



## 2017-2018 Work Plan for the U.S. NABCI Committee- **Draft January 2018 Report**

*Within the framework of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan*

**What This Document Is:** 1-2 year Work Plan built into the framework of the NABCI Strategic Plan. Actions and tasks listed here represent what NABCI has committed to undertaking over the next few years, either through its Subcommittees, its Coordinator, ad hoc groups, or other partnerships. While the NABCI Strategic Plan represents our 2017-2021 goals, the work plan spans a shorter time frame and will be updated periodically to reflect progress made towards goals, next steps, and emerging issues. Blue text represents Coordinator's evaluation of Work Plan progress as of January 2018.

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

**Mission:** The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.

**Value proposition:** The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates advancements in bird conservation and works to encompass the full-life-cycle needs of resident and migratory birds. Its work is rooted in both natural and social sciences, focused on the scale of continental bird conservation initiatives and Joint Ventures, and advanced by partnerships that leverage resources and expertise.

The U.S. NABCI Committee creates a unique forum for federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations to address shared bird conservation challenges and priorities. Its strength lies in its ability to directly engage conservation leaders and to collaboratively develop and express a collective voice that promotes strategic bird conservation.

Individuals who serve on the U.S. NABCI Committee build working relationships across the bird conservation community, contributing their expertise and insights to mutually beneficial goals. Collaborative efforts are aimed at the US and tri-national bird conservation communities and inform and highlight new frontiers in bird conservation.

Items assigned to subcommittees are color coded:

International	Private and Working Lands	Communications	State of the Birds
Monitoring	Human Dimensions	Legislative and Policy	Executive Council
Coordinator			

*Subcommittee listed first after an action or task has primary responsibility for ensuring task progress and completion; additional subcommittees listed will collaborate on the task.*

## Goal I: Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community to achieve strategic conservation across the Western Hemisphere.

*Subgoal 1. Support, develop, integrate, and promote priorities of regional, national, and international bird conservation partnerships.*

a. Work collaboratively across countries to support partnership development that will advance full annual cycle conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

1. Support PIF VI conference by engaging international shorebird, waterbird, waterfowl, and nontraditional communities [International]

*Progress: Partners in Flight (PIF) VI International Conference held in San Jose, Costa Rica, in November 2017, and included 12 all-bird symposia, as well as workshops on shorebirds, waterbirds, ecotourism, and education. Several plenary speakers addressed non-traditional communities and partnerships.*

*Status: Will be complete once abstracts are available on PIF website.*

2. Support Western Hemisphere grassland initiatives where the US NABCI can add value, prioritizing a trilateral focus [International]

*Progress: Mexican and U.S. partners working on bird conservation plan for the Chihuahuan Desert; International Subcommittee will review plan draft, anticipated during second half of 2018.*

*Status: Subcommittee will continue to monitor grassland initiatives to determine where NABCI can add value*

3. Collaborate with NABCI Canada, NABCI Mexico, and the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management to finalize and support implementation of a North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation [International/ Monitoring]

*Progress: North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation finalized at May 2017 Trilateral Meeting and endorsed by US and Canada NABCI Committees; countries tasked with developing short-term (2 year) and medium-term (10 year) action plans for vision implementation. Convention on Migratory Species working in parallel on Americas Flyways Framework; International Subcommittee members working to align Hemispheric Vision and Flyways Framework for hemispheric cooperation.*

*Status: Action plan development needs follow-up within the US and between three countries; International Subcommittee members to participate in Americas Flyways Framework Task Force meeting, anticipated in 2018.*

4. Work with Coordinators of NABCI Canada and Mexico to support redevelopment of NABCI Canada Committee and identify shared priorities for collaboration between countries [Coordinator]

*Progress: Coordinator met with NABCI Mexico Coordinator at May Trilateral and November Partners in Flight Conference; Coordinator had frequent exchanges with NABCI Canada Interim Coordinator in 2017 and participated in NABCI Canada Executive Council conference calls and one NABCI Canada Committee call.*

*Status: On track.*

b. Identify and support common priorities among Joint Ventures and between Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships.

1. Develop NABCI Priorities document to highlight highest-priority issues in bird conservation and communicate document to leadership, current NABCI partners, and potential partners [Coordinator/ Priorities Team/ Communications]

*Progress: Draft Priorities document and process presented and discussed at August 2017 NABCI meeting; Coordinator and Priorities team will present revised document at January 2018 NABCI meeting.*

*Status: On track.*

2. Work with Joint Ventures to coordinate a series of regional workshops with Farm Service Agency staff to explore opportunities for partnership [Private and Working Lands]

*Progress: on hold due to unfilled positions in FSA leadership and continued federal uncertainties.*

c. Facilitate and promote the development of novel partnerships between conservation and non-traditional organizations (e.g., industry, urban planning associations, etc.) that provide new resources and avenues for addressing bird conservation priorities.

1. Document recent or current projects with non-traditional partners internationally and use those examples to suggest and support new activities that benefit bird conservation and people [International]

*Progress: While this has been the focus of many discussions, no concrete progress to date.*

*Status: Anticipated issue to address in 2018.*

2. Develop partnerships with agricultural specialty groups, such as cattleman's associations, to identify common priorities and opportunities to collaborate to achieve shared goals on private lands [Private and Working Lands]

*Progress: Shortlist of 5-6 organizations developed; Subcommittee is developing summary of how NABCI partners use Farm Bill programs/what priorities are for 2018 Farm Bill, which will be used to identify overlaps in priorities with target organizations. Subcommittee continues to develop relationship with National Association of Conservation Districts – currently discussing what opportunities exist with collaboration with the JVs at both the national (policy-related issues) and state/local levels (conservation on the ground).*

*Status: On track*

3. Work with NABCI Subcommittees, Committee members, BCPPs, and JVs to identify and reach out to additional non-traditional bird conservation partners whose goals align with bird conservation [All]

*Progress: Subcommittees developed lists of new potential partners prior to August 2017 NABCI meeting; Committee discussed non-traditional partnership opportunities and strategies for engagement at meeting; Subcommittee Leads selected 2-3 high-priority new partners and held October 2017 conference call to report on progress and identify opportunities for Subcommittees to collaborate on partner outreach.*

*Status: On track.*

d. Maintain an effective US NABCI Committee.

1. Ensure that biannual NABCI meetings are engaging, well-attended, and effective in advancing priority work as identified in the NABCI strategic plan [Coordinator/Executive Council]

*Status: On track. Meetings are productive, well-attended, and organized around NABCI strategic plan*

2. Committee members engage between meetings through participation on NABCI's subcommittees, ad hoc working groups, or projects and communicate NABCI accomplishments and needs to their constituents [NABCI Committee members]

*Progress: Subcommittee calls are well-attended. 18 out of 28 NABCI Committee members or their designees participate directly on a NABCI Subcommittee, ad hoc work group, or the Executive Council. Coordinator is reaching out to Committee members whose organizations have been less engaged in NABCI recently.*

*Status: Generally on track, but communication about NABCI by Committee members can use additional focus*

3. Ensure sufficient resources for NABCI coordination and projects through financial support of NABCI coordinator and other NABCI needs, as appropriate [NABCI Committee members]

*Progress: At August 2017 NABCI meeting, partners endorsed a proposal recommending that all NGO partners are expected to contribute financially to NABCI. Four new NGOs have committed to financial contributions in 2017.*

*Status: On track.*

4. Support collaboration and communication between NABCI Subcommittees

[Coordinator]

*Progress: NABCI Coordinator hosts periodic calls for all Subcommittee leads that focuses on specific issue important to all Subcommittees and provides opportunities for communication between Subcommittees.*

*Status: On track*

## *Subgoal 2. Strengthen communication within the bird conservation community.*

- a. Facilitate effective development, promotion, distribution, and communication of NABCI products to target audiences.

1. Produce bi-monthly All-Bird Bulletin blog posts on themes currently relevant to bird conservation [Communications]

*Progress: Communications Co-Chair distributed bi-monthly blogs until August 2017; after co-chair transition, blogs resumed in December 2017.*

*Status: On track?*

2. Regularly update NABCI website with news, events, resources, and NABCI documents [Communications]

*Progress: Coordinator performs some website updates; Communications Co-Chair updated website regularly but stepped down in August; progress has been delayed during transition.*

3. Develop template to provide recognizable presentation theme for NABCI products [Communications]

*Progress: Template presented at August 2017 NABCI meeting.*

*Status: Complete*

- b. Develop and maintain strong communication channels between the NABCI Committee members and the broader NABCI partnership.

1. Create and distribute detailed NABCI meeting notes and Executive Summary to NABCI Committee and community [NABCI Coordinator and Committee]

*Status: On track. Committee urged to continue to focus on effective communication of NABCI material throughout their networks.*

2. Distribute regular "NABCI News" reports to NABCI Committee and community providing Subcommittee opportunities and updates, as well as other news of interest to the bird conservation community [Coordinator]

*Progress: Coordinator distributes "NABCI News" ~2x/month and receives frequent positive feedback regarding utility of communication.*

*Status: On track.*

c. Recognize leadership within the bird conservation community.

1. Annually recruit nominations and present the Gary T. Myers Bird Conservation Award to an individual that has shown exceptional accomplishments or leadership in bird conservation [ad hoc Awards Subcommittee]

*Progress: Award presented to EJ Williams in March 2017; 2018 nominations solicited and will be considered in January 2018.*

## **Goal II: Facilitate science-based conservation efforts that support healthy bird populations**

*Subgoal 1. Promote and advance the use of ecological and social science in design and evaluation of bird conservation practices.*

a. Promote and advance bird monitoring that is integrated into strategic habitat conservation.

1. Develop a document that emphasizes the links between science and management and explores options for integrating monitoring into bird conservation [Monitoring]
2. Support efforts for data integration to address challenges of data collected across different spatial and temporal scales [Monitoring]
3. Clarify the unique niches and capabilities of major avian databases, including eBird, Avian Knowledge Network, and Avian Conservation Assessment Database [Monitoring]
4. Using examples from regional initiatives, provide guidance on development and implementation of outcome-based monitoring programs based on citizen science on private and working lands [Monitoring/Private and Working Lands]

*Progress: PWL Subcommittee planning a series of webinars that highlight successful regional monitoring initiatives/programs, starting with Audubon's Bird Friendliness Index.*

*Status: On track*

*Progress: Monitoring Subcommittee was without a Chair for ~1+ year and Subcommittee progress stalled during this time. Gray Anderson became Chair in August 2017. Subcommittee is refining Work Plan.*

b. Enable bird conservation partners to integrate human dimensions science and tools into bird conservation efforts.

1. Develop "Human Dimensions" 1-page document to help bird conservation researchers, practitioners, and leadership understand social science and its application for bird conservation [Human Dimensions/Communications]

*Progress: One-pager released in September 2017 and distributed to NABCI Community, states, etc.*

*Status: Complete.*

2. Support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) human dimensions efforts, including helping NABCI partners understand how to apply the results of NAWMP hunter/viewer/public survey to bird conservation work [Human Dimensions]

*Progress: Subcommittee members attended September 2017 Future of Waterfowl Management 2 meeting, and subcommittee has been collaborating with NAWMP Human Dimensions Working Group to facilitate distribution of survey results to NABCI community when complete.*

*Status: On Track.*

3. Strengthen the social science capacity for bird organizations through sharing relevant research and tools and offering trainings and/or workshops [Human Dimensions]  
*Progress: Subcommittee promoted and led a human dimensions training at September 2017 Pathways conference; relevant human dimensions literature regularly shared within Subcommittee*  
*Status: On Track*
  4. Create guidance for the bird conservation community on how to incorporate human dimensions into bird conservation, including examples of how human dimensions has successfully been used to advance bird conservation [Human Dimensions] [Private and Working Lands]  
*Progress: HD one-pager released in September 2017; Bird Conservation Human Dimensions Success Story Map anticipated in February 2018; JV guidance document for integrating human dimensions into implementation plans in progress. In addition, Todd Fearer (PWL Chair) and Ashley Gramza (HD Co-Chair) organized sessions about Human Dimension of Private Lands conservation for 2017 Pathways conference; several sessions included presentations about bird conservation efforts.*  
*Status: On Track.*
- c. Support efforts to coordinate and unify science capacity among national bird conservation partnerships to more effectively address shared ecological science challenges and needs.
1. Monitor the progress of the Transitional Unified Science Team (TrUST), provide a forum for the TrUST to communicate needs, and respond to requests for support as appropriate [Monitoring?]  
    - a. Monitor and support efforts to identify common needs to measure and evaluate net landscape change between the bird conservation and broader communities [Monitoring]*Progress: TrUST will present progress report/draft document at January 2018 NABCI meeting.*
- d. Develop and promote effective communications that identify national and international bird conservation needs and inform actions to advance bird conservation.
1. Produce State of the Birds reports that synthesize science and align with key policy programs or initiatives to provide an effective communication tool to encourage science-based conservation policy [State of the Birds]  
*Progress: Concise, visually appealing State of the Birds 2017 report linked to Farm Bill conservation programs and their benefits to birds, farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.*  
*Status: On track.*
- e. Promote and advance bird conservation objectives on both private and public lands.
1. Develop Guide to the 2018 Farm Bill and distribute to partners [Private and Working Lands/Communications/ Human Dimensions]  
*Status: Not applicable until after 2018 Farm Bill passes.*
  2. Assist NRCS in building and maintaining field delivery capacity by expanding the number of partner biologists in underrepresented, high-priority regions [Private and Working Lands]  
*Progress: Potential to pursue partner biologist capacity assessment as part of a master's project through University of Wyoming.*  
*Status: Behind schedule, but planned focus through spring 2018*
  3. Engage land trusts, USFS State and Private Forestry, State Forest Agencies, Partners for Conservation, USFWS Partners Program, the Bureau of Land Management, and game-



and conservation-focused NGOs with strong private lands programs to identify opportunities to collaborate [Private and Working Lands]

*Progress: Ongoing. Representatives from several game species NGOs (NWTF, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, NBCI) spoke at Farm Bill State of the Birds briefing in October 2017.*

*Status: On track.*

4. Consider how NABCI can advance collaborative bird conservation on public lands, as recommended in 2012 State of the Birds: Public Lands report

*Progress: Partners in Flight has established Public Lands Work Group and NABCI has not yet identified a path forward, either collaboratively with PIF or independently.*

*Status: Needs follow-up/decision at some point.*

### **Goal III: Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation**

*Subgoal 1. Facilitate coordinated communication with government leadership about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation.*

- a. Annually compile or develop messaging demonstrating the importance of key bird conservation programs (NAWCA, NMBCA, SWG, Farm Bill, JVs) and promote use of coordinated messaging within the bird community

1. Develop 2017 State of the Birds: Farm Bill report and support effective communication and distribution to key audiences, including Congress [State of the Birds/Private and Working Lands/Communications/ Human Dimensions Legislative and Policy]

*Progress: State of the Bird 2017: Farm Bill Special Report developed and released in August 2017. Hill briefing and joint reception with American Forest Foundation and Forest Resources Association in October 2017.*

*Status: On track.*

2. Non-federal NABCI partners coordinate with the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards to encourage Congress to support a Farm Bill with strong provisions for bird conservation [Private and Working Lands/Legislative and Policy]  
*Progress: JVs developing success stories for Feb. 26-March 2 JV Hill Visits, many of which will emphasize private lands conservation/Farm Bill programs. IWJV made two recent visits to D.C., one of which aligned with NABCI's Farm Bill Hill Event, to meet with various members of agency leadership and messaged about the importance of the Farm Bill.*  
*Status: On track*

3. Update bird conservation program fact sheets annually and maintain current fact sheets on NABCI website [Legislative and Policy/Communications]

*Progress: Fact sheets hosted on NABCI website but have not been updated since mid-2016 (or early 2017 for Farm Bill).*

*Status: Needs follow-up.*

4. Explore how NABCI NGO partners can communicate NABCI priorities and products to key leaders and legislators while Committee members are in DC for NABCI meetings [NABCI NGO Partners]

*Progress: NABCI NGO Committee Representatives Conference Call in June 2016 summarized existing Subcommittee outreach, discussed role of Executive Council and clarified how NGO members could interface with EC, received updates from Legislative and Policy Subcommittee, and discussed additional engagement opportunities*

*Status: On track, needs follow up.*

- b. NABCI non-federal partners will develop or compile messaging that communicates how emerging legislation or funding could impact bird conservation.
1. Explore mechanisms and assess effectiveness for engaging birdwatchers in conservation funding [Human Dimensions]  
*Progress: "Building a Bird Conservation Constituency" group established and led by Partners in Flight; in-person meeting scheduled for January 2018, with HD Subcommittee participation. Terry Rich also planning a survey on this topic, with data collection to begin in Spring 2018.*  
*Status: On track.*
  2. Coordinate with Blue Ribbon Panel to secure viewer-based funding for bird conservation [Human Dimensions] / [Legislative and Policy]  
*Progress: Recovering America's Wildlife Act introduced in the House in December 2017; NABCI must now evaluate how to engage*  
*Status: Needs attention very soon.*

*Subgoal 2. Support partners in the creation and implementation of science-based policies that support bird conservation.*

- a. Conduct regular outreach to leadership of Committee member organizations to discuss NABCI priorities and solicit feedback on how NABCI can support the development and implementation of policy favorable to bird conservation.
  1. Build relationships with key federal partners such as Directors of USFWS and NRCS, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Forestry, and USFS Private Forestry to explore overlapping priorities and support mutual goals [Executive Council] / [Private and Working Lands] / [Legislative and Policy] / Committee members  
*Progress: Delayed due to lack of permanent leadership in key federal agencies.*
- b. Demonstrate bird conservation's strong ties to healthy land, water, and people in order to communicate relevance beyond birds.
  1. Incorporate messaging about bird conservation's economic, human health, and landscape benefits into State of the Birds messaging and other NABCI products and communications [State of the Birds] / All Subcommittees  
*Progress: State of the Birds 2017 report linked to Farm Bill conservation programs and their benefits to birds, farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.*  
*Status: On track.*
  2. Develop initial talking points supporting bird conservation relevancy for meetings with agency leadership, funding organizations, and non-traditional partners [Ad Hoc Relevancy Team] / [Human Dimensions] / [Communications]  
*Progress: Draft relevancy messaging presented to NABCI Committee in August 2017; Relevancy team will present updated draft in January 2018.*  
*Status: On track.*