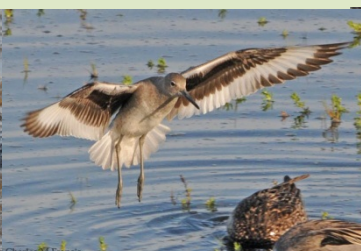


The State of North America's Birds report 2016

Discussion at Migratory Birds Table, Trilateral Committee

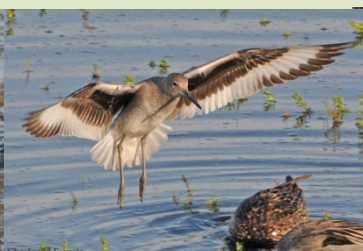
April 2015



Steering Committee

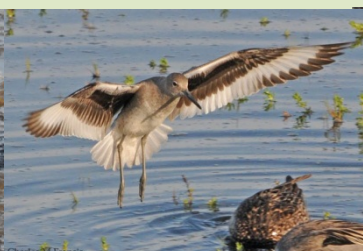
- Canada: Charles Francis (lead), Andrew Couturier, Ted Cheskey, Adam Smith, Alaine Camfield
- USA: Ken Rosenberg, Bob Ford, David Pashley, Greg Butcher, John Sauer, Deb Hahn
- Mexico: Humberto Berlanga, Vicente Rodriguez, Eduardo Inigo-Elias, Hector Gómez de Silva, Luis Antonio Sánchez González

Additional participants on science and communication teams



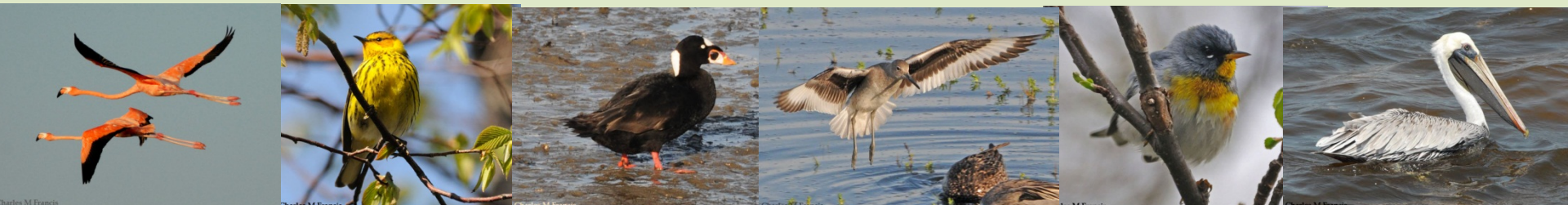
Audiences

- Primary:
 - Agency leaders, elected officials, and policy makers: none of whom are assumed to be specialists in birds or conservation.
- Secondary:
 - General public
 - Non-government conservation organizations



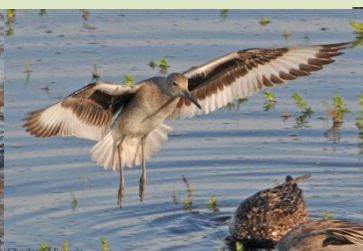
Key Messages

- Birds have a strong societal value, and are also indicators of healthy ecosystems
- Several bird groups are in need of conservation action
- Addressing conservation at the continental scale is the best way to protect in-country investments
- The three countries of North America are working collaboratively for bird conservation



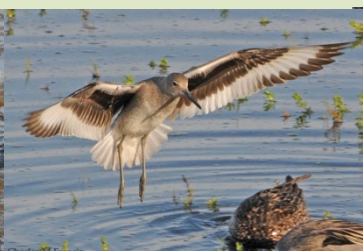
Science Foundation

- Species Assessment Database
- Main indicators: proportions of species in different biomes / species groups that are on a watch list
- May consider including some sort of trends graph as well, but would have to be a subset of data (as limited from Mexico)



Report format

- Needs to be easy to get key messages at a glance
- Relatively short report (perhaps 16 pages including covers)
- Considering stand-alone messages on each page in similar format to State of the World's Birds 2013



Biodiversity underpins our lives



Rainforest is the most biodiverse habitats on earth. (more: Muzare Gores)



Sustainable development relies on biodiversity conservation

tinyurl.com/casestudy75

Biodiversity—the variability among living things and ecological systems—is the world's natural wealth. Our social and economic well-being and our futures depend on it. Biodiversity provides us with vital goods and services and maintains the life-sustaining systems of the biosphere. It is a genetic storehouse, a treasure-trove of future medicines and materials, and also amazingly complex and beautiful. Yet biodiversity is being lost faster than ever.

The immense economic importance of biodiversity has already been highlighted by the Economics of Ecosystem Services and Biodiversity project (TEEB). In 2010, the 193 member states of the Convention on Biological Diversity adopted a comprehensive and ambitious new Strategic Plan for Biodiversity for the years 2011–2020, with 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets. In 2011, governments agreed to set up an Integrated Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) to bring sound science to bear effectively on decision-making.

At the Rio+20 summit in June 2012, world leaders set in motion the development of new Sustainable Development Goals. It is vital that these goals fully recognise the role of biodiversity in ensuring a viable future for humanity.

BirdLife International's own Strategic Plan aims to make a real contribution to achieving global targets for biodiversity and sustainable development. As civil society organisations, working with governments, communities and across sectors and country borders, BirdLife Partners can play a key role in the concerted action that will be needed.



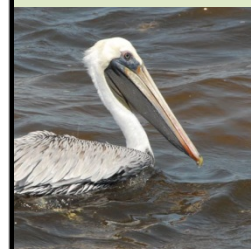
Biodiversity is a crucial part of Earth's life-support system, on which both society and economy depend.

SOURCE Adapted from Griggs et al. (2013) *Nature* 405: 305–307.

Through its strategic objectives, BirdLife aims to:

- **SAVE SPECIES** by conserving and restoring species populations across their natural ranges, and maintaining genetic diversity, ensuring they can continue to play their role in the web of life and for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations
- **CONSERVE SITES AND HABITATS** by ensuring effective conservation, through action and advocacy, of the most important sites and habitats for nature across the world
- **ENCOURAGE ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY** by promoting sustainable management of our planet and its natural resources so as to secure a future for birds, biodiversity, and ourselves
- **EMPOWER PEOPLE** for positive change by restoring or strengthening the connections between people and nature, building and consolidating a movement of local and national civil-society conservation organisations that can provide broad-based support for nature conservation.

The BirdLife Strategy is translated into action through a set of BirdLife Global and Region-specific Conservation Programmes. Nine Global Conservation Programmes are already in place for the planning period 2013–2020, as follows: Preventing Extinctions; Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas; Migratory Birds and Flyways; Seabirds and Marine Conservation; Forests of Hope; Climate Change; Invasive Alien Species; Local Empowerment; and Capacity Development.



Invasive alien species are spreading and are a particular threat on islands

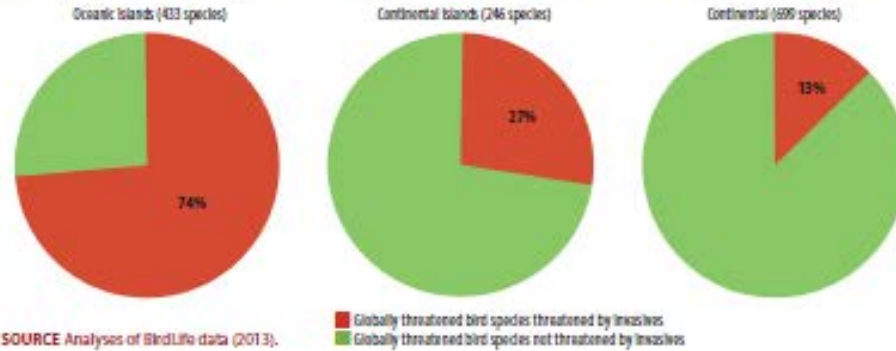


The introduced House Mouse *Mus musculus* has had a devastating impact on seabird populations on remote Gough Island in the Southern Atlantic, including those of six globally threatened species. (Image: Ross Waukes)

Birds on islands are particularly at risk from invasive species

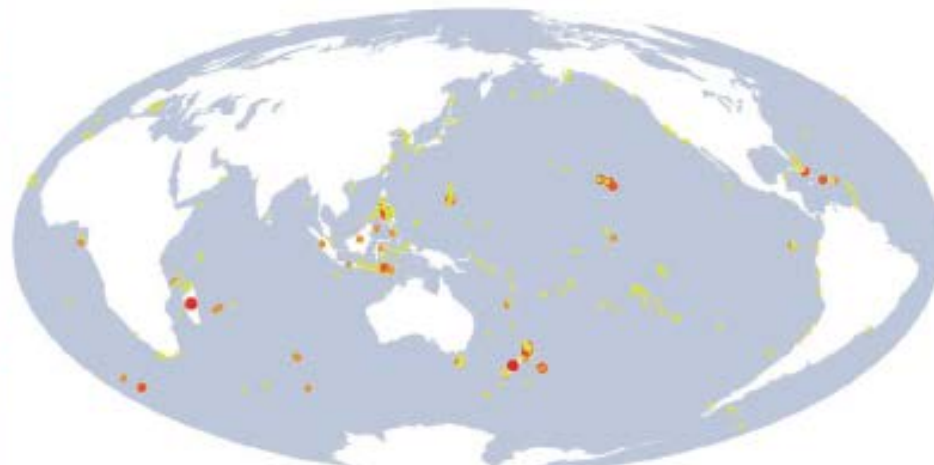
tinyurl.com/casestudy128

Invasive alien animals, plants and disease-causing micro-organisms have already caused numerous extinctions, and remain a major threat to birds, especially on small islands. Three-quarters of all globally threatened bird species occurring on oceanic islands are at risk from introduced species.



SOURCE Analyses of BirdLife data (2013).

BirdLife, in collaboration with Island Conservation, the University of California Santa Cruz and the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group, has identified 390 islands worldwide that hold one or more Critically Endangered and Endangered bird species, as well as one or more invasive alien vertebrate species that have an impact on them.



SOURCE Threatened Island Biodiversity database <https://tib.islandconservation.org>.



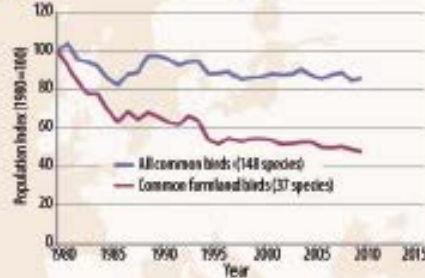
Many bird species, including common ones, are declining



Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*, one of a number of familiar European birds that has undergone a dramatic decline in numbers in recent years. (credit: Dave Tenow)

Farmland birds in Europe have shown marked declines in the past 30 years

tinyurl.com/casestudy62

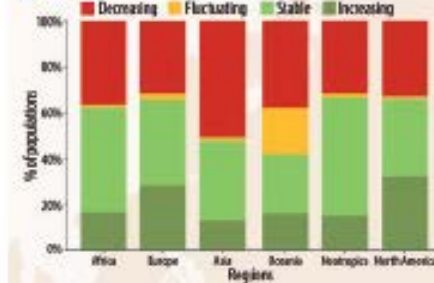


SOURCE Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS); European Bird Census Council/ISPSP/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands.

An analysis of 148 of Europe's common birds has revealed that, over a 30-year period, 57 species (nearly 40%) have declined across 25 European countries. Farmland birds have fared particularly badly, with 300 million fewer birds today than in 1980.

Waterbirds are showing widespread declines, particularly in Asia

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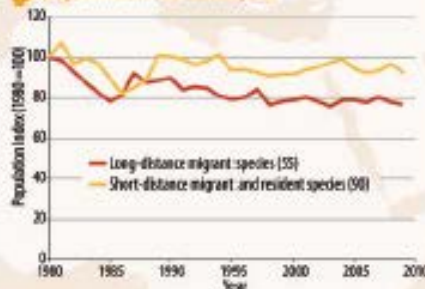


SOURCE Wetlands International (2012) Waterbird Population Estimates, Fifth Edition. Wageningen, The Netherlands: Wetlands International.

In Asia, over half of all waterbird populations with known trends are declining. This is largely a result of widespread loss of wetland habitat in the region.

Long-distance migrants between Europe and Africa are declining

tinyurl.com/casestudy66

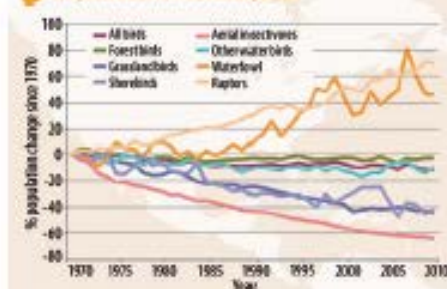


SOURCE Pan-European Common Bird Monitoring Scheme (PECBMS); European Bird Census Council/ISPSP/BirdLife International/Statistics Netherlands.

In Europe, Afro-Palaearctic migrant bird populations have experienced far greater declines than resident or short-distance migrants. Long-distance migrants in Europe declined by 23% on average between 1980 and 2010, while residents and short-distance migrants combined declined by 7%.

More bird species groups in Canada are in decline, than are increasing

tinyurl.com/casestudy543



SOURCE North American Bird Conservation Initiative Canada (2012) The state of Canada's birds 2012. Ottawa: Environment Canada.

The state of Canada's birds 2012 report shows dramatic declines in aerial insectivores, grassland birds, and Arctic shorebirds since 1970, all attributed to the impacts of human activities. However, waterfowl and raptor populations are rebounding thanks to conservation efforts.



Infrastructure development, pollution and overexploitation all have impacts on bird species



In some countries illegal bird trapping is commonplace. BirdLife estimates that in Cyprus nearly 2.5 million birds were trapped in 2012 alone. (note: Diana Toranzo)

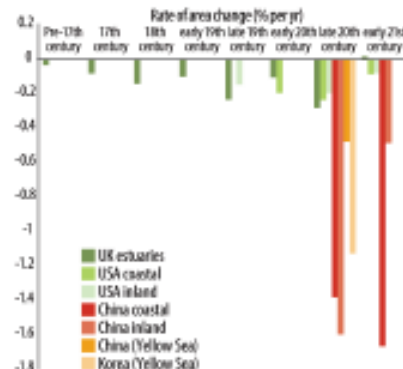


PRESSURE: Why birds are declining

Loss of intertidal habitat through land-claim in Asia

tinyurl.com/casestudy546

For centuries, the land around estuaries has been progressively claimed—for agriculture, port and industrial development, waste disposal, infrastructure and urbanisation. While such reclamation has slowed in some parts of the world, for example in much of Europe and North America, it continues to be very rapid in others, such as the Yellow Sea region in Asia. This has had especially devastating effects on long-distance shorebird migrants that rely on intertidal mudflats to refuel for their journeys.

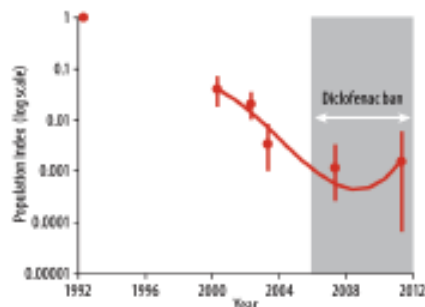


SOURCE Various, data provided by Nick Davidson, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands.

Contamination of food sources with veterinary drugs has led to catastrophic declines in vulture populations

tinyurl.com/casestudy156

Vultures fulfil an extremely important ecological role as scavengers, helping keep the environment free of carcasses and waste. Vultures in South Asia have declined drastically over the last 20 years, largely because of widespread use of the anti-inflammatory drug 'diclofenac' in livestock. This drug is highly toxic to vultures which ingest it when feeding on livestock carcasses. India, Nepal and Pakistan banned use of diclofenac as a veterinary drug in 2006, and recent surveys suggest that vulture populations have stabilised, although numbers still remain very low across the region.



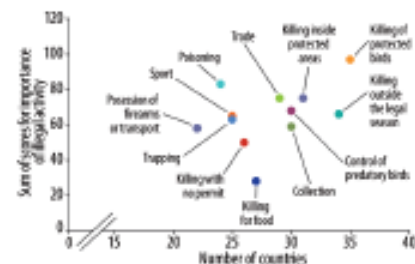
Changes in population indices of White-rumped Vulture *Gyps bengalensis*, from repeat surveys of a large number of road transects in India. Vertical lines show 95% confidence limits derived by bootstrapping.

SOURCE Cuthbert et al. (2011) *PLoS ONE* 6(5): e-019060, Jamshed et al. (2012) *Bird Conservation International* 22: 389–397, Prakash et al. (2012) *PLoS ONE* 7(11): e-49118.

Unregulated hunting is a particular problem for some species

tinyurl.com/casestudy547

Hunting is a serious threat for many migratory birds. A recent review has shown that in Europe activities such as deliberate poisoning, illegal trade, killing protected birds and hunting inside protected areas—all illegal and with significant impacts—are widespread, occurring in 20 or more countries.



SOURCE Adapted from BirdLife Europe (2011) *Review of the illegal killing and trapping of birds in Europe. Report for the European Union.*

