

**American Oystercatcher Working Group Meeting 2011**  
**James Island County Park**  
**Charleston, SC**  
**29 Nov – 1 Dec 2011**

*Festival of Lights!*

**Tuesday 29 November 2011**

**Shiloh Schulte – introduction**

- 0.36 productivity for Atlantic Coast in 2009 from about 1000 pairs
- 0.72 productivity for Atlantic Coast from about 1000 pairs
- 0.57 productivity in 2011 from about 1049 pairs (need FL numbers completed)
- Should mean that population is increasing based on our current models for Atlantic coast population

**New members**

- NY, CT state reps have been missing and RI peripherally; new, multi-state project initiated with funding up there. Sharon Marino (USFWS) here to update the group on that project.

**Action Items from last year's meeting – updates:**

- Productivity metrics – Google Docs; need to work on data security and data sharing issues at this meeting (arctic breeding shorebird example?)
- Predator management issues; BMP to be developed for use by group members?
- Rangewide surveys – moving forward with plans for new winter survey; summary of breeding surveys
- Banding discussion – make final decisions about future banding schemes
- Committees – TBD
- Website

**RANGEWIDE POPULATION ESTIMATES**

Repeat of winter survey

- 2013 will be 10 year anniversary of original survey
- Discussions started with NFWF already with Manomet; pre proposal accepted; working on finalizing match for grant.
  - timing is critical at this point to secure matching funds.
- What resources do we currently have?
- Need an assessment of what each state can commit.
- Need to figure out proposed dates of survey window. But basically will be same as last time: Nov-Jan 2012/2013.
- Will funding be flowing from proposal to other organizations?
  - Not part of the core idea; but if there are places where resources are needed then it's a possibility.
- Is it really the best method to use the same observer for the entire coast as was done for the first survey? Certainly could use multiple observers across states but will run into problems with repeatability of previous survey. One challenge would be the need for increased ground surveys in conjunction with each different aerial observer.
  - Second observers could be used from individual states but single observer used for the actual survey. Each state should consider when thinking about how to contribute to survey effort.
- Is the 2002/2003 data available in map form so that potential collaborators on the ground can see what might be asked of them? Certain level of data is available in publication (Brown et al. 2005). Authors can provide additional detail if needed.
- Clarification of what is being proposed
  - Complete aerial surveys of Atlantic and Gulf coasts; one observer; on the ground counts in certain locations to calibrate the aerial counts. Northern boundary was NJ. Main purpose is to obtain second

complete US population count; update map of wintering population distribution. Per mile basis – aerial surveys are very efficient.

- Matt Bailey (DE): would have problems justifying using state funding to do that; but have people who could probably donate boat time (volunteers, etc).
- Sara Schweitzer (NC): most people have FY12 budgets established and will know if they have money in the budget to dedicate personnel, supplies, equipment, and travel funds to the simultaneous ground surveys; however, new state budgets (for 2012-2013 winter) associated with SWGs begin either in July 2012 (state FY) or October 2012 (federal FY).
- Which areas on the ground are targeted for ground surveys?
- **Shiloh will distribute copies of proposal to interested parties and possible collaborators. Will lead to further discussion of details of who can participate. Very tight turn around time.**
- Timeframe for developing full proposal – **next couple of weeks.** Dan – encourages the group to participate via in-kind contributions. The group has the momentum and the group has been the model of success. We should build on that.
- Folks need adequate time to confirm their ability to offer match, get approval, etc.

Round-robin to collect information from each state about what they might contribute to a repeat winter survey:

TX	Sue Heath – probably USFWS support with boat; Sue can contribute; depends on timing; two areas maybe three; upper coast and central coast
AL	
LA	Jess is on the ground there, currently unaffiliated.
Other gulf notes	Has anyone engaged the Gulf Islands National Seashore? Has to be capacity there.
FL	Huge coast; no official representative here at the meeting; Pat and Doris Leary could contribute significant amount; need to contact Janell Brush; Pat L. - currently an annual mid-winter survey that is scheduled and is a volunteer network that can be tapped for resources; Beth – panhandle has shorebird working group that would be able to get bodies out there, but they would need boats; southwest part of the state 10,000 islands contacts would have boats; Big Bend area – Peter Frederick, Doris, Pat can contribute
GA	Tim Keyes – mid winter shorebird surveys; try to fly in Dec or Jan for oystercatchers. Options for using state plane which is cheaper
SC	Felicia Sanders - Have done breeding and winter surveys in the past; has taken practice to determine where the birds are; have boats and somewhat of a budget; would need minor funds to make sure there is enough staff. DNR planes are \$125/hour (cheap rate)
NC	Sara S. – have been working on Audubon and NC state project to do all winter counts so have locations and logistics figured out for the most part. Some minor funding might be needed for travel, etc. Law Enforcement pilots available. Audubon has private pilot and airplane rental service out of Wilmington who is familiar with doing bird surveys; they have boats, people who can get on the ground, etc.
VA	Ruth Boettcher – VA should be good for ground coverage on the seaside where vast majority of wintering birds are; could use minor funds for travel if available; Chesapeake Bay and Western Shore last flight did not find birds but need to repeat; might have limited state funds (SWG) to do that with local pilot but might need funds
MD	No one on the ground last time; VA might be able to contribute assistance with boats etc. if MD can accompany effort. No rep from MD at meeting.
DE	Matt B. – would need just a little ground support and they could probably take care of it
NJ	Todd Pover – short answer is yes; probably less than 10 fall flocks; Todd could put together volunteer effort as a source of match (i.e. Tom Virzi); no funding need; local pilots available that have been used before.
NY	Sharon – will figure out a way; could be volunteer based

#### Coordinated breeding survey

- Implementation will be different model from winter survey.
- Will NFWF provide funding to support rangewide breeding survey? Possibly.

- Issues with different observers across all states which was more easily remedied with winter survey.
- Ruth B. – presentation of results of an online group survey designed to gauge the desire and feasibility of states to participate in a rangewide breeding survey
  - Objectives: obtain a second complete count of the Atlantic/Gulf oystercatcher population (breeders and non-breeders); obtain a rangewide breeding population estimate and distribution of pairs and non-breeders; incorporate resighting component for banded birds
  - Twelve states participated in the online survey: MA, RI, NY, NJ, DE, MD, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL and TX. Sharon Marino (USFWS) provided valuable feedback on behalf of CT.
  - 8 of 13 states have done previous statewide survey (4 have not but NJ has done an almost complete one)
  - All 13 states would agree to participate in range-wide survey effort
  - Existing survey structure is currently different for each state. What interval would work??
    - 8 of 13 states agreed that every 5 years would be doable
    - All but one state would be able to incorporate resighting into survey
    - **Would 2013 work???? All said yes except for NY which wasn't sure – might just take a little coordination. This would immediately follow the repeat winter survey.**
      - TX – might be some conflict with state needs of winter survey versus needs of breeding survey.
  - All states would agree to partner in multi-state funding request
  - **Every state would require some sort of funding for various needs.**
  - **Over half the states would benefit from a letter of support from the Working Group.**
  - **Next steps:**
    - Develop subcommittee to follow up with everything (develop methodology with statistical support (window survey? Seasonal survey?), summary of level of commitment (taking into consideration existing funding); funding possibilities; letters of support; coordination; identify gaps for example from Gulf coast; etc.)
- Other notes:
  - Need to consider gaps on gulf coast
  - FL has new Florida Shorebird Alliance; has developed some structure to survey the coast since it's extensive and logistically challenging. New database developed to house this kind of data.
  - Substantial effort – will need funding
  - When to survey is so different for each state, eg. Texas. Can't do survey window
  - Development of survey and study designs will likely require assistance from a statistician familiar with large scale surveys and mark-recapture models.
  - **What are the objectives??** Distribution? Statistically valid population estimate? This is already 'taken care' of with winter survey. Or just a number, qualitative, less structured, more volunteer based? Maybe that's the main objective here. Don't forget resighting and how that would contribute to evaluating dispersal of juveniles and recruitment into the breeding population.
    - **ESTABLISH OBJECTIVES: FROM THIS ALL THE OTHER ISSUES WILL SHAKE OUT PARTICULARLY THE STATISTICAL RIGOR THAT NEEDS TO BE INCORPORATED INTO SURVEY EFFORT.**
  - Are there places that just need to be surveyed that haven't been surveyed before? Might be a more attainable objective rather than complete rangewide survey.

**\*\*Note: smaller group of folks met during lunch on the second day of the meeting and established a committee to move this effort forward. The group will hear more from this committee as it develops future action items.**

#### **STANDARDIZED COLLECTION AND REPORTING OF AMOY BREEDING DATA**

- See Shiloh's summary of metrics
- **Shiloh will distribute to Working Group for further input and final consensus. Distribute by end of year; revisions to be requested by end of January in preparation for upcoming field season.**

## Discussion

- Fledging – more discussion on this? How often are chicks fledging before 35 days? Walker – found earlier than 35 days and birds would vacate territories quickly. 35 day mark would miss fledglings.
- Productivity – Tom V. we are most likely inflating our estimates because we're only taking into consideration pairs that we find eggs for. Breeding pairs vs. Territorial pairs??
- Minimum effort level? 2 times per week or greater; may not be feasible in some areas. Bottom line is survey effort needs to be well articulated.

## Desired outcomes

- Archived data
- Comparison between sites/states and across years
- Feedback mechanism for evaluating mgt. actions
- More detailed reporting
- Faster and more accurate reporting for funding

## Future direction

- Currently data is in Google Docs – has been good temporarily for summary data but has limitations. One being data sharing and some sort of data sharing agreement
  - Ted Simons – with digital information technology, sharing data has come to a different level and the scientific community is sharing more and more data and sharing and making data available is becoming a new way of doing science. Making science transparent. Would argue that we create our own history of developing a data sharing agreement and not using existing templates.
  - Also need to consider that much of this data collected using public funds – this has to be considered when thinking about how to share this data.
  - Do we need an agreement?
  - When it comes to publications, that's when conflict might come about. Agreement could be just a statement and not something that gets signed. Example is some sort of pop-up, clickable agreement that comes up when you access data and you simply agree to the conditions. More of a **CODE OF ETHICS. AGREED. Ted S. will help to draft this and distribute to group or possibly just the list of people that currently have access to the Google Docs. Ellen Jedrey is the administrator currently and has that list(??)**
  - Melissa – reference seaturtle.org and the set up there for accessing data.
  - Raw data would be a huge effort like it has been with the banding database. Current set up is less detailed, easier to deal with set up; submission is on voluntary basis.
- Adjusted metrics
  - Need details of nest check interval and someone to compile results; brings up data sharing issues and database issues. How will group progress with this?
- **Unresolved: adjusted metrics and how long to stay with Google Docs.**
  - \*Post meeting update: Shiloh is working on a template that will list the required fields for calculating adjusted nest success and will do the calculation automatically. Walker indicated that we can move forward with a productivity database if people like the banding database. Very minimal cost and development time would be much shorter having done the banding database. Could be started next year if people like the concept. Shiloh will follow up with him after the banding database is operational.

## **BNA AND WEBPAGE UPDATE – TED SIMONS**

### BNA

- How can we make the account dynamic?
  - Link appendices to annual updates – population, productivity estimates; resight summaries, etc.
  - Periodic section revisions at set intervals (3 yrs?)
  - Add media
  - Other suggestions:

- None right now but **send any ideas on how to best maintain the BNA website as a dynamic source of information on oystercatchers to Ted S.**

#### Web page

- New webpage – [www.amoywg.org](http://www.amoywg.org)
- How to manage public input to resighting database that comes through website?
- Send **suggestions or ideas to Ted S. for website**
  - May need reps from each state that have access for editing webpage
  - Eventually will need someone to take over minor fees associated (\$75/year hosting fee and \$12/year URL fee)
  - Google.com/analytics lets you see how the website is getting used
  - Future questions –
    - do we want a blog? Maybe that mirrors the list serve? Who would manage this and bridge the gap between list serve and blog?
    - Public interface for banding database? Smartphone app?
    - More content – state pages, images, video
    - Live web cams
    - Satellite/GPS tracking
    - Facebook/twitter
  - Comments
    - Educational component – lots of potential there
    - How long is web developer available – not much longer; structure is there but will leave it so that info can be added at any time
- **Unresolved**
  - Future access to webpage by state reps to edit update state pages?
  - Management of resighting coming in through website.
  - Fees – current fees \$75/year taken care of by Ted via grant money.
  - Suggest revisiting these questions in more details at next years meeting after the new webpage has been in use for a year

#### TEXAS UPDATE – SUE HEATH

- See powerpoint for details

#### FLORIDA RESIGHTS – LEARYS

- See powerpoint for details

#### BANDING DATABASE DISCUSSION – Walker Golder

- Demonstration of how banding database works
- 'Status' - breeding versus nonbreeding. May need discussion here.
- Is there a way to add multiple resights from same location, same date etc. at once; no – one at a time. But you can enter large amounts of resights via an excel file at the backend of the database – BATCHLOAD DATA. **Need to look into this more since this is how several people would want to enter the bulk of their resighting data since they get so many within short periods of time and entering them one by one would be prohibitive. \*\*Update from Walker: An entry page that will allow for batch loading data has been set up on the database and we will set up a separate entry form for entering multiple records with similar data, as suggested during the meeting.**
- Ultimately what is the intent – do we want the public to be able to enter into this database? Or just a limited number of authorized users who can edit database? Question that needs to be addressed. How should public interface of website mesh with this as well? There is a capability to 'quarantine' records so that records are entered but not put into the database unless they are quality checked by the administrator. Database can also flag records that appear to have an obvious error (like resighted in the mountains). There was agreement that there needs to be a public portal for reporting sightings of banded oystercatchers, but the general public should

not be able to enter data directly into the database. We can set up an entry form for the public that mirrors the database and the public can enter records that will not appear in the main database until they are checked and approved.

- What about birds that have lost bands and can be tied back to cohorts of birds but not the individual birds. You wouldn't want it to become a new bird in the database.
- Can you search for when two birds occur together, for example to search for when parents/offspring occur together? Yes, by site but you get all the other birds at that site as well. But the database will eventually recognize parent/offspring relationships so that it is searchable. Also needs to account for different generations of offspring from the same adults.
- Question to the group is what do we want the database to be and to do? The goal of the database is to be as efficient as we can with entering and retrieving data so that we as users can get immediate feedback when we need it. No database will be perfect.
- If you replace bands, will a search link back to the original banding scheme and will that be mapped with the Google Earth function? Not sure. May be that you need to search by BBL band number instead of color band.
- What about code delineators (dots? Underlines?). Not accounted for yet. This should not be needed. The underscore of a character and the dot between characters were there to identify the first character of the a-n code; for example, so that N7 would not be confused with 7N. I do not believe that duplicate codes with identical colors exist (hopefully not) with the only difference being that one character is underscored or has a dot.
- Felicia –
  - It's very important that we need to be able to enter data via excel spreadsheet for multiple reasons. Shiloh – only requirement will be that your individual database has columns that match the fields of the cooperative database from the beginning.
  - What about [ww.bandedbirds.org](http://www.bandedbirds.org)?
  - Can you export spreadsheet to excel? Yes.
- Current system allows for communication between resighter and bander to resolve potential issues. This database might decrease that communication. Database designer is working on the ability for the database to notify the bander when the bird is seen. That will allow communication between bander and resighter to be initiated and for errors/inconsistencies to be worked through. Offshoot of this for when/if there is a public side of this would be to have some sort of flagging system for when new site or new anything is corrected so that information is standardized.
- Currently **working on standardizing location information for pull-down menus**. This reduces entry errors and allows for more efficient searches.
- Where do we stand currently with reporting banding and resighting data? Shiloh has been receiving data from some folks periodically and then sending data to Walker since the last 'submission' of data? Not the case for all states. Some folks have been maintaining their own databases.
- The database is available now for the working group to explore. Send Walker a request to get a username and password if you would like to have access to the database. The database is populated with data, but data for some fields (county, site, location, and others) may not be standardized for all states. Users can enter and search records, but new records entered should be recorded off-site and sent to Walker, Ted, Jessica, or Shiloh so they can be added as new records when the database goes live.
- **Walker will be sending a spreadsheet template for the database and a request for any new records that may have not been reported.**
- The database can have entry fields for environmental conditions, habitat/landscape, and basic behavior data if this is desirable among the users; at least one potential user expressed interest in these fields.

## FLAG/BANDING DISCUSSIONS

- NC pilot study to look at using flags; following work that DE did; bands smaller and shorter, two digits on flag portion, one digit on rounded portion.
- See powerpoint for summary

- Future use of banding scheme tested in NC? Experiences in NC suggest that using flags is a viable strategy for the long-term enabling the use of 3-digit codes. Powerpoint summarizes recommendations.
- Did not put two flags on any birds but recommend that this be done moving forward particularly for making resighting easier. Round bands sometimes caused similar abrasions, but not worse than flag bands. Still need to do pilot work with double banded birds.
- What about last year's discussion regarding the color of flags and using one color for US?
  - BBL says basically that in order to reserve flag colors for other countries, the US needs to use one color.
- Matt B. observations from Delaware – they sanded all their flags before they formed them and that was easier. Echoes the type of information that Tracy and Jocelyn reported and would recommend the continued use of flags. Incubation observations of flagged adults did not show any cracked eggs or adverse effects. All three of their characters were on the flags.
- Pat and Doris – urge the group to use double flagging.
- Glue issues? It's more of a solvent so it shouldn't 'fail'.
- Recaptures of old style bands – do recapture birds automatically get new bands?
- Can Robin Haggie sand the flags – yes, he can do it during manufacture.
- When should the group consider when enough is enough for marking individual birds?
  - Larger objectives of mark-recapture studies needs to be considered. At this stage, we need to consider a carefully designed rangewide resight effort and then make decisions about where we need to focus continued banding effort.
  - One thought is that with such a long-lived shorebird, we need to still be banding. Think about SLR and impacts to coastal birds. AMOY are the perfect candidate for assessing the impacts and continuing to put individually banded birds into the population in the short term is warranted.
  - Banding at the chick stage allows us to follow birds through their entire life stage and we can ultimately track dispersal patterns with rangewide surveys. A maintenance level of banding at the chick stage would allow for us to track changes in survival over time. Doesn't mean that we need to band every chick but some sort of maintenance level – eg, minimum of X chicks per year per state to get at some of those metrics?
- Digression: Leads to a broader question of when will the working group be 'done', of in other words when will we have achieve our objectives? When is oystercatcher conservation enough? To what extent can we link the work that we've been doing with AMOYs to the conservation of other species facing the same conservation challenges? Longer term objectives of the group need to be thought through in the context of AMOY conservation, as well as the impacts that the group has had on the conservation of other species.
- Back to banding discussion: probably need to see more double flagged birds that are observed over time before we start doing that on a lot of birds. Agreed – NC has taken a step-wise approach to trying these flags. In a year or two with more of this testing we should be close to making that sort of decision.
  - Continued use of existing vertical double codes? For example in Virginia.
- Pam Denmon – what about using anything attached to the bands (i.e. radio transmitters) with the flags and not the rounded bands? Need a discussion among people here with experience to think more about this.

**Wednesday 30 November 2011**

Tracy Borneman – see powerpoint

Tim Keyes – see powerpoint

Peter Frederick – see powerpoint

## **SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES DISCUSSION**

Decision tree for evaluating management practices – three main elements

- Response
- Cost
- Effort

Pam's example of predator management spreadsheet to summarize what is being done across the working group members. Excel file with multiple columns.

Possibility of using this type of summary file for consolidating this type of information for other management strategies as well throughout the group. Particularly useful when considering turnover in staff at particular sites that manage for oystercatchers.

How to distribute the information even to get the information input into the spreadsheet without sending it out to the world. Password protected? Google Docs?

- Google Docs it is with password protection.

#### Timeframe and Responsibility

- Individuals listed will solicit and compile information for each management strategy; Shiloh will roll up the results and follow up with group on presentation of results via Google Docs
- Template and sample to be posted by Jan 1
- Input requested from group over following month
  - Predator management/exclusion – PAM
  - Disturbance management – MATT BAILEY
    - Pedestrian
    - Vehicle
    - Boat/water related
  - Artificial incubation - SAM
  - Public education/involvement – TIM KEYES
    - Eg. of signage
  - Research techniques – JESSICA STOCKING
    - Cameras
    - Artificial incubation
  - Habitat management – JEN HILBURN
    - Oyster reef creation
    - Dredge islands
    - Vegetation management

Future steps would be to possibly move the information to the website with multimedia, etc. with more sensitive information (i.e. predator management) available only with password access.

#### Other discussion on the usefulness or potential uses of this exercise and input for existing template

- Specific to predator management: Bob C. – should look at predator management on a broad scale with all the knowledge of the working group put together, and an analysis of effectiveness and cost across larger areas; actually plan a broad study; methods of estimating density of predators and predator composition is needed;
- One intent of the summary is to know what is being done out there; what is working and what is not working (important to put failed efforts).
  - What are some of the other measures of success? For example, ghost crab abundance and how is mammal management affecting that?
  - Need column for gaps in knowledge and potential for collaboration
  - Summary and synthesis of efforts
  - Cost and effort
  - References
  - Frequency of implementation
  - Some of the specifics of each strategy
  - Ideas for collaboration

- List of other species affected by management strategies
- Multiple rows even for the same agency/organization to capture different experiences. Each row is a learning event.

## DISCUSSION ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR COLLABORATION

- Example of New England collaborative project spearheaded by Mass Audubon and NJ. Linking with protection of east coast AMOYs and how that ties into building the resiliency of the species in the wake of the Gulf Oil Spill and what impacts it might have on oystercatchers. MA, NJ, RI, CT, NY participants developed a joint proposal of collective objectives and got a proposal accepted that initiated a bunch of the work that was presented here today (RI, CT work). This group will continue to work together to advance collective objectives. Also allowed them to go to other funders throughout the northeast to leverage their funding to further support the project.
- Second example is within Massachusetts and the number of collaborators that are involved with the same objectives.
- The group is encouraged to explore these ideas and possibilities for collaboration. Consider ideas where for example an NGO can serve as the lead on a project since they can receive the funding where a federal agency can't. That framework has been accomplished on several occasions
- Should the AMOY WG have a representative attend the big meetings like PIPL/LETE meeting? Yes, but need to consider that these meetings don't operate the same that our group does. Might not be as effective as it could only because of the structure of those meetings. Many active AMOY WG participants (eg. State reps) already attend a lot of these meetings anyway.
- Invite other examples of collaborative work, management actions etc., within or across states.
- South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)
  - Climate change – role is to provide certain data to be input into the project; includes sea turtle, beach mice, seabirds and shorebirds.
  - Also is a North Atlantic LCC – is there communication between the two?
- North Carolina, Virginia and Texas have statewide 'bird' meetings that meet on an annual basis and work together to get funding or implement projects and management actions.

## ORGANIZATION OF WORKING GROUP GOING FORWARD

- Better structure may help to accomplish more of the action items after each meeting.
- What do we need as far as structure? What things do we need to move forward with?
  - Team approach is a good idea to maintain the informality and bottom up approach that the group has become from the beginning.
  - One or two long-standing committees dealing with ongoing responsibilities like meeting planning with shorter term committees dealing with particular action items from meeting to meeting.
  - Communication will be a goal of the committees so that progress is continually made and not just during punctuated periods of time before and after the meetings.
    - 2012 meeting organization – Todd, Beth, Janell, Peter, Alex.
    - Funding sources – someone to track down funding and take the lead with developing collaborative projects. Shiloh in role as coordinator
    - Expenses? Website/URL, database management? We're OK for now.
  - More specific tasks
    - Databases – resighting, productivity. WALKER – RESIGHTING.
    - Banding/resighting/mark-recapture – evaluation of where we are, effort needed and future goals, when is enough, enough.
    - Cooperative breeding season surveys and resighting. AD-HOC COMMITTEE established headed by RUTH B. To evolve into including others that lead up aspects of the action item(s).
    - Measure of annual survival.
    - Evaluation of progress made rangewide in the context of the business plan. State of the initiative. SHILOH will produce before the 2012 field season.

- Best Management Practices exercise – Shiloh will work with individuals after templates are created and populated to synthesize that information to be presented to the group. Ted – this idea can serve as sort of a meta-analysis of what has been done and what has been effective and worked for the group. Will inform further actions and possibly more formal rangewide collaboration. May lead to some sort of publishable product. Should start though with the intent of informing the group.
- Unresolved: created a couple of committees to deal with specific tasks on the horizon (2012 meeting, breeding season survey) but did not resolve questions of any further structure. Perhaps just making sure that each action item has a name or group assigned to it at the end of each meeting and/or creating annual committees to deal with specific items/issues each year (as we did this year) will improve our ability to address those action items in a timely fashion.

## **ACTION ITEMS AND FOLLOW UP**

### Repeat of winter survey

- Shiloh will distribute copies of proposal to interested parties and possible collaborators. Will lead to further discussion of details of who can participate. Very tight turn around time.

### Coordinated breeding survey

- Smaller group of folks met during lunch on the second day of the meeting and established a committee to move this effort forward. The group will hear more from this committee as it develops action items.

### Standardized productivity metrics

- Shiloh will distribute to Working Group for further input and final consensus. Distribute by end of year; revisions to be requested by end of January in preparation for upcoming field season.
- Ted Simons will help to draft a 'code of ethics' surrounding access to cooperative databases maintained by the group (eg. Resighting/banding database and productivity database). Will distribute to group or possibly just the list of people that currently have access to the Google Docs. Ellen Jedrey is the administrator currently and has that list(??)

### BNA and Webpage

- All members – send any ideas on how to best maintain the BNA website as a dynamic source of information on oystercatchers to Ted Simons.
- All members – send suggestions or ideas to Ted S. for website

### Banding database discussion

- Walker will look into the details and procedures for batch loading data and provide update back to group about this. **\*\*Update from Walker: An entry page that will allow for batch loading data has been set up on the database and we will set up a separate entry form for entering multiple records with similar data, as suggested during the meeting.**
- Individual states working on standardizing location information for pull-down menus.
- Walker will be sending a spreadsheet template for the database and a request for any new records that may have not been reported.

### Sustainable management practices

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#### Miscellaneous action items

- 2012 meeting organization – Todd, Beth, Janell, Peter, Alex.
- Funding sources – someone to track down funding and take the lead with developing collaborative projects. Shiloh in role as coordinator
- Evaluation of progress made rangewide in the context of the business plan. State of the initiative. Shiloh will produce before the 2012 field season.