**North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) – Monitoring Subcommittee Charter**

**Finalized December 16, 2013**

**Updated October 28, 2015**

The **NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee** was established in 2005 to provide technical expertise and recommendations for improving bird monitoring such that effective and efficient integrated monitoring programs are in place, institutionally supported, and informing conservation throughout the full annual cycle.  The Subcomittee is comprised of federal agencies, state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and bird initiative representatives.  The actions undertaken by the Subcommittee are intended to complement and support existing collaborative partnerships (i.e., Avian Knowledge Alliance), Joint Ventures, planning efforts, programs, and activities associated with the U.S NABCI Committee (Committee). The Subcommittee’s activities are directly linked to the overarching NABCI goal of “*delivering the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships*.”

**PHILOSOPHY**

Subcommittee members agree that monitoring, and the subsequent act of evaluation, is an integral component of an iterative, science-based approach to bird conservation and management. The value of monitoring and evaluation is often judged by how well information is regularly integrated into decision-making for management or conservation. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that this integration is in place at the inception of any monitoring activity and that data collection and analysis are statistically sound and designed to provide useful information for decision-makers and managers.

Subcommittee members are committed to the goals stated in the February 2007 report entitles, “Opportunities for Improving Avian Monitoring,” as follows:

* Fully integrate monitoring into bird conservation and management practices and ensure that monitoring is aligned with management and conservation priorities.
* Coordinate monitoring programs among organizations and integrate them across spatial scales to solve conservation or management problems effectively.
* Increase the value of monitoring information by improving statistical design.
* Maintain bird population monitoring data in modern data management systems. Recognizing legal, institutional, proprietary, and other constraints provide greater availability of raw data, associated metadata, and summary data from bird monitoring activities and programs.

**ROLES and RESPONSIBILITIES**

The role of the Subcommittee shall be to foster an iterative cycle of conservation planning, implementation, and evaluation through the following actions:

* Facilitate comprehensive and integrated population monitoring across bird conservation planning initiatives.
* Promote development of technical capacity to monitor habitat and landscape attributes relevant to bird population change.
* Support establishment and operation of modern data management systems.
* Encourage active participation between technical monitoring interests and wildlife managers at all levels.
* Serve as a forum for coordinating monitoring across international boundaries.

Subcommittee members will be expected to:

* Maintain commitments of time, focus, and support necessary to carry-out Subcommittee actions.
* Consistently attend and fully engage in Subcommittee meetings, conference calls, and ad hoc working groups as needed.
* Fully participate in and/or direct staff from his/her organization to contribute to the development, promotion, and implementation of Subcommittee projects and products.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Subcommittee members should be experienced conservation biologists with technical knowledge of monitoring science, strong communication skills, and a commitment to improving the biological foundation for avian conservation. They should have primary jobs in bird conservation or research and ideally should be positioned to influence mobilization of resources within their own and collaborating organizations to help meet NABCI goals. Subcommittee members will also provide important links between researchers and managers, among BCRs, and among various bird initiatives.

Representatives to the Subcommittee will be appointed by appropriate representatives of the bird initiatives or agencies on the Committee. The Subcommittee will retain the option of selecting additional members to represent bird monitoring interests or technical knowledge not effectively represented by the core membership. The Subcommittee will elect a Chair (or Co-chairs) to coordinate its work and to communicate with the Committee. At the discretion of the Subcommittee, additional help may be recruited for special purposes. The Subcommittee will determine its agenda and priorities in consultation with the Committee and report regularly to the Committee on activities, progress in meeting its responsibilities, and on items requiring action by the Committee.

*Current Subcommittee Members:*

David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy, Co-chair

Viviana Ruiz, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Co-chair

John Alexander, Klamath Bird Observatory (Partners in Flight Representative)

Laurel Barnhill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Steve DeMaso, Gulf Coast Joint Venture

Dale Humburg, Ducks Unlimited

Todd Jones-Farrand, Gulf Coastal Plains and Ozarks LCC Science Coordinator

Katie Koch, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership

Ed Laurent, Connecting Conservation

Charles Rewa, USDA NRCS

Clark Rushing, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center

Leo Salas, Point Blue Conservation Science

John Sauer, U.S. Geological Survey

Judith Scarl, US NABCI

Tanya Shenk, National Park Service

Susan Skagen, U.S. Geological Survey (US Shorebird Conservation Plan Representative)

Brian Sullivan, Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Monica Tomosy, U.S. Forest Service

*Vacant*, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory