

# US North American Bird Conservation Initiative 2018 Highlights



*Bird-friendly rice field management can provide critical habitat for waterfowl while meeting an economic bottom line, an important consideration highlighted in the National Bird Conservation Priorities. Wetlands conservation in general can provide important habitat for birds as well as clean water for people; see more examples of how bird conservation and other human goals align in the Relevancy Toolkit. © Ducks Unlimited*



The U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Committee is a coalition of state and federal government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and bird-focused partnerships in the United States working to ensure the long-term health of North America's native bird populations. NABCI creates a unique forum for these diverse partners to identify and address shared bird conservation challenges and priorities.

## Mission

The U.S. NABCI 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.

*Grasslands are identified as one of four major Habitats in Crisis in the National Bird Conservation Priorities. © Tim Lenz*

## A Unified Voice for Bird Conservation: National Bird Conservation Priorities

In 2018, NABCI identified a short list of broadly supported [bird conservation priorities](#), organized into five themes: Land and Water Conservation, Research and Evaluation, Engagement and Partnerships, Addressing Threats, and Policy and Funding. The National Bird Conservation Priorities [document](#) features a “Top 10” list of Priority Actions that the majority of NABCI partners agree urgently need to happen. Priority actions included: increasing coordination and cooperation across federal and state agencies; working with private agricultural landowners to meet the economic bottom line while ensuring healthy bird populations; working with municipalities, corporations and homeowners for bird habitat conservation; invasive species prevention and management; and minimizing negative consequences associated with alternative energy development. This collaborative effort provides a unified voice for bird conservation partners and provides a common framework to discuss bird conservation.

## Relevancy Toolkit: The Broad Benefits of Bird Conservation

Actions and outcomes that benefit birds can also have far-reaching benefits for human health, economic interests, and other human goals. To help bird conservation professionals demonstrate these links and explore new partnerships, NABCI released a [Relevancy Toolkit](#) in 2018. This tool highlights dozens of published studies linking birds and bird conservation with other human benefits, focusing on the economic benefits of bird conservation and natural areas, agricultural services provided by birds, the links between bird habitat and human health, and the mutual benefits of water and wetlands conservation. This toolkit is designed to help bird conservation resonate with a more diverse audience and build stronger networks of partners to achieve common goals.

## Human Dimensions Success Story Map

Bird conservation fundamentally includes humans, and the most successful conservation actions are those aligned with the values, well-being, and perspectives of people. Studying and understanding the human dimensions of bird conservation is essential to develop effective bird conservation strategies. To help partners integrate human dimensions information into effective bird conservation, NABCI released a [Human Dimensions Success Story Map](#) in 2018. This story map highlights case studies from across North America in which social science has been used to improve conservation planning, policy, outreach, and outcomes.

## All-Bird Bulletin Blog: Highlighting Successes, Promoting Learning

NABCI's [All-Bird Bulletin blog](#) highlights important partner initiatives and allows partners to share useful information about lessons learned or new bird conservation tools. NABCI produced 12 blogs in 2018, organized around key focal themes such as human dimensions, monitoring, international collaboration, and conservation on private and working lands. Topics ranged from how social science can help address issues related to free-roaming cats, how weather radar can be used to forecast bird migration, and how rice production and bird conservation can go hand in hand.

*Background photo: NABCI's Human Dimensions and Private and Working Lands Subcommittees work to understand landowner perspectives and develop solutions that benefit birds, farmers, and ranchers. © Roger Ingram*

## Strengthening Trinational Partnerships

The US NABCI partnership has played a key role in strengthening trinational opportunities for collaboration. The three North American NABCI Coordinators met for the first time in more than 5 years at the US NABCI meeting in January 2018, exchanging ideas and working on an action plan to implement our [North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation](#). Our birds share international boundaries and successful conservation requires coordination that expands across North America and throughout the hemisphere.



NABCI Coordinators (Canada, US, Mexico from left to right)