



2014-2016 Goals and Work Plan for the U.S. NABCI Committee

Vision: Healthy populations of North American birds that are valued for generations to come.

Mission: The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.

Value proposition: The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates advancements in bird conservation and works to encompass the full-life-cycle needs of resident and migratory birds. Its work is rooted in both natural and social sciences, focused on the scale of continental bird conservation initiatives and Joint Ventures, and advanced by partnerships that leverage resources and expertise.

The U.S. NABCI Committee creates a unique forum for federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations to address shared bird conservation challenges and priorities. Its strength lies in its ability to directly engage conservation leaders and to collaboratively develop and express a collective voice that promotes strategic bird conservation.

Individuals who serve on the U.S. NABCI Committee build working relationships across the bird conservation community, contributing their expertise and insights to mutually beneficial goals. Collaborative efforts are aimed at the US and tri-national bird conservation communities and inform and highlight new frontiers in bird conservation.

About this Plan: This plan sets forth specific goals and a clear scope of work for the U.S. NABCI committee, its subcommittees, and working groups in support of the NABCI mission and vision. This plan was developed using input from across the bird conservation community in the form of informational interviews (Summer 2013), a full-day facilitated planning session of the U.S. NABCI Committee (February 2014), and interim work by the Executive Committee and Coordinator. The Plan builds on NABCI's strengths, namely the knowledge and experience of the collective membership, and reflects a renewed commitment by the Committee to lead the bird conservation community.

Accountability: Before each NABCI Committee meeting, the Coordinator, in consultation with subcommittee and working group chairs, will prepare and distribute a brief report card that tracks progress on each goal and highlights any proposed revisions. Time on the committee agenda will be provided for questions or discussion about the work. Additional meeting time will be spent exploring substantive issues that require the input and feedback of the full NABCI Committee. This Plan will be revised as necessary.

U.S. NABCI Goals 2014-2016

Goal 1: Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation, management, education monitoring and sound science.

Goal 2: Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community.

Goal 3: Inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation.

Goal 1: Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation, management, education, monitoring and sound science.

1A. Promote and advance outcome-based monitoring and database management

- i. Encourage all federal and state agencies, NGOs, and their consultants to manage and share bird monitoring and habitat data using nodes of the Avian Knowledge Network and other collaborative data repositories.
- ii. Endorse metadata standards being developed through the Avian Knowledge Network to ensure robust datasets maintain integrity and utility over time.
- iii. Coordinate efforts to increase awareness and implementation of reference grid standards in avian monitoring programs and projects.
- iv. Assist the NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST), and other efforts as applicable, with efforts to develop standards for vegetation sampling (remote and field-based).
- v. Host a workshop to better address demographic monitoring needs throughout the western hemisphere
- vi. Coordinate future discussions and form working groups to address priority monitoring needs identified at the PIF V International Workshop
- vii. Contribute to improved data sharing and decision support and analysis for impact management and other issues specific to birds of conservation concern
- viii. ID and communicate data gaps re: priority research needs and apply to emerging issues
- ix. Share tools on the effects of climate change on birds with managers through an annual webinars and by updating the NABCI monitoring subcommittee website.

1B. Engage LCCs, JVs, and the remote sensing community in net landscape change efforts

- i. The U.S. NABCI Committee, Joint Venture, and LCC communities will host a training workshop in 2014 that creates a forum to exchange information between the bird conservation and the remote sensing communities.
- ii. Develop a reference chart of available remote sensing resources available for conservation planning that can be distributed broadly throughout the bird conservation community.
- iii. Develop recommendations document to improve coordination between remote sensing resources and habitat conservation planning at the national scale (similar to *Opportunities to Improve Avian Monitoring* document).

1C. Advance benefits of bird conservation on private and working lands

- i. Non-federal NABCI partners will regularly engage and build relationships with Members of Congress who serve on the House and Senate Ag and Appropriations committees to advocate for annual funding of farm bill conservation programs. Conduct at least bi-annually with private lands sub-committee chairs, other team members, and other relevant organizations (e.g. AFWA, CRCC) in conjunction with NABCI meetings.
- ii. NABCI partners will encourage NRCS leadership to continue support for and funding of strategic, landscape-scale initiatives (e.g., Working Lands For Wildlife, RCPP).
- iii. . Assist NRCS in building and maintaining field delivery capacity by cost-sharing existing partner biologist positions and expanding the number of partner biologists in regions currently underrepresented and identified as high priority areas by Joint Ventures, LCCs , SWAPs, and bird initiatives

- iv. Pursue opportunities to invest in and develop user-friendly decision support tools (based on a synthesis of existing plans and data) to assist NRCS and other partners in targeting conservation on private lands and eligible public lands for the greatest benefit to birds and other wildlife.
- v. Update the *Field Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill for Fish and Wildlife Conservation* document and distribute to partners.
- vi. Engage land trusts in bird conservation (Land Trust Alliance as well as regional and national land trusts), educating them on what they can do for birds, resources for them. Use insights from Cornell Lab of Ornithology's survey of land trusts and current examples from AMJV, IWJV, RMBO, others where land trusts are valuable partners.
- vii. Develop and share messaging across all conservation NGOs organizations with strong private lands programs to bring collaborative needs for bird conservation to federal partners, congress and funders. How bird conservation translates to economics, ecological services, human health, etc. how their work benefits birds and why benefits to birds are important, and how they can plug into the work of our partners.
- viii. Pursue opportunities to invest in and develop outcome-based monitoring programs and evaluate population-level impacts on birds and other wildlife from NRCS conservation programs.
- ix. Develop and implement a framework for summarizing collective, nation-wide bird conservation accomplishments that includes acres enhanced, landowners reached and bird numbers increased.

1D. Enable bird conservation partners to integrate **human dimensions** science and tools into bird conservation efforts.

- i. Engage with NAWMP Human Dimensions and Public Engagement Team working group efforts.
- ii. Formally establish NABCI HD Subcommittee and identify best next steps for HD and all birds.

Goal 2: Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community.

2A/3A. Make NABCI priorities, tools, and resources readily available to the bird conservation community guided by a **strategic communications plan**.

- i. Develop communication strategy, including role of NABCI website
- ii. Produce and distribute All-Bird Bulletins on topics of highest relevance to NABCI priorities and of interest to the bird conservation community.

2B. Facilitate greater understanding and clarity around development and implementation of **conservation business plans**.

- i. Create ad hoc working group to develop a best practices/recommendations document that outlines key elements of business planning approach, clarifies methodology and terminology associated with the process, and other content as determined by working group

2C. Articulate and clarify how NABCI supports and advances the priorities of the **bird conservation plan partnerships** and vice versa.

- i. Engage in FWS led working group to determine future roles and responsibilities for initiative coordinator positions and guide and support the development of the Integrated Bird Conservation Team.

2D. Support **Joint Venture** needs and priorities

i. Host a summit among Joint Venture staff, Initiative staff, and a few NABCI representatives to exchange foundational information and determine a set of clear next steps to advance coordination among these groups. Implement next steps as appropriate.

2E. Recognize leadership within the bird conservation community through the **NABCI Gary T Myers Bird Conservation Award**

2F. Support and inform bird conservation efforts stemming from **Executive Order 13186 Council for Conservation of Migratory Birds**.

i. Create ad hoc working group to develop plan for NABCI's engagement in the executive order council and present to US NABCI Committee.

2G. **Create State of the Birds Reports** and WatchList

i. Lead development of State of the Birds report 2014 + WatchList

ii. Collaborate with Canadian Wildlife Service and Mexico in the development and implementation of the 2016 State of North America's Birds Report.

2H: **Maintain an effective U.S. NABCI Committee**

i. Ensure that biannual U.S NABCI committee meetings are active, well-attended, and effective in advancing priority work.

ii. U.S. NABCI Coordinator represents the Committee's priorities

iii. Coordinate with the NABCI Coordinators in Canada and Mexico to work cooperatively on tri-national issues, particularly grasslands.

Goal 3: Inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation.

2A/3A. Make NABCI priorities, tools, and resources readily available to the bird conservation community guided by a **strategic communications plan**.

ii. Disseminate (and develop as necessary) messaging that reflects importance of key bird conservation programs (NAWCA, NMBCA, JVs, Duck Stamp, etc.)

3B. **Implement recommendations** included in **State of the Birds reports**

i. Create ad hoc working group to define and develop implementation plan for 2014 State of the Birds report