

**US North American Bird Conservation Initiative**

***Mission****: The* [*U.S. NABCI Committee*](http://nabci-us.org/committee/integrated-bird-conservation/) *facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.*

***Vision:*** *Healthy and abundant populations of North American birds are valued by future generations and sustained by habitats that benefit birds and people.*

**U.S. NABCI Goals 2017-2021**

**Goal 1:** Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community to achieve strategic conservation.

**Goal 2:** Facilitate science-based conservation efforts that support healthy bird populations.

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

**Committee Meeting Highlights, 8-9 February 2017**

**Emphasis on Policy:** NABCI **re-formed its dormant Legislative and Policy Subcommittee**, which will facilitate coordinated communication with government leadership about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation. In 2017, NABCI will develop a short, focused [**State of the Birds report**](http://nabci-us.org/how-we-work/state-of-the-birds/) **focused on Farm Bill programs** to demonstrate the Farm Bill’s importance to bird conservation.  As **new leadership is identified** in the Department of the Interior and the USDA, our **Executive Council will continue to develop relationships** with these leaders to share bird conservation priorities and learn how NABCI can best support these leaders and their agencies.

**Demonstrating Relevance**: NABCI’s new Vision, adopted in December 2016, emphasizes the important connections between birds, habitats, and people. Aligning bird conservation priorities with economics and human health interests will yield the highest level of success for the bird conservation community. NABCI will develop talking points highlighting the **links between bird conservation, health, and economic benefits** to initiate conversations with potential partners outside of bird conservation, nationally and internationally.

**Bird Conservation Priorities**: NABCI’s strategic plan states that NABCI will support, develop, integrate, and promote priorities of regional, national and international bird conservation partnerships. NABCI will identify a **short, focused list of key priorities** from across the bird conservation committee to help guide and support decision making around research focus, funding decisions, or partnership opportunities.

**Honoring Retiring Partners**: NABCI honored its two remaining founding members, David Pashley and Scott Yaich, both of whom will retire/step down after this meeting.

**Products and Accomplishments for National and International Bird Conservation**

**Revised NABCI Website**: NABCI aims to strengthen communication within the bird conservation community. NABCI launched a [new website](http://nabci-us.org/) in October 2016; this website serves as a repository for national bird conservation [resources](http://nabci-us.org/resources/), provides a [guide to the bird conservation community](http://nabci-us.org/bird-conservation-community/) and its [national partnerships](http://nabci-us.org/bird-conservation-community/bird-partnerships/), and hosts information about NABCI, its products, and its [Subcommittees](http://nabci-us.org/how-we-work/).

**National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator**: Ashley Gramza [began her role as the first National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator](http://nabci-us.org/meet-new-national-bird-conservation-social-science-coordinator/) in January 2017. This position will be 50% research coordination and 50% capacity building and outreach. This position will help bird conservation practitioners understand how to use social science resources to more effectively implement bird conservation, and link practitioners with relevant resources.

**Hemispheric Vision for Bird Conservation**: The governments of US, Canada, and Mexico, with input from NABCI’s international Subcommittee, released a framework for a [Hemispheric Vision for Bird Conservation](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Vision-Statement.pdf) for the next century. The US NABCI Committee endorsed this Hemispheric Vision but suggested edits to increase the Vision’s focus on people and cooperation, rather than birds, to demonstrate the Vision’s relevance to a broader audience.