

**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, 27-28 August 2015**

**Collaborative Bird Conservation**

January’s [Bird Partnership Workshop](http://www.nabci-us.org/BirdPartnershipJan2015Workshop-FinalReport.pdf) brought together individuals from the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships, and NABCI to explore closer collaboration between these national-scale bird conservation partnerships. NABCI followed up on several of the Workshop’s major themes, including:

**Build Social Science Capacity**: Workshop participants identified building social science capacity as a high priority. The NABCI Human Dimensions Subcommittee presented a position description for a National Social Science Coordinator who would take the lead in fostering a shared understanding of how social science contributes to bird conservation and integrating social science into bird conservation planning and decision-making. Next steps include re-evaluating the balance of research and coordination activities assigned to this position, identifying a host organization, and identifying funding sources for the position (**~$85,000 annually**).

**Coordinated Advocacy**: A non-federal NABCI ad hoc subcommittee will identify key funding priorities, develop national-level messaging about bird conservation, and unite and coordinate advocacy efforts between NABCI, the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to provide a unified voice for bird conservation.

**Unified Science Team**: The NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST), Partners in Flight Science Team, and Tri-Initiative Science Team (TRiST) formed a 2-year trial unification to foster greater efficiency and integration in bird-focused science efforts. This team proposes to develop an Avian Conservation Assessment Database which will integrate existing population assessment and objectives databases into a standardized, accessible structure that will facilitate consistent, all-bird conservation planning.**Anticipated database funding needs: $187,000 year 1, $163,000 year 2, $121,000 annually thereafter.**

**Products for National and International Bird Conservation**

**2014 Farm Bill Field Guide**: This [Guide](http://amjv.org/index.php/2014farmbillfieldguide) serves as a tool for on-the-ground biologists and conservation partners to understand how Farm Bill programs can help landowners conserve fish and wildlife habitat. **Released April 2015**: ~60 requests for 4739 printed copies, with additional web/social media presence.

**Conservation Business Planning Standards**: “High Quality Bird Conservation Planning”, “Contents and Standards of a Conservation Business Plan”, and “Human Infrastructure for Conservation (Business) Planning” provide guidance and background resources to the bird conservation community for Conservation Business Planning. **Released at August 2015 NABCI meeting.**

**Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan**: Designed to provide up-to-date, continental-scale biological foundation for North American landbird conservation, the 2015 Landbird Conservation Plan will serve as a new call to action, emphasizing proactive conservation to keep common birds common. *Anticipated Release: March 2016.*

**State of North America’s Birds:** Tri-national State of the Birds collaboration between US, Mexico, and Canada to communicate continental priorities for bird conservation to policy makers and the public; this report focuses on birds as a shared resource/shared responsibility and will tie together messaging from the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial and International Migratory Bird Day. *Anticipated Release: May 2016.*