

10th CMMN-RCSM National Meeting / 10^e Rencontre nationale du RCSM-CMMN
10-13 March 2016, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Manitoba
Hosted by Delta Marsh Bird Observatory



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10th CMMN-RCSM 2016 National Meeting Summary Notes

Prepared by Audrey Heagy
March 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

The tenth national meeting of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network – Réseau canadien de surveillance des migrations (CMMN-RCSM) was held at the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, near Stonewall, Manitoba from 10 to 13 March 2016. The meeting was hosted by the Delta Marsh Bird Observatory. The meeting organizing committee consisted of Paula Grief (local host), Audrey Heagy (BSC), Patti Campsall, Doug Collister and Bruno Drolet (chair of the CMMN Steering Committee).

A total of 13 Canadian migration monitoring stations were represented at the meeting. Bird Studies Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service were also represented at the meeting. Four graduate students from the University of Manitoba gave presentations on their research projects. A list of the 30 meeting participants, along with their affiliation(s) and contact information, is provided in Appendix 1.

The format of the meeting was similar to previous years and included a report from the Steering Committee, brief updates from the partner organizations and member stations, workshops on CMMN development, and a variety of scientific and technical presentations. A copy of the meeting final agenda is included as Appendix 2.

Copies of the presentations (*file names indicated after section headings below*) are available on the CMMN-RCSM NatureCounts website at: <http://www.birdscanada.org/birdmon/cmmn/resources.jsp>.

Note: *You need to be registered as a participant in the CMMN NatureCounts project to view these presentations. To register, create a User Profile with your login and password. New registrations are usually approved within 48 hours.*

2. STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT (2_CMMN_SteeringCommitteeReport_2016.pdf)

Bruno Drolet, Chair of the CMMN Steering Committee presented a report on Steering Committee activities since November 2013. One major change was the creation of three subcommittees:

- **Science Sub-committee:** lead on making trends and data available, promoting collaborative research, review monitoring protocols
- **Communications Sub-committee:** promoting and enhancing communication among stations, outreach to other stations and networks, and facilitating training
- **Membership Services Sub-committee:** promoting and enhancing services for current members, and processing new membership applications.

Since 2013, the CMMN has grown with the addition of the Tatlayoko Lake Bird Observatory and Society of Yukon Bird Observatories (operating Albert Creek and Teslin Lake Bird Observatories) as full members, and the Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park and McKellar Island Bird Observatory as provisional members. Two other stations (Iona Island in BC and Hilliardton Marsh in ON) are currently preparing to apply for CMMN membership.

Bruno reviewed some of the priorities and tasks identified in the 2012-15 Strategic Plan and Action Plan where the Steering Committee has made good progress over the past two years, as well as other actions where little or no progress has been made.

3. CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE UPDATE (*3_CMMN_CWS_Update_2016*)

Bruno Drolet presented an update on Canadian Wildlife Service - Environment and Climate Change Canada (CWS-ECCC) activities related to the CMMN. ECCC interest and involvement in the CMMN relates to five specific CWS monitoring needs. CWS still wants to formally evaluate how well CMMN can meet monitoring information needs for boreal forest birds and other northern breeding species. The CWS Boreal Monitoring Committee has been recently re-activated. CWS also recognizes the value of migration monitoring stations other than for population trend information (e.g. training, research).

4. BIRD STUDIES CANADA UPDATE (*4_CMMN_BSC_Update_2016*)

Audrey Heagy presented an update on Bird Studies Canada (BSC) activities related to the CMMN including data collection, data management, analyses and reporting, communications and technical support, development and funding, and participation on the CMMN Steering Committee.

CMMN data up to 2014 have been analysed using updated methods. The results are now posted on the NatureCounts website. The species presented are restricted to those where the trends are thought to represent regional population trends.

BSC's Great Canadian Birdathon (formerly Baillie Birdathon) continues to be a significant fund-raiser for the CMMN. In 2015, 19 CMMN member stations raised a total of \$78,828. The cumulative total raised by CMMN stations since 1998 is expected to pass the million dollar milestone in 2016.

The CMMN Birdathon prize of a Celestron spotting telescope was presented to Ted Cheskey for the Bruce Peninsula Bird Observatory. All CMMN stations participating in the Great Canadian Birdathon have a chance of winning the CMMN Birdathon prize. For 2016, the prize includes a tripod as well as the Celestron spotting scope.

5. STATION REPORTS (*S1 to S24, ordered from Oak Hammock westward and then eastward.*)

A total of 24 station reports were prepared and presented at the meeting. These five-minute presentations followed a standard template and included information on the station location, organizational structure, standard programming, and new projects and achievements.

6. BIRD HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE STATIONS (*6_BirdHighlights_ALL*)

A new feature of the 2016 meeting was a slide deck comprised of bird highlight photos submitted by the stations. The 127 slides were compiled into one 15-minute loop presentation that played during breaks throughout the meeting. This format was well received, although it would be good to also include it as part of the scheduled program.

7. OTHER PRESENTATIONS (*T1 to T9...*)

Additional presentations on various research, monitoring, and conservation projects of interest to CMMN stations were included in the meeting program (see Appendix 2 for details of topics and presenters). On Friday evening, three graduate students from Kevin Fraser's lab at the University of Manitoba gave a presentation on their research on tracking Purple Martins throughout their annual life cycle. On Saturday evening, Christian Artuso, BSC Manitoba Program Manager, provided an overview of the recently completed Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas. Copies of these presentations are available in the Oak Hammock meeting folder on the NatureCounts website.

8. CMMN SCIENCE SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP (see PDFs W1a, W1b)

Tara Crewe gave a presentation on aspects of her PhD. research, which focused on improving the use of migration counts for population monitoring. She discussed the effect of sampling effort and stopover duration on migration counts. She also found that model selection can be used to model regional variation in trends. Her analyses highlighted the importance of long-term monitoring.

Ricky Dunn's presentation focused on making the most use of CMMN trend data. She highlighted the need to distinguish between migration counts that are a signal of broad regional population trends from counts that are strongly influenced by local breeders. Migration counts of species that stage in large numbers or are irregular or irruptive migrants also need to be treated differently. Past comparisons of CMMN and BBS trend information could be repeated for more stations and incorporating new information on station catchment areas and breeding bird population density mapping. Linking the trend results to the inferred breeding range so that results can be presented by Bird Conservation Region (BCR) would also facilitate use of CMMN data for conservation planning purposes. The Science sub-committee is proposing to present its plans for advancing the use of CMMN trend data to the reactivated CWS Boreal Monitoring Committee.

Discussion

- Boreal Avian Modelling (BAM) density maps are being refined using breeding bird atlas point count data. Updated habitat models have been developed for priority species including Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Common Nighthawk.
- New technology being used to advance knowledge of breeding and wintering grounds (Motus infrastructure expanding but cost of tags still relatively expensive).
- Stopover time affected by food availability (e.g., midges, fruit) but as long as variation is random then trends not biased.
- Still more work to be done with more analyses of feathers isotopes, including sampling from additional stations and additional species, and also using additional data on direction of departure to refine catchment areas (e.g. orientation studies, Motus tagging, and/or use of radar to show general patterns of bird movements).
- Tara's research indicates that covering more of a species migration window reduces the impact of shifts in migration timing.
- Need to recognize where habitat change at a station and/or in vicinity of a station is affecting migration counts. Monitoring habitat change important but likely can't "correct" trends for habitat change. If know that rapid directional habitat change is occurring at a station then could try shifting nets and census legs so that sampling same habitat over time.
- Communications with stations about analyses very important. Not all stations had time to respond to SSC email about the species classification and asking them to review the list of broad migrants. **Science sub-committee wants input from stations on how to improve these communications.**
- Stations can increase their capacity by setting up their own local Science Committee.
- **Stations need to provide information to BSC anytime the protocol changes.** This is one of the items listed under the station responsibilities in the membership agreement document. This type of information can easily get lost when changes in personnel at a station. **Membership sub-committee to address this concern during the membership review.**

9. CMMN MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP (see PDF W2)

Audrey Heagy and Doug Collister led the Membership sub-committee workshop. Audrey reviewed the current membership categories, criteria, station responsibilities, and membership benefits (see presentation).

Increasing Capacity

- Suggestion to add category for individual non-voting members. These individuals would be included in communications and also available to help with committee work.
- Another suggestion was increasing capacity best done by increasing the number of paid people.
- General support for idea of instituting a membership fee to support CMMN core activities, although would need to recognize stations would have variable ability to pay. Several of the meeting participants indicated that they thought their station might be able to pay \$500 annual fee, although many indicated their station would not be able to pay this much.

When stations should apply for provisional or full membership in CMMN?

- Early contact important for getting advice on location, protocol, station banding permit.
- Is 2 years of operation sufficient for full membership? Yes, as long as operations have been standardized for 2 years.

Membership criteria

- Stations not affiliated with university need help obtaining Animal Care Committee review of their banding protocol and procedures.
- Governance structure more important to sustainability than having link to an institution.
- Ask for more details about habitat in the application to determine whether count data suitable for trends.

How many stations and where?

- Gaps in coverage exist where populations from some catchment regions not being counted
- Redundancy (stations sampling same populations) not a problem except that limited funding to support stations in any region and additional resources needed to manage and analyse additional data.

Protocol and Habitat change

- Ask stations to provide information on protocol and habitat changes each year when they provide their data.

Promote values of migration monitoring stations in addition other to population trend information

- Need to make stronger case to ECCC and others that CMMN stations provide a lot of value for little money. Many contributions in addition to population trend (e.g. infrastructure for other researchers to use).

Recommendations for consideration during membership review

- Keep multiple membership categories (Full member, Associates, Provisional).
- Include research-focused stations as full members as well as population-trend focused stations (but only analyse data for latter).

- Associate stations should provide data.
- Assistance with succession planning would be a benefit for one-person type operations with only short-term prospects (5-10 years) that become Associates.

10. CMMN COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE WORKSHOP (see PDF W3)

Stu Mackenzie and Audrey Heagy led the Communications and Outreach sub-committee workshop. The introductory presentation prepared by Ann Nightingale and Stu Mackenzie reviewed existing communication tools that are or could be used to reach different target audiences including:

- General public (also covers all other groups)
- Your own members, donors and volunteers
- Other CMMN members
- Research and conservation communities

Communicating with General Public

- Network News – distribute as widely as possible
- CMMN Website
- Facebook site – easier to post to Facebook than prepare the eNews but still need content and Facebook site is not archived

Communicating with Research and Conservation Communities

- 2nd International Bird Observatory Conference planned for Cape May, NJ in November 2017
- Publication repository – change from spreadsheet to link on CMMN webpage
- Brochure(s) CMMN +/- station level brochure highlighting:
 - Purpose
 - Facilities/infrastructure
 - Data sets
- Stations set up Scientific Committee that meets at least 1/year

Communicating within the Network

- Face-to-face national meetings very important
- Webinars (or conference calls with PPT) on various topics including:
 - Bandit 4.0 & BBO update
 - Northeast and US Midwest Migration Monitoring Networks
 - PhD/Post Doc talk on migration phenology
 - Seawatches
 - International Migratory Bird Day (Nature Canada could organize)
 - Piranga
 - CMMN update between face-to-face meetings
 - Tips&Tricks for CMMN Stations
- Job board to sharing postings re volunteers, job ads, banders
- Use CMMN listserv to get answers to question such as:
 - Is anyone using iPad for direct data collection?
 - What are other stations paying their BICs?
- Committee to send out reminders about existing reference documents and communication tools (recognize that turnover in station management leads to information gaps)

Communicating within the Station

- Share articles and tools you find useful for station communications (e.g., Vertical Response email distribution software, Doodle for scheduling meetings, WhentoHelp for coordinating volunteer schedules, SurveyMonkey, etc.)

11. MEETING WRAP UP

Preliminary Assessment of 2016 National Meeting

- attendance lower than in recent years
- 2 1/2 years between meeting is too long
- Venue, food & weather all very good
- more interesting if more birds to see
- **Need to poll people not at meeting as to why not able to attend.**

Plans for Next National Meeting

- Discussion of pros and cons of piggyback meeting with the International Bird Observatory meeting at Cape May in November 2017. Cons outweigh the pros.
- Tentative offer to organize meeting in Victoria, BC in 2017
 - Ann Nightingale will approach Rocky Point Bird Observatory about hold next meeting in Victoria, BC
 - Timing is flexible
 - Next step would be for RPBO to prepare a proposal and submit to CMMN Steering Committee

Steering Committee Renewal

- Outcome of election was that Doug Collister and Patti Campsall were acclaimed as Station Representatives
- Follow up election will be held following meeting to fill the two vacant Station Representative positions.

Appendix 1: Participants in the CMMN-RCSM National Meeting 2016

Name	Affiliation	Email
Alan Smith	LMBO	alanrandi@sasktel.net
Amélie Roberto-Charron	BBO & Fraser Lab, U Manitoba	arobertocharron@gmail.com
Ann Nightingale	RPBO	motmot@shaw.ca
Audrey Heagy	BSC	aheady@birdscanada.org
Bruno Drolet	ECCC	bruno.drolet@canada.ca
David Okines	PEPtBO	david.okines@gmail.com
Doug Collister	CBBS – Inglewood	collistr@gmail.com
Garry Hornbeck	CBBS – Inglewood	hornbeck@telus.net
Jason Bieber	VLBO	jasonbieber@gmail.com
Kevin Methuen	BBO	biologist@beaverhillbirds.com
Mathias Fenton	CBBS – Inglewood	mathiasfenton@gmail.com
Matthias Bieber	VLBO	jasonbieber@gmail.com
Patti Campsall	LSLBO	executive.director@borealbirdcentre.ca
Paula Grief	DMBO	p_grief@ducks.ca
Peter Fuller	PEPtBO	petefullz@gmail.com
Rachel Vallender	ECCC	Rachel.Vallender@canada.ca
Richard Krikun	LSLBO	bic@lslbo.org
Ricky Dunn	Science SubCtte	EricaHDunn@gmail.com
Rinchen Boardman	TCBO	rinchenboardman@gmail.com
Simon Duval	MBO	simon@migrationresearch.org
Stéphane Menu	BPBO	stefmenu@gmail.com
Stu Mackenzie	BSC	smackenzie@birdscanada.org
Tara Crewe	BSC	tcrewe@birdscanada.org
Ted Cheskey	BPBO & Nature Canada	tcheskey@naturecanada.ca
Ted Murphy-Kelly	SOYBO	tedmurphykelly@northwestel.net
Christian Artuso	MB Atlas, BSC MB	cartuso@birdscanada.org
Alisha Ritchie	Fraser Lab, U of Manitoba	
Amanda Shave	Fraser Lab, U of Manitoba	
Lawrence Lam	Fraser Lab, U of Manitoba	
Randall Mooi	Manitoba Museum	

Appendix 2: Final Agenda for the CMMN-RCSM National Meeting 2016

10 th CMMN-RCSM National Meeting, 10-13 March 2016		
<i>Hosted by Delta Marsh Bird Observatory</i>		
FINAL AGENDA (9 March 2016)		
Thursday March 10th WINNIPEG SANDMAN HOTEL & SUITES		
<i>travel day; on your own for dinner</i>		
19:00	Drop-in Meet & Greet at Sandman Hotel & Suites	
Friday March 11th OAK HAMMOCK MARSH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE		
7:30	<i>Car pools leave Sandman to travel to Oak Hammock</i>	
8:00	Registration, load presentations, get settled in.	
8:30	Welcome, Orientation and Introductions - Paula Grieff etc.	
9:00	CMMN-RCSM Steering Committee Report - Bruno Drolet	2
9:15	Environment Canada Update - Bruno Drolet	3
9:30	Bird Studies Canada Update - Audrey Heagy	4
10:00	<i>BREAK</i>	
10:30	Member Station Reports	
	Delta Marsh BO - Paula Grieff	S01
	Last Mountain Lake BO - Alan Smith	S02
	Calgary BBS- Cypress Hills - Doug Collister	S03
	Calgary BBS- Inglewood BS - Doug Collister	S04
	Beaverhill BO - Kevin Methuen	S05
	Lesser Slave Lake BO - Richard Krikun	S06
	Vaseux Lake BO - Matthias & Jason Bieber	S07
	Rocky Point BO - Ann Nightingale	S08
	Mackenzie Nature Observatory - prepared by Vi Lambie	S09
	Tatlayoko Lake BO - prepared by Peter Shaughnessy	S10
	SOYBO - Albert Creek BO	S11
	SOYBO - Teslin Lake BO	S12
	McKellar Island - prepared by John Woodcock	S13
	Thunder Cape BO - Rinchen Boardman	S14
	Bruce Peninsula BO - Stéphane Menu	S15
	Pelee Island BO - prepared by Graeme Gibson	S16
	Long Point BO - Stu Mackenzie	S17
	Haldimand BO -Rock Point - prepared by Jim Smith	S18
	Tommy Thompson Park BRS - prepared by Andrea Chreston	S19
	Prince Edward Point BO - David Okines	S20
	Innis Point BO - prepared by Bill Petrie	S21
	OO McGill - Simon Duval	S22
	OO Tadoussac - prepared by Pascal Côté	S23
	Brier Island BMRS - prepared by Lance Laviolette	S24
	Bird Highlights compiled slideshow presented during breaks	Birds
12:00	<i>LUNCH</i>	
13:00	Station Reports (continued)	
14:00	Other Reports and Updates	
	North American Banding Council update - Stu Mackenzie	
14:30	<i>BREAK</i>	
14:45	WORKSHOP #1: CMMN Science Sub-committee	
	Improving the use of migration counts for wildlife population monitoring - Tara Crewe	W1a
	Making the most of CMMN data - Erica Dunn	W1b
	<i>Discussion</i>	

15:45	Technical Presentations 1	
	Refining Population Trends of Neotropical Landbirds using Standardized Mist-Netting Data - Mathias Fenton	T1
	Ten Years of Migration Monitoring at McGill Bird Observatory - Simon Duval & Marcel Gahbauer	T2
	A Preliminary Comparison between Two Nearby Banding Stations - Ann Nightingale	T3
16:30	<i>SOCIAL/HAPPY HOUR</i>	
17:30	<i>DINNER</i>	
19:00	Tracking Purple Martin Migration: Factors impacting the species from three perspectives - Alisha Ritchie, Lawrence Lam & Amanda Shave (U. Manitoba) -	T4
20:00	<i>Travel to Winnipeg</i>	

Saturday March 12 OAK HAMMOCK MARSH INTERPRETIVE CENTRE

7:45	<i>Car pools leave Sandman to travel to Oak Hammock</i>	
8:30	Tour of Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre and banding station	
10:00	<i>Break</i>	
10:30	Technical Presentations 2	
	Geolocators bring to light the wintering locations of a threatened boreal songbird, the Canada Warbler - Amélie Roberto-Charron (U. Manitoba)	T5
	Origins of landbirds migrating through Inglewood Bird Sanctuary, Calgary - Doug Collister	T6
11:00	WORKSHOP #2: CMMN Membership Review Sub-Committee <i>Presentation followed by discussion (Audrey Heagy and Doug Collister leads)</i>	W2
12:00	GROUP PHOTO	Group
12:15	LUNCH	
13:30	Technical Presentations 3	
	The Motus Wildlife Tracking System - A hemispheric tracking system for migratory animals: Opportunities and challenges for the CMMN - Stu Mackenzie (BSC)	T7
	Songbird Monitoring in Southern Belize – A Review of Year One - Doug Collister (CBBS)	T8
	Nature Canada’s Save Bird Lives and Cats and Birds program as well as our Purple Martin work - Ted Cheskey (Nature Canada)	T9
14:00	WORKSHOP #3: CMMN Communications and Networking Sub-Committee <i>Presentation followed by discussion (Stu Mackenzie and Audrey Heagy leads)</i>	W3
15:00	BREAK	
15:30	Meeting Summary and Outcomes:	
16:30	<i>HAPPY HOUR</i>	
17:30	DINNER	
19:00	Manitoba Breeding Bird Atlas - Christian Artuso, Bird Studies Canada Manitoba Program Manager	
20:00	<i>Travel to Winnipeg</i>	

Sunday March 13 (Daylight Saving Time STARTS)

FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

06:30	Guided local birding trip led by Christian Artuso
	Self-guided: Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg, open 10 am - 5 pm
	Self-guided: Manitoba Museum in Winnipeg, open 11 am - 5 pm
	Self-guided: all day trip to Windygates in Pembina Valley

Travel home

