

NATIONAL BIRD CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) represents broad interests across the bird conservation community and facilitates coordinated communication about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation. **NABCI integrates priorities of regional, national, and international bird conservation interests to create a unified voice for conservation.**

This document highlights major themes and strategies that comprise comprehensive, national bird conservation priorities. Within each broad theme, we identify two actions that receive broad support from a majority of NABCI's bird conservation partners. These Priority Actions urgently need to happen over the next three to five years to help achieve NABCI's vision, and it is possible to make progress on these actions over that timeframe.

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

HABITATS IN CRISIS

Habitat loss and degradation represent pervasive bird conservation challenges that are addressed throughout multiple themes within this document, and the Priority Actions on the next pages will benefit birds across multiple habitats. However, birds in some habitats are in greater need of urgent conservation action than others. The 2016 State of North America's Birds report classified four key U.S. habitats as in crisis; more than 25% of bird species in oceans, coasts, grasslands, and aridlands are at risk of extinction without significant action or are experiencing steep declines.

Although overall concerns are less urgent in Temperate and Boreal Forests, Tundra, and Freshwater Wetlands, these habitats all support species of high conservation or economic importance, including species that are flagships for regional conservation initiatives. Therefore, the Priority Actions listed in this document represent both urgent short-term needs for habitats in crisis, as well as long-term needs that are equally important for sustaining healthy bird populations and ecosystems throughout the U.S.

TOM BRISON / FICR CC

RINUS BAAK / USFWS

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OCEANS

COASTS

GRASSLANDS

ARIDLANDS

THEME 1: LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION

- A. **Support existing protected areas** and expand our network of protected areas to support bird conservation and bird-focused recreation across priority habitats.
- B. **Improve management of public lands and waters.**
- C. **Support conservation on private lands** and private lands conservation programs.
- D. **Promote sustainable agricultural and forestry practices** nationally and internationally.
- E. **Restore functional natural processes** and regimes, such as fire patterns, natural hydrology, and other management that mimics natural disturbance, and keep disturbance within normal limits.
- F. **Increase environmental resiliency and adaptability.**



USDA

Priority Action: Increase coordination and cooperation across federal agencies, and among federal and state agencies, to implement conservation policies and actions at broad scales.

Priority Action: Work with private agricultural landowners to implement grazing strategies that meet the economic bottom line for agriculture while promoting healthy bird and other wildlife populations.

JACK AND PETRA CLAYTON



THEME 2: RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

- A. **Establish and support strong monitoring and evaluation programs** to provide metrics for measuring conservation outcomes and to provide lead time necessary to put conservation actions in place.
- B. **Develop best management practices and conservation plans** based on science that emphasize conservation in places and at spatial scales most relevant to birds.
- C. **Promote and support biological and social science research** that can be used to inform strong conservation decisions and actions.

Priority Action: Develop multi-agency integrated approach to research and monitoring in order to provide information on broad patterns and trends.

Priority Action: Recognize and address needs for species of concern in regional planning efforts, including Migratory Bird Joint Venture implementation plans, State Wildlife Action Plans, Canadian Bird Conservation Region strategies, and full life-cycle conservation business plans.

ASHLEY GRANZA

THEME 3: ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIPS

- A. **Empower community- and incentive-based conservation through partnerships.**
- B. **Expand conservation networking and partnerships** nationally and continue to unify efforts within the broader conservation community to maximize benefits.
- C. **Support and develop collaborative international efforts** to protect long-distance migratory species throughout their life cycles.
- D. **Ensure the relevancy of bird conservation.**

Priority Action: Leverage government dollars with private dollars to multiply conservation impacts through partnerships including Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and new programs.

Priority Action: Work with municipalities, corporations, and homeowners to support habitats for birds.

HANNAH NIKONOV



THEME 4: ADDRESSING THREATS



JOSHUA WINCHELL / USFWS

- A. **Support bird-friendly efforts to reduce emissions and atmospheric carbon.**
- B. **Control invasive species**, and develop measures to prevent invasive species introductions, including invasive animals, plants, and diseases.
- C. **Minimize direct anthropogenic threats to birds and their habitats.**

Priority Action: Develop awareness campaigns to empower local stakeholders to participate in invasive species prevention and management efforts at priority sites.

Priority Action: Identify and abate the negative consequences associated with development of alternative sources of energy to minimize the impact of renewable energy sources.

THEME 5: POLICY AND FUNDING

- A. **Generate and maintain resources** for bird conservation.
- B. **Develop policies that benefit birds.**
- C. **Strengthen policy compliance** nationally and internationally.

Priority Action: Develop and implement a native grassland policy equivalent to the current “no net loss” policy for wetlands that would preclude federal agencies from providing public subsidies for practices harmful to native grassland habitats.

DUCKS UNLIMITED



Priority Action: Continue to authorize and adequately fund cornerstones of federal conservation legislation, such as the Farm Bill, North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Land and Water Conservation Fund, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, State Wildlife Grants, and the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures.