

Species for Management Action Database Instructions

The Species for Management Action (SMA) database provides information on all birds that have occurred within the PLJV boundaries. To view all the bird information you need only use one form - "Species Master". The form contains all the information used by the PLJV to make a priority determination including:

- 1) population estimates, both for North America and for each BCR,
- 2) abundance and distribution write-ups covering BCR 18 and 19,
- 3) the status for each species by the four bird plans, each state and federal T&E list and the USFWS BCC and BMC lists
- 4) and trends

Much of the information has been provided by the four major bird plans: NAWMP – North American Waterfowl Management Plan, PIF – Partners in Flight, USSCP – United States Shorebird Conservation Plan and WCA – Waterbird Conservation for the Americas. Information specific to the entries for each species are described below.

In addition, fields used to help in database queries and/or to mark fields to pull for printouts are shown.

Note that each species starts with the information for BCR 18 in the "Season Status" subform. To view information related to BCR 19 for that species, toggle the "BCR and Staff codes" subform so that BCR 19 is highlighted. This must be done each time you view a different bird species.

Population Estimates:

North American population estimates: are taken from each of the four bird plans when given. Where population estimates were not provided by the plan, an explanation about how the N. American estimate was derived is included under the Abundance write-up. In cases where a bird is considered not part of the regular N. American breeding avifauna by the bird plans (i.e. Eurasian Wigeon, Piratic Flycatcher) an estimate of zero is given.

BCR population estimates: are taken from those provided by the bird plans. For breeding season landbirds, information provided by PIF, or a percentage of the BBS total population as determined by PIF for nonlandbirds) or based on staff opinion based on broad categories. The staff opinions on all species are found in the "BCR and staff determined abundance codes" subform of the Species Master Form. The categories are:

- H = greater than 10% of the N. American population
- M = between 3% and 10% of the N. American population
- L = regular, but less than 3% of the N. American population
- V = not regular, and/or found in extremely low numbers
- x = extirpated or extinct

These broad abundance categories were then translated into percentages of the N. American population: 10% for H, 3% for M, 1% for L and zero for V or x. In cases where a bird is primarily resident the breeding population estimate was utilized for all seasons.

Percent of the N. American population is derived by dividing the BCR population by the North American population. Whenever an exact figure of 1.0%, 3.0%, or 10.0% appears in the “% of N.A. pop.” field this indicates that the population estimate is a guess based on the staff determined abundance codes.

Trends:

Current trends in the database are from the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) by state, several BCRs, FWS regions 2 or 6 and Survey-wide and/or bird plan Trends. BBS trends have been entered for the period 1966 – 2005 (Sauer et al. 2005). Information in the Season Trends includes 1) the data source, 2) the region for which the data is provided, 3) the trend, 4) that trend’s *p*-value (P), 5) the number of BBS routes on which the species was detected (N), 6) the Bird “Plan Trend” (1 – increasing, 2 – stable, 3 – unknown, 4- slightly declining, 5 – strongly declining) if provided, 7) Whether the trend meets data quality requirements for the BCR “X” or Survey-wide “Y” and 8) a marker for which trend to use in the SMA printout. Note that Survey-wide trend will be marked with a “X” if it meets data quality standards but neither BCR 18 nor BCR 19 trends do and it is not already a C1 species, or a “Y” if the species does not meet the breeding season C2 criterion but Survey-wide data meets data quality standards.

Data quality standards for BBS trends are:

- a) has a negative trend
- b) the *p*-value is ≤ 0.10
- c) the number of routes (N) on which the bird is detected is > 13 .

Future editions of the SMA database will contain updated trends from BBS. Other trends may be entered when produced and if appropriate; for example MWWS trends or CBC trends. Some species (such as arctic-only breeders) have no BBS trends at all currently, except for basic bird plan trends and those species are likely not to have been evaluated within Criterion 2 for SMA determination.

Status:

Status from each of the four bird plans is listed in the “All other Status” subform. NAWMP – the Continental Concern Score is listed with Cont. first
BCR Concern Scores are listed by BCR with B for breeding season and W for nonbreeding seasons.

PIF – Continental Watchlist or Prairie Stewardship status is listed.

BCR Scores are listed with the BCR Regional Combined Score listed, followed by the several abbreviations denoting whether it has Continental Concern (CC), Regional Concern (RC), Continental Stewardship (CS) Regional Stewardship (RS) and the Regional Action Code for the species: Critical Recovery (CR), Immediate Management (IM), Management Attention (MA) or Planning and Responsibility (PR). If no score is listed it does not breed in the area or only peripherally (indicated by a (p)).

USSCP – National Concern Scores are listed with a Nat. first.

BCR Scores – are listed as a Regional Priority if so.
WCA – Continental Concern Scores are listed.

Status from the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC), Birds of Management Concern (BMC), or Threatened or Endangered (T&E) lists as well as state T&E status are all listed in the “All other status” subform.

If the bird receives status for the BCR as judged by the PLJV bird teams then the highest status for the season is listed in the “Season Status” subform. Currently BCR status is accorded given the following rule set:

NAWMP – Regional High Importance during the Breeding or NonBreeding seasons, or a Continental High Importance score

PIF – A breeding Regional or Continental Concern Score or a Watchlist or Prairie Stewardship status. Note that CC or RC is only accorded during the breeding season.

USSCP – A Regional Priority according to the Central Prairie/Playa Lakes Regional shorebird plan.

WCA – A Continental Moderate Concern Score or Higher (High, Imperiled)

Species for Management Action (SMA) determination

The current criteria for SMA priority status within the Joint Venture are proposed for the next round of planning. They are that a species must have greater than 9.9% of the N. American population within a BCR and that it meets one of the following:

Criterion 1: Must have a status in the BCR for the season.

Criterion 2: Must have a declining trend meeting data quality requirements.

If a species meets one or both of these criteria a “Y” is placed in the “SMA Crit 1” and/or “SMA Crit 2” fields in the “Season Status” subform.

Reports

Under the reports section are three reports that list the proposed PLJV SMA priority species for habitat planning, either by one BCR or the entire Joint Venture area. These reports are tied to the “Composite” Queries noted below.

Additional Information

For those who would like to change criteria to examine how species lists may change or who want to see what additional information is carried in the database you may find the below helpful.

Tables

There are five basic tables which are explained in the Table Description:
SMA Master

Species by BCR
Season Trends
Season Status
All Other Status

Information on some of the fields carried in each table may be found in the field descriptions.

Queries

There are several Queries used to query based on various factors. Each query is explained in the Query description. If you are familiar with Access you may change the criteria if you wish.

Queries labeled “Composite...” are tied to the report forms. Changes in these queries will affect the outcomes in the reports.

Queries labeled “Add...” change the SMA Criterion marker.

Queries labeled “Species Master...” query based on one of four combinations of conditions: Breeding versus non-Breeding Seasons, and Criterion 1 or Criterion 2.

Changes to any Query criterion under “Species Master...” queries must be changed in each set of queries (“Composites” and “Adds”) in order to print a species list using the new criteria. Notes on additional needs for correcting outputs are listed in the Query descriptions.

References

Sauer, J. R., J. E. Hines, and J. Fallon. 2005. *The North American Breeding Bird Survey, Results and Analysis 1966 - 2005. Version 6.2.2006.* [USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center](#), Laurel, MD