McCreary, Ducks Unlimited
Blair Hammond, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada
David Bradley, Bird Studies Canada
Nancy Newhouse, Nature Conservancy Canada
Eric Taylor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Region
Glenn Lamb, Columbia Land Trust
Karyn Gear, California State Coastal Conservancy
Jasper Lament, Nature Trust of British Columbia
Fern Duvall, Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources
Cameron Mack, Wildlife Habitat Canada

Joining the board in 2021

Jennifer Davis, American Bird Conservancy
Sara O’Brien, Willamette Partnership
Davia Palmeri, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Kyle Spragens, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Retiring from the board in 2021

Holly Michael, Retired Wildlife Biologist/Manager

Vision

A Pacific Region United for Bird Habitat Conservation

Mission

Creating the Ideal Environment for Bird Habitat Conservation

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A Note from the Board

Pacific Birds is a collaborative, international partnership of hundreds of organizations and individuals implementing strategic conservation actions guided by the best available information. It is our pleasure to share this report on Pacific Birds 2020-2021 conservation achievements, which represents only a small snapshot of the work accomplished.

Pacific Birds celebrates thirty years of partnership-driven conservation in 2021. As we reflect on the past three decades, it is clear that our collective efforts have led to positive conservation outcomes. Today, across Pacific Birds’ vast geography, the importance of collaborative partnerships advancing a shared vision has never been greater.

Throughout this global pandemic, wild creatures and wild places have provided refuge for human communities. The International Management Board is committed to advancing conservation efforts that support healthy bird populations and people across the flyways. From the coasts to the oaks, we believe we are truly strengthened by the flock.

We look forward to the next decade of Pacific Birds’ conservation, and the opportunities to innovate together. We value all of the contributions that our current partners, friends and associates have made and we welcome new people to join us in advancing bird habitat conservation.

Blair Hammond
Canada Steering Committee Chair and International Management Board Co-Chair

Jeff McCreary
U.S. Steering Committee Chair and International Management Board Co-Chair
Changes to the Staff and Board

Joint Venture Coordination

After eight years of dedicated leadership and a career dedicated to conservation, Brad Bales retired from Pacific Birds in early 2021. Brad guided Pacific Birds through a name change and rebranding effort, through conservation priority-setting and expansion to an all-birds scope, and strengthened the international component of the Joint Venture. He did this with a big heart, a sense of humor, and an adept skill at connecting people. We thank Brad for his leadership and wish him well in retirement!

In February 2021, Monica Iglecia was hired as U.S. Coordinator. Before joining Pacific Birds, Monica served as Manomet’s Assistant Director of Shorebird Habitat Management where she worked closely with staff, partner groups, organizations, and agencies across the Americas to inspire and facilitate habitat improvements at some of the most important places for shorebirds. Monica is committed to creating and supporting an environment where Pacific Birds can thrive, and we are excited to have her on board.

International Management Board

The Pacific Birds International Management Board (Board) is composed of U.S. and Canada Steering Committees that collectively provide leadership and guidance on the direction and priorities of Pacific Birds. There were several transitions on the Board this year.

After more than a decade of voluntary service on the Board, including two terms as the U.S. Co-chair, Holly Michael is retiring from Pacific Birds. Holly brought a wealth of knowledge and leadership to Pacific Birds based on her 45-year career in conservation research, management, and policy across the U.S, including twenty years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. While Holly will be deeply missed as she steps off the Board, we wish her an exciting future seeking out wild places and traveling the world.

The International Management Board and U.S. Steering Committee also expanded in 2021. Four new members, representing state agencies and nonprofit organizations, bring a diverse set of skills and experiences to the Joint Venture. Please join us in welcoming them to the board.

Jennifer Davis
Northwest Regional Director, American Bird Conservancy

Sara O’Brien
Executive Director, Willamette Partnership

Kyle Spragens
Waterfowl Section Manager, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Davia Palmeri
Conservation Policy and Special Programs Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Priority Action Plans and Committees

In 2020, Pacific Birds developed strategic action plans for three conservation priorities: Oak and Prairie, Coastal Wetlands, and Hawai‘i Wetlands. To support and provide guidance in the implementation of these plans, we expanded the size and scope of our conservation priority committees. This expansion represents a near tripling of the number of active partners engaged in collaborative work advancing mutual conservation objectives.

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Jaime Stephens</td>
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<td>Natural Area Manager, East Cascades Oak Partnership Coordinator</td>
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<td>Monica Iglecia</td>
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<td>U.S. Coordinator</td>
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<td>Nicole Maness (Chair)</td>
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<td>Partner, Resilient Habitat for Willamette Partnership</td>
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<td>Sara Evans-Peters</td>
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<td>Kathleen Moore</td>
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<td>Stan Senner</td>
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<td><strong>Hawai‘i Wetlands</strong></td>
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<td>Afsheen Siddiqi</td>
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<td>Biologist</td>
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<td>Fern Duvall</td>
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<td>Maui Nui Program Manager for Native Ecosystems Protection and Management Program</td>
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<td>Jared Underwood</td>
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<td>Marine Protected Area Manager</td>
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<td>Jason Misaki</td>
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<td>Wildlife Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Judy Drexler</td>
<td>United States Geological Survey</td>
<td>Research Hydrologist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kristin Harmon</td>
<td>University of Hawai‘i- Manoa</td>
<td>PhD Candidate</td>
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<td>Nanette Seto</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td>Division Chief, Migratory Birds - Columbia-Pacific Northwest and Pacific Islands</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Fisher</td>
<td>Maui Land Trust</td>
<td>Director of ‘Āina Stewardship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sheldon Plentovich</td>
<td>United States Fish and Wildlife Service</td>
<td>Coastal Program Regional Coordinator - Pacific Islands</td>
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Oak and prairie habitats were selected as a Pacific Birds conservation priority in 2015, due to the substantial loss of these habitats over the past 150 years. Since then, Pacific Birds’ Oak and Prairie Program has helped catalyze a regional movement to restore and conserve the Pacific Northwest oak and prairie habitats that birds need and people love. A strong and growing network of partnerships are working to conserve local strongholds and increase the biodiversity and resiliency of oak and prairie ecosystems throughout their historic range. Acorn Woodpecker (Melanerpes formicivorus), Western Bluebird (Sialia mexicana), Oak Titmouse (Baeolophus inornatus) and many other avian species will benefit.

Pacific Birds invested significant resources in 2020-2021 to strengthen partnerships and advance planning initiatives. Several local partnerships are now well positioned to access programmatic funding and implement conservation actions. The Klamath-Siskiyou Oak Network, the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative, and the East Cascades Oak Partnership have completed strategic action plans and are now implementing recommended actions. Pacific Birds recently facilitated the development of strategic plans for the Umpqua Oak Partnership and the Intertwine Oak and Prairie Working Group.
Four Pacific Birds Partnership grants were awarded to Oak and Prairie partners in 2020. Three grants supported the transition towards implementation of the recently completed strategic plans. One of the actions identified in the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative Strategic Action Plan is to increase the availability and reduce the cost of native plant materials for restoration. The Institute for Applied Ecology is helping to address this need, as described in *It All Starts with a Seed*.

In 2021, with Pacific Birds support, a new multi-state coalition was formed around common oak and prairie conservation issues, needs, and goals. In addition to the five partnerships above, the coalition is composed of agencies and organizations from several states and has an activation network of more than 150 people. To date, the coalition has developed a regional oak and prairie threat analysis, a Funding Strategy, and a Marketing and Communications Plan. The coalition is providing a magnified, collective voice about the value of oak and prairie conservation for both wildlife and people.

*Pacific Birds has made a substantial contribution to our work at Klamath Bird Observatory. Their recent support, whether in facilitating planning or building capacity, has directly benefited our programs which in turn benefits birds, their habitats, and people.*

- John Alexander, Executive Director, Klamath Bird Observatory
North American coastal wetlands within the Pacific Birds region span 30 degrees of latitude from northern California to Alaska, making this the conservation priority with the largest geographic scope. These coastal ecosystems support hundreds of bird species using several global flyways. Conserving coastal wetlands not only benefits fish and wildlife populations, but increases the resilience of coastal communities.

Pacific Birds has supported partner-driven, coastal wetlands habitat conservation in the U.S. and Canada since 1991. In 2020-2021, coastal wetland partners were involved in planning, habitat prioritization and on-the-ground conservation, research, and gathering and sharing Indigenous Knowledge.

The Coastal Wetlands Committee initiated a planning process that will culminate in a Coastal Wetlands Plan to guide our conservation work over the next decade. Using methods from the Conservation Standards, the Committee selected and ranked focal habitats based on potential impacts, conservation urgency, and potential partner engagement. Out of seven habitats considered, the highest ranked were eelgrass, tidal wetlands and intertidal mudflats, and freshwater wetlands and lakes.

It is estimated that more than four million Western Sandpipers pass through Alaska's Copper River Delta during migration, and those same birds rely on the network of coastal habitats along the Pacific coast during their annual cycles.
Partners advanced our understanding of environmental pressures on coastal waterbirds with a 2021 paper that analyzed data from the British Columbia Coastal Waterbird Survey. Waterbird abundance is considered a useful indicator for environmental or habitat quality. Twenty years of monthly observations provided a long-term data set from which to draw conclusions about species abundance—and inform future conservation.

Partner projects collectively conserved thousands of coastal acres in 2020-2021. Columbia Land Trust and partners conserved 2,500 acres of working forest lands on the Oregon Coast, while in California's Humboldt Bay a 357-acre parcel was acquired through the Samoa Dunes and Wetlands Acquisition and Restoration Partnership.

"The Samoa Dunes and Wetlands Conservation Area includes bay and tidelands parcels frequented by shorebird species in decline, including Dunlin. These are the lands and waters that we are working to convey to the Wiyot Tribe for long-term conservation ownership. This is truly an amazing place, and Pacific Birds is playing a critical role in a historic land conservation and land return project."

- Mike Cipra, Executive Director, Friends of the Dunes
The Hawaiian Islands are a stronghold of globally endemic species. While several conservation partners are dedicated to saving forest and sea birds in Hawai‘i, Pacific Birds is catalyzing a needed network of wetland and waterbird focused conservation partnerships to address the concurrent threats of invasive species, non-native predators, and climate change.

### MOLOKA‘I
The Moloka‘i Wetlands Partnership added new members, created a logo, secured funds to conduct local outreach about wetlands and climate change, and commenced wetland restoration planning work.

### O‘AHU
The new O‘ahu North Shore Partnership started wetlands restoration work this past year. The North Shore Community Land Trust is a key partner.

### KAU‘A‘I
The Hanalei Watershed Hui Partnership received a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation National Coastal Resilience Fund award to evaluate natural wetland restoration solutions to mediate flooding, which is expected to increase with climate change. The community will then select preferred solutions that will protect people, property, and infrastructure.

The Mānā Plains Wetland Partnership identified locations with wetland restoration potential and is currently working to secure implementation funding.

The nascent Wailua Watershed Partnership was developed to work collaboratively on grant applications to move watershed-scale conservation forward.

The Makauwahi Cave Reserve Partnership is enhancing wetland habitat and is conducting monitoring work for threatened and endangered birds.

### KAHO‘OLAWE
The Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission Partnership is working to restore wetlands on this island to benefit both cultural and wildlife resources.
Over the past year, Pacific Birds staff and partners focused on implementing actions from the Hawai‘i Wetlands Strategic Action Plan. Pacific Birds helped partners complete ten grant applications this year, with a success rate of 75%. As a result, $558,770 in grant awards, along with $1,146,592 in leveraged funds, will be directed towards the conservation of wetlands habitats. Grant funds will be used for ungulate-proof fencing, waterbird protection at Makauwahi Cave Reserve, wetland habitat enhancement on Kaho‘olawe, wetland restoration on O‘ahu, and Indigenous-led communications work on Moloka‘i. The Moloka‘i Wetland Partnership was awarded a $269,932 grant from the Pacific Island Climate Adaptation Science Center to identify wetlands with ‘climate safe’ restoration potential. ‘

Communications and outreach were also an important part of Hawai‘i Wetlands work in 2020-2021. Pacific Birds developed an extensive virtual library of Hawai‘i wetland-related resources. We provided assistance to the Wildlife Friendly Business Initiative on Kaua‘i, aimed at amplifying conservation-minded businesses, and were involved with the production of several community outreach products.

Meet the Kickboxer (‘alae ke‘oke‘o) of the Hawaiian Islands

See the ‘alae ke‘oke‘o or Hawaiian Coot (Fulica alai) come to life as Hawaiian artist Trysen Kneshige paints a mural of it in real time, aimed at connecting local people with native Hawaiian wildlife.

“The Moloka‘i Wetland Partnership has already given me an incredible opportunity to coordinate efforts to assess wetlands for the purposes of improving endangered waterbird habitat and expanding cultural uses.

- Dr. Judith Drexler, U.S. Geological Survey

Nēnē (Branta sandvicensis) / Public Domain
Pacific Birds Partnership Grants

Partnership grants are awarded to U.S. partners to advance Pacific Birds’ conservation priorities. These small grants can catalyze larger initiatives, or may lead to increased capacity, outreach, or conservation planning. Thirteen grants were awarded in the fall of 2020, including a Botulism Reporting Network in Hawai‘i, implementing strategic conservation actions in the East Cascades, and research on the ‘alae‘ula or Hawaiian Common Gallinule (Gallinula galeata sandvicensis). See the Partnership Grants web page to learn more and see the 2021 grant awards.

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<td>Umpqua Oaks Partnership</td>
<td>Partnership for Umpqua Rivers</td>
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<td>An Innovative Communication Strategy for Oak and Prairie Conservation in Oregon</td>
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<td>Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network: Advancing the Conservation of Oak Habitat and Oak-associated Birds in Southern Oregon and Northern California</td>
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<td>History and Change in Tidal wetlands of Willapa Bay Estuary</td>
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<td>Botulism Alert System</td>
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<td>‘Alae ‘Ula Research</td>
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<td>Mānā Plain Coastal Wetland Partnership Initiative</td>
<td>Hawai‘i Farm Bureau Federation</td>
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<td>Strengthening Partnerships and Virtual Reserve World In O‘ahu</td>
<td>Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife</td>
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Conservation Impacts of the 2020 Grants:

- 124+ Organizations Engaged
- 384 Acres Protected or Enhanced
- 5 Acres Restored
- 1 Botulism Alert Network
- 1 Position Established
- 3 Conservation Plans
- 2 MOUs
- 2 Spatial Data Layers
- 62 Species Range Maps

Sharing Knowledge in Southcentral Alaska

In the spring of 2021, Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) hosted the Southcentral Migratory Bird Wisdom Keeper’s Workshop that brought Elders, youth and other Tribal members, and federal and state managers together around birds. They discussed the history, traditional management, and conservation of migratory birds and shared stories. The Workshop was part of a larger project, partially funded by a 2020 Pacific Birds Partnership Grant, to collect and share Indigenous Knowledge related to migratory birds that are used as subsistence foods in Alaska.

Art, science, conservation, subsistence and culture are all woven together in the CRRC project. A pair of (AdA)ch‘Aq‘iiq’ (Eyak language) or Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos).

(AdA)ch‘Aq‘iiq’ range in Southcentral Alaska, one of 62 maps made showing species range and Native place names.
Bringing Birds Back

The 2019 paper, *Decline of the North American Avifauna* (informally known as 3 Billion Birds), galvanized a new effort by the bird conservation community to address major declines in North American bird populations. The study estimated a net loss of 2.9 billion birds between 1970 and 2017, a 29% decrease.

Pacific Birds staff reviewed the report to help guide how we can be part of bringing birds back. Several trends were striking. Out of the 529 North American breeding species considered in the report, 339 species are found within the Pacific Birds region. Coasts, Western Forests, Arctic Tundra, and the Boreal Forest each have 50% or more of associated species in decline.

In 2021, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released an updated *Birds of Conservation (BCC) list*. The BCC list identifies bird species that, without intervention, would likely become candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act. Out of the 269 avian taxa presented, 148 birds of concern occur within the Pacific Birds region.

Habitat loss and degradation is one of the most significant drivers of bird declines. Looking forward, we will continue to assess how and where we can address the results of these compelling new syntheses through communications, science, and targeted conservation actions.

Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*) declined by an estimated 2,372,38 individuals from 1970 to 2017. They are on the 2021 Birds of Conservation Concern list.
Pacific Birds began in 1991 as the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, working in coastal Oregon, Washington and British Columbia. The early Joint Venture partnerships were a new conservation model, bringing partners together to plan, share resources, secure funding and implement on-the-ground projects to conserve wetlands and migratory waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway. In 1999, Joint Ventures expanded their focus to include all birds and all habitats.

Over the next 20+ years, Pacific Birds’ geographic scope expanded to include the Pacific Coast of Alaska (2001), Northwest California and the Willamette Valley of Oregon (2004), Hawai‘i (2005), Interior and Northern Alaska (2010), and the rest of the U.S. Pacific Islands (2015). Pacific Birds now encompasses over 473,000,000 acres (~191,400,000 hectares).

In 2015, the Joint Venture went through a rebranding process. We updated our name, logo, and website to reflect new landscapes, new birds and the increasing use of digital platforms to share information. We completed a comprehensive review of where to best use Joint Venture resources, resulting in the International Management Board identifying Oak and Prairie, Coastal Wetlands and Hawai‘i Wetlands as priority landscapes.

From the regional conference rooms of the 1990s to the Zoom rooms of 2021, the enduring power of partnerships has been a consistent thread in the Joint Venture. We are still working with some of the people we brought together in our early years, and have added many partners along the way. We are excited to bring in new people and perspectives for the conservation work ahead.

Thank you to our partners for helping birds across the landscapes.
A Bird’s Eye View

We approach our work with a flyway and landscape perspective in order to best support the life-cycle needs of migratory birds.

See the April 2021 post Pacific Golden-Plovers Connect Us to see why habitats in both Alaska and Hawai’i matter to these shorebirds.

The Alaska–Hawai’i Pacific Golden-Plover Connection. The yellow tracks show the path of geolocator equipped birds traveling north in spring to nesting grounds, the purple shows the southward return in fall.

Migration Map: Dr. Oscar W. Johnson, used with permission.

Above Photo: Pacific Golden Plover (Pluvialis fulva) in Hawai’i / Shanthanu Bhardwaj © Creative Commons