

**US North American Bird Conservation Initiative**

***Mission****: The* [*U.S. NABCI Committee*](http://www.nabci-us.org/main2.html) *facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.*

**U.S. NABCI Goals 2014-2016**

**Goal 1:** Support healthy bird populations through habitat conservation, management, education, monitoring, and sound science.

**Goal 2:** Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community.

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

**Committee Meeting Highlights, 15-16 August 2016**

**Emphasis on Policy:** NABCI’s [State of North America’s Birds Report](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/), as well as [newly-released messaging highlighting the importance of five key programs](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Partnerships-and-Programs-for-Bird-Conservation-d1.pdf) (NAWCA, NMBCA, State Wildlife Grants, Farm Bill, Joint Ventures), serve as national-level tools to achieve a key NABCI goal, *inform and support effective funding and policy to advance bird conservation*. Meeting discussion focused on additional actions NABCI can take to achieve this goal, including: 1) link future State of the Birds reports with specific policy initiatives and clarify policy goals prior to report development; 2) outreach to policy advocates and agency leadership to determine what messaging they need to make decisions or advocate effectively; 3) identify national bird conservation priorities to guide grant-making decisions and funding allocation, as appropriate; 4) develop messaging highlighting the importance of birds as indicators, and demonstrate more powerfully how bird conservation actions benefit habitat as well as human health and well-being.

**Strategic Planning**: NABCI is developing its 2017-2021 Strategic Plan, which will incorporate: 1) increased commitment to informing policy and funding for bird conservation; 2) increased emphasis on incorporating social science into bird conservation; 3) re-emphasis on full life cycle conservation and international partnerships.

**National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator**: NABCI partners have secured 2 years of funding (sources: USDA Farm Service Agency, US Forest Service, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, Virginia Tech) for a National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator. The Coordinator will help to link bird conservation professionals with appropriate social science tools and resources and ensure that social science is used effectively to support bird conservation actions. An advisory team with a federal, state, JV, NABCI, and NGO representative will establish priorities and help to oversee this position, which will be housed at Virginia Tech. Anticipated start date October 2016.

**Products for National and International Bird Conservation**

**State of North America’s Birds Report:** NABCI released its first tri-national [State of the Birds](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/) report in May 2016. One-third of all 1,154 species in continental North America face significant risk of extinction without urgent conservation action, and [oceans](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/habitats/oceans/) and [tropical/subtropical forests](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/habitats/tropical-forests/) host the greatest percentage of species of concern. The report emphasizes the importance of [building on success](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/conclusions/building-on-success/) and highlights the need to replicate conservation successes, such as for [waterfowl and wetlands](http://www.stateofthebirds.org/2016/habitats/wetlands/), across other suites of species.

**Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan**: PIF’s [revised Landbird Plan](http://www.partnersinflight.org/) both sets continental priorities and objectives for species of concern, but also focuses on regional conservation implementation by providing measures of stewardship responsibility for key species at a Joint Venture scale highlighting key next steps to build on Joint Venture successes. The Plan offers recommendations on how to help species at risk, keep common birds common, and support and form voluntary partnerships for birds and people.

**Revised NABCI Website**: NABCI’s new website, to be launched in October 2016, aims to provide a roadmap to the national and international bird conservation community and serve as the go-to resource for someone new to the bird conservation world. A searchable resources directory will provide links to key national-level resources for bird conservation.