

Partnerships and Programs for Bird Conservation

The conservation of birds and their habitats is an enterprise supported by a diverse array of public and private partners invested in multiple programs and efforts. Understanding what they do and how they work together may be confusing. This fact sheet highlights five of the major programs that conserve habitat for birds and other wildlife in the United States, Canada, and Latin America.

These programs share the common themes of demonstrating federal/state/private sector cooperation through locally based partnerships, a non-regulatory, voluntary approach to conservation, and an innovative leveraging of resources.

Cooperative Regional Partnerships

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (Joint Ventures) are regional bird conservation partnerships. These locally-directed partnerships bring together groups of diverse agencies, organizations, corporations, and individuals to identify science-based conservation priorities and leverage resources that address priority bird and habitat conservation issues across North America. A key role for Joint Ventures is to help partners leverage assets from different sources, including the following programs. Whether they help develop proposals, provide recommendations for ranking and funding allocations, or assist with necessary permits and permissions, Joint Ventures help deliver on-the-ground projects from the important funding sources described below.



Photo credit: Paul Sundberg

National, International, and State-based Conservation Funding Programs



Photo credit- Bill Hubick

North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) grants are used to protect and restore habitat for waterfowl and other birds in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Federal and non-federal partnerships through NAWCA have conserved more than 27.5 million acres of wetlands and associated uplands across North America. These projects deliver long-term wetlands conservation. Due to the highly competitive grant process, each federal dollar is matched by at least \$2 on average.

The ***Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act*** (NMBCA) provides funds for projects that benefit birds breeding in the continental United States and Canada and wintering in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America.

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How Do They Work Together?

Think of these five programs as pieces of a puzzle that fit together to conserve birds throughout their annual cycle, from breeding to migration to wintering areas. Each program approaches the issue from a different angle.

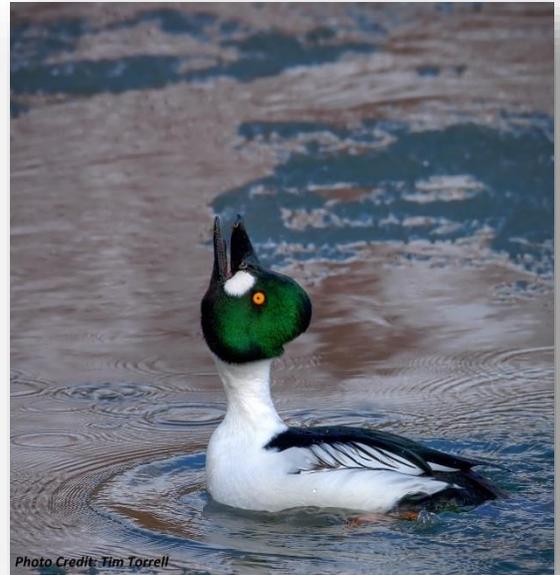
The end result when pieced together: birds, people, and habitats win.

The U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a partnership between government agencies, NGOs, and bird-focused partnerships, facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.

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These projects have benefited more than 3.7 million acres of bird habitat and spurred partnerships at local, regional, and international levels. NMBCA's work south of the U.S. border safeguards conservation work accomplished in the U.S. by addressing the conservation needs of shared species beyond our borders.

NAWCA and NMBCA encourage diverse partners to work together to conserve, enhance, and restore essential habitat and bring non-federal contributions to the table. Following a similar model, ***State and Tribal Wildlife Grants*** provide funds for multi-partner projects that help state wildlife agencies develop and implement their State Wildlife Action Plans. These plans outline the steps needed to conserve at-risk wildlife and habitats before they become too rare or costly to restore. Taken as a whole, the Plans present a national action agenda for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered by using a voluntary, proactive approach.



Voluntary Private Lands Conservation

The ***Farm Bill*** is a compilation of laws passed by Congress to enhance agricultural productivity, rural economics, and food security on private lands. Farm Bill programs enable voluntary, proactive private lands conservation at the landscape scale, including a powerful suite of working lands, conservation easement, and partnership programs, that support wildlife on our nation's working lands. Private landowners and managers voluntarily improved almost 9 million acres of wildlife habitat through the Farm Bill in 2015 alone. These voluntary efforts have conserved habitat for wildlife species on federal and state Threatened and Endangered Species Lists and other species of concern.