

**US North American Bird Conservation Initiative**

***Mission****: The* [*U.S. NABCI Committee*](http://nabci-us.org/committee/) *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.

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

**State of the Birds: Farm Bill Special Report:** NABCI released its [2017 State of the Birds report](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2017/) on August 3, 2017; this short report focuses on how Farm Bill conservation programs benefit birds, farmers, ranchers, and rural communities. The report reflects NABCI’s commitment to link future State of the Birds reports to specific policy initiatives in order to communicate the importance of these policies for bird conservation.

**Understanding Humans to Conserve Birds**: Bird conservation fundamentally includes humans, and the most successful conservation actions are those aligned with the values, well-being, and perspectives of people. NABCI’s [Human Dimensions (HD) Subcommittee](http://nabci-us.org/how-we-work/human-dimensions/) developed a [short document](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/NABCI-HD-Fact-Sheet-8-18-17.pdf) that defines HD, explains how and why HD can be used to benefit birds, and provides an example of how using HD research dramatically increased the effectiveness of a bird conservation project.

**North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation**: The NABCI Committees of the US and Canada have endorsed the final version of a [North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation](http://nabci-us.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Vision-Statement-Trilateral-Final-revised-with-logos-002.docx) (Mexico’s endorsement pending). This document will serve as a guide for the next 100 years of collaborative, partnership-based, international bird conservation.

**All-Bird Bulletin Blog**: NABCI debuted its [bi-monthly blog](http://nabci-us.org/committee/all-bird-bulletin/) in March; to date, partner organizations have contributed 10 blogs focused around the themes of monitoring, human dimensions, international/wintering grounds, working and private lands, birds as indicators, or birds and public policy.

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

**Bird Conservation Priorities**: NABCI is working to identify top priorities that reflect the most urgent national needs or opportunities to achieve our vision across critical habitats. NABCI will support and promote these priorities within and outside of the bird community, facilitating coordinated communication with government leadership and non-traditional partners about the highest priorities in bird conservation.

**Demonstrating the Relevance of Bird Conservation**: NABCI’s new Vision, adopted in December 2016, emphasizes the connections between birds, habitats, and people. Aligning bird conservation priorities with economics, clean air, clean water, and human health will yield the highest level of success for the bird conservation community. NABCI is compiling short, quantifiable, and sourced examples of how activities that benefit bird conservation also have positive links to other human priorities. *Anticipated early 2018*.

**Identifying and Engaging Key Partners**: Identifying areas of alignment between bird conservation goals and other interests can also allow us to develop richer, more diverse partnerships with broad benefits. NABCI’s Subcommittees are exploring partnerships outside of bird conservation, focusing on opportunities to work with diverse partners to support reauthorization and implementation of strong conservation programs within the Farm Bill.

**Bird Conservation Opportunities- Year of the Bird**: National Geographic’s 2018 “Year of the Bird” campaign aims “to heighten and broaden public awareness of birds in our landscapes, rural and urban, around the world, as symbols of nature’s interconnectedness and as messengers about the need to care for the planet we share.” Many NABCI partners are engaged in YOTB and non-federal partners can take advantage of an opportunity to link National Geographic’s messaging and calls to action with key policy initiatives in 2018.