

# SCAW-WG Updates: March 2017 - Present

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*SCAW-WG Committee Meeting*

*Plymouth, MA*

**AMBC**  
Atlantic Marine Bird Cooperative



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**GAME & INLAND  
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# **Colonial waterbird (CWB) recommendations adopted by the Atlantic Flyway Council**

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Drafted by *Nongame Technical Section Waterbird Committee*: September 2017 & February 2018:

States will:

- 1) Support/participate in a 2018 CWB survey**
- 2) Establish regular coordinated CWB surveys *by 2023***
- 3) Develop shared CWB data mgmt. system w/ mapping**  
→ input in development to ensure needs met
- 4) Contribute historical, recent, future data**

# Atlantic coast CWB staff interviews

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## Interviews with Atlantic coast CWB biologists: Jan-Feb 2018

1. Assess scope and scale of 2018 surveys
2. Determine whether SCAW focal species would be covered
3. Determine whether state would contribute past & current CWB survey data to shared database for regional/range-wide analyses

### RESULTS:

- Made contact with the appropriate biologist(s) from 13 of 14 Atlantic coast states
- All states agreed to provide past & current data (SC & CT - require higher level permission)

2018 complete coastwide surveys			2018 focal species coverage				
State	Seabirds	Wading birds	Least tern	Common tern	Black skimmer	Double-crested cormorant	Laughing gull
Maine			X	X	N/A		X
New Hampshire				X			N/A
Massachusetts	X	x (no GBHE)	X	X	X	X	X
Connecticut			X		X		
New York			X	X	X		
New Jersey		X	X		X (if pres.)	X	
Delaware			X	x	X		x
Maryland	X	x (exception: GBHE)	X	X	X	X	X
Virginia	X	x (exception: GBHE)	X	X	X	X	X
North Carolina			X				
South Carolina			X	X	X		
Georgia			x	N/A	X	x (opportunistic coverage, few prs)	X
Florida			X	N/A	x		x
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>

Upper case X's = 100% coast-wide coverage; Lower case x's = partial to near 100% coverage

# USGS - USFWS Science Support Program Project:

## *Laying the groundwork for science-based management of CWB*

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- **Funded 2018-2020**
- **USGS Maine Coop Unit** (Cyndy Loftin & Zachary Loman, PhDs)
- **Completed objectives/tasks:**
  - a) Resurrected the USGS CWB website: <https://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/cwb/>
  - b) Inventoried existing USGS colonial waterbird database (CWBD) contents:  
*Earliest Atlantic Flyway data - 1923. Majority from 1960s & 70s. Recent MANEM data (2008 and 2013).*
  - c) Updated CWB data entry spreadsheet in prep for 2018 data: *data entry/submittal instructions & definitions of data fields posted to USGS CWB website for states to download.*
  - d) Made a formal request to Atlantic coast CWB contacts for 2018 data: *Provided USGS CWB website link to partners.*

# USGS Science Support Program Project: *Laying the groundwork for science-based management of CWB*

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- **Current & future objectives/tasks:**

- e) Provide assistance to states with 2018 data entry & proofing
- f) Request historic/past CWB survey data from Atlantic coast states and provinces:
  - *Annual survey data that covered all or most of state's/province's CWB species and/or geographic areas;*
  - *Complete annual surveys of one or more SCAW-WG focal species (COTE, LETE, BLSK, DCCO, LAGU)*
- g) Update USGS CWB website with summaries of 2013 and 2018 data
- h) Develop and evaluate species trends for SCAW-WG focal species using all available data, and graphically display trend data on the USGS CWB website
- i) Provide guidance on future CWB surveys and data platforms

# Avian Conservation Data Management Workshop

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Location: Virginia Beach, VA

Date: March 26, 2018

Workshop purpose: Work towards developing avian data management system that enhances management, storage/archiving and sharing, *and* promotes consistent, broad-scale analyses necessary for making effective management decisions

Attendees: Federal, state and NGO biologists, data managers and data portal developers/administrators

Workshop action item: Implement pilot project to update & upload CWB data into the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN); Test AKN's ability to generate trend analyses, distribution, and population estimates at regional scales.

**TARGET COMPLETION DATE: September 2020.**

# Big Data Hub Workshop, December 2018

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Funding source: NSF workshop funding - awarded July 2018

Organizing Committee: National Audubon, Point Blue (AKN), USFWS, VDGIF

Purpose of the workshop: Identify key elements for NSF proposal to ensure integration of CWB data into AKN, incorporate the AKN CWB node into the Northeast Big Data Hub along with other coastal waterbird data, create a Coastal Waterbird Hub.

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## What is a Big Data Hub?

*Centralized on-line warehouse for large disparate datasets that require resources, expertise and latest analytic, mapping and other visualization tools to integrate and manage data effectively.*

## Why a Coastal Waterbird Hub?

*Modernize the management of disparate waterbird datasets to monitor and manage populations trends at scales ranging from local to global.*



# Linkages among the USGS SSP, Avian Data Workshop, Big Data Hub projects *and* SCAW-WG

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## USGS SSP Project Goal

Compile & inventory USGS CWBD; Assess needs for better system



## Avian Data Workshop Project Goal

Upload CWBD into AKN; Test analytical & mapping tools



## Big Data Hub Project Goal

Develop NSF proposal to incorporate AKN CWB node into NE Big Data Hub with other coastal waterbird data → *Coastal Waterbird Hub*



## SCAW-WG

To support, advocate for, and participate in the achievement of the projects' goals.