

**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, 9-10 February 2016**

**NABCI’s Role in Full Life Cycle Conservation:** With our **State of North America’s Birds report** calling for renewed investment in conservation across borders, the **Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial** highlighting the importance of international cooperation for bird conservation, and our **Demographics Monitoring report** emphasizing full life cycle monitoring, NABCI evaluated its tri-national charge and assessed its role in international conservation. We committed to reinvigorating our tri-national partnership by initiating a discussion about collaboration opportunities with Mexico and Canada’s NABCI Committee representatives at the Trilateral meeting in Ottawa in May. US NABCI established an international subcommittee to coordinate with Canada and Mexico on North American bird conservation issues, as well as to solidify our plan to support hemispheric conservation efforts and partnerships.

**Representing the Bird Conservation Community**: To ensure that NABCI has the right perspectives to complete its strategic plan, as well as in response to feedback that NABCI is not representative of the collective voice of the bird conservation community, our Committee and partners evaluated NABCI representation. The Committee voted to welcome five additional organizations/partnerships onto the US NABCI: Institute for Bird Populations, American Birding Association, The Wildlife Society, Biodiversity Research Institute, and Avian Knowledge Network, bringing our Committee to 28 members.

**Products for National and International Bird Conservation**

**State of North America’s Birds Report:** The first ever tri-national State of the Birds collaboration between US, Mexico, and Canada communicates continental priorities for bird conservation to policy makers and the public; this report calls for renewed commitment to bird conservation across borders and emphasizes the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial as a key milestone in international collaboration for conservation. *Report Release: 18 May 2016 at Trilateral meeting in Ottawa, Canada, with simultaneous release expected at the Canadian Embassy in Washington, DC.*

**Demographics Monitoring Report:** Demographic monitoring explores geographically and temporally specific issues (i.e. reproductive success, survivorship) to understand when and where bird populations are limited; this document will explain the importance of demographic monitoring, address what data is needed to understand causes of bird population trends, discuss integration of monitoring data into management, and explore the path forward for international expansion of this monitoring. *Draft anticipated by late March 2016.*

**Private Lands Partner Biologist Capacity Assessment:** Partner biologists work with private landowners, NRCS, etc to deliver Farm Bill conservation programs; position funding is often shared between multiple agencies. This assessment will summarize capacity through a series of maps highlighting partner biologist positions by state, JV, employer, initiative focus, etc. Ultimate goal: interactive map used to communicate success and identify gaps.

**Coordinated Messaging for Bird Conservation Programs:** NABCI formed acoalition in August 2015 to align advocacy/messaging efforts between non-federal NABCI partners, AFWA, and the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards. This coalition is developing/compiling national-level messaging for five programs with broad importance across bird community (NAWCA, NMBCA, SWG, Joint Ventures, Farm Bill) to allow partners to speak with a unified voice in support of bird conservation. *Messaging anticipated mid- March 2016.*