

# USFWS Migratory Bird Program

## Updates for BCC

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies  
September, 2020

Presenters Ken Richkus and Kari Duncan



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Migratory Bird Program  
*Conserving America's Birds*





# Filling Positions

All done under the newly formed JAO

Each program allowed to submit 5 priorities for HR

Top program priorities:

- Mississippi Flyway Representative (vice Jim Kelley)
- Atlantic Flyway Representative (vice Paul Padding)
- DMBM Deputy Chief (vice Ken Richkus)
- Joint Venture Coordinator (vice Ken Kriese)
- 2 Quantitative Ecologists (BADS and NRP)



# Personnel Changes

Headquarters Office - Staffing

## Division of Migratory Bird Management

### Branch of Assessment and Decision Support

- Dr Jeffery Hostetler – Quantitative Ecologist, Patuxent

### Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Regulations

- Dr. Joelle Gehring – Biologist, Falls Church, VA
- Greg Fleming – Regulation Specialist, Falls Church, VA

### National Raptor Program

- Hillary White – Assessment Biologist, Lakewood, CO

### Branch of Monitoring and Data Management

- Meghan Eyler – Data Manager/GIS Support, Patuxent
- Abby Walter – Data Analyst, Patuxent



# Personnel Changes

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Headquarters Office - Staffing

## Migratory Bird Program

Noah Matson, Deputy Assistant Director (vice  
Mike Johnson)

## Division of Bird Habitat Conservation

### Duck Stamp Office

- Jennifer Chin, Program Assistant

### Grants Branch

- Justin Markey, Branch Chief
- Nicole Virella Maldonado, Biologist/Grant Administrator
- Lauren Bailey, Biologist/Grant Administrator



# Budget

## Updates

	Enacted FY 2019	Enacted FY 2020	President's Budget FY 2021
Conservation & Monitoring	\$29,301,000	\$28,837,000	\$31,355,000
Permits	\$3,424,000	\$3,424,000	\$3,763,000
Duck Stamp	\$556,000	\$556,000	\$578,000
Joint Ventures/NAWMP	\$13,140,000	\$14,640,000	\$13,297,000
North American Wetlands Conservation Act	\$42,000,000	\$46,000,000	\$40,000,000
Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act	\$3,910,000	\$4,910,000	\$3,900,000
Total – Migratory Bird Program	\$92,331,000	\$98,367,000	\$92,893,000

*Migratory Bird Program - Conserving America's Birds*



# Cormorants

Proposed rule and draft EIS published June 5, comments closed July 20.

- Alternatives
  - New Special State and Tribal Cormorant Permit (Preferred)
  - Aquaculture Depredation Order
  - Combination of A and B
  - General Depredation Order

Preparing final rule and final EIS, expected to be completed this fall.

Increased Depredation Permit take allocation under the 2017 EA—51k to 74k



# MBTA

Governing Take of Migratory Birds

FWS/DOI undertaking efforts to codify M-37050 in regulation

Proposed Rule and Draft EIS published this past year clarifying the Scope of the MBTA

Summary judgement issued Aug 11th

- M-37050 was vacated

Working with DOI/DOJ to understand impact of the summary judgement on the Rule and EIS



# Hunting Regulations

## 2020-21 Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons

- Final Frameworks published on Aug 21st
- State Selections and Tribal regulations published on Aug 28<sup>th</sup>

## 2021-22 Migratory Bird Hunting Seasons

- Informational SRC Meeting held virtually in April 2020
- Decisional SRC Meeting scheduled for Oct 20-21<sup>st</sup>
- Challenging year due to impacts from COVID-19
  - Mid Continent Sandhill Crane Survey
  - May Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey
  - Ungava Peninsula AP Canada Goose Survey
  - Breeding Breed Survey (USGS)
  - Preseason Waterfowl Banding (modified)
- Used existing harvest strategies and management plans and use long-term datasets to make predictions to inform harvest decisions.



# Other Regulations/Notices

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## MBTA protected species list (10.13 list)

- Update incorporates AOS updates 2011-2019
- 1,093 species
- Also published list of unprotected species

## Eagles

- Low Risk Permitting Process
- Updated Collision Risk Models



# Duck Stamp Regulation

Proposed rule published January 29, 2020

708 unique comments

Final rule published May 8, 2020

- “celebrating our waterfowl hunting heritage” and inclusion of a waterfowl hunting-related scene or accessory in every entry





# Federal Duck Stamp

## Current Status

- \$1.1+ billion raised since 1934
- 6 million acres conserved
- 1.5+ million 2017-2018 stamps sold



## 2020 Events - Virtual

- Junior Duck Stamp Contest
- Federal Art Contest is September 25-26, livestreamed



# Grants & Cooperative Agreements

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## GrantSolutions

- May 18, 2020 - Service go-live date
- Recipients must have accounts and have received information about training and access from GrantSolutions



# Grants & Cooperative Agreements

## *Update*

### North American Wetlands Conservation Act

- 2020 - 99 grants in U.S., Canada, and Mexico
  - \$89.9 million in grants and \$172.7 in match
- 2021 – MBCC approval of 32 U.S. Standard grants

### Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

- 32 projects announced in June
  - \$3.8 million and \$21 million in match
- 20th anniversary — \$ 75 million in grants with \$286 million match



# 3 Billion Birds Response

Brian Smith is on detail leading response.

Program working group is:

- Developing a short-term strategy to amplify ongoing partnership actions for grassland birds, shorebirds, forest birds, seabirds, aerial insectivores, and for collisions.
- Identifying critical needs to address over the next 10 years to stabilize and reverse bird declines over the next 30 years.

# Thank you!



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