



2019-2020 Draft Work Plan for the U.S. NABCI Committee

Within the framework of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan

Approved 8 August 2019

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.

Updates for 2019-2020: *Since the NABCI Work Plan needs to be updated for 2019-2020, the Coordinator worked with the Subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs to identify work plan actions that have been completed, necessary follow up, and additional actions for NABCI to undertake in order to advance our strategic plan. New/Modified actions proposed for the 2019-2020 work plan are noted in purple.*

2019-2020 Work Plan for the U.S. NABCI Committee

Within the framework of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan

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. 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.

International
Monitoring
Coordinator

Private and Working Lands
Human Dimensions

Communications
Legislative and Policy

State of the Birds
Executive Council

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. Explore options for participation in Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Costa Rica (summer 2019) [International]
2. Support Western Hemisphere grassland initiatives where the US NABCI can add value, prioritizing a trilateral focus [International]
3. Participate in Americas Flyways Framework and incorporate Hemispheric Vision into Framework actions. [International]
4. Continue to work with NABCI Canada to identify areas of overlap between NABCI Canada's priorities, US NABCI's strategic and work plans, the National Bird Conservation Priorities, and NABCI Mexico's priorities; develop strategies to collaborate on top mutual priorities. [Coordinator]/[International]

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

1. Use National Bird Conservation Priorities document to engage leadership, strategically build partnerships with non-member organizations such as NFWF, and guide or support partner focus. [All Committee Members/ Coordinator/ Executive Council]
2. Identify gaps in advancement of Priority Actions and encourage additional efforts in support of these actions. [Coordinator/Committee/Subcommittees/Ad Hoc Working Groups]
3. Identify Priority Actions where NABCI itself may play a role in implementation; identify strategy and teams for implementing these actions, as necessary.
4. 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]
5. Support efforts to identify common science needs among Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships and JVs (Refer to Goal II, Subgoal 1c)

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. Make list of non-traditional partners and projects broadly available online, and led by USFS, reach out to DC-based colleagues working on bird conservation and host sustainable development community meeting in DC [International]
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]
3. Using the National Bird Conservation Priorities document and Relevancy Toolkit as guidance, continue to seek opportunities through Subcommittees to collaborate with organizations that are not exclusively focused on bird conservation, and continue to

communicate to partners how to use these two documents to build stronger partnerships for bird conservation. [Committee/Subcommittees]

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]
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]
3. Ensure sufficient resources for NABCI coordination and projects through financial support of NABCI Coordinator, National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator, State of the Birds reports, and other NABCI needs, as appropriate [NABCI Committee members/National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator Advisory Team]
4. Support collaboration and communication between NABCI Subcommittees [Coordinator/Subcommittee Chairs]
5. Provide opportunities for Committee members to give and receive feedback on NABCI and their organization's participation, and strategize about increasing their organization's engagement in NABCI, through annual one-on-one meetings between Coordinator each Committee member. [Coordinator/Committee members]

e. Support redevelopment of Waterbird for the Americas initiative to ensure that birds across four major bird categories (Landbirds, Shorebirds, Waterbirds, Waterfowl) have adequate focus and support from Bird Plan Partnerships.

1. Explore multiple mechanisms for hiring and supporting a Waterbird Coordinator, including the possibility of a partner cost-share model of funding. [Ad Hoc Team identified at August 2018 meeting]

Subgoal 2. Strengthen communication within the bird conservation community.

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

1. Committee member organizations submit one blog post annually, enabling NABCI to produce bi-monthly All-Bird Bulletin blog posts on themes relevant to bird conservation [Communications/Committee]
2. Regularly update NABCI website with news, events, resources, and NABCI documents [Communications]
3. Encourage Committee members and staff to use NABCI presentation themes, to ensure consistency of communications [Communications]
4. Finalize and promote Key Messages, encouraging partners to use this messaging when they distribute NABCI's products to highlight the unified voice NABCI provides. [Communications/Coordinator]

b. Develop and maintain strong communication channels between the NABCI Committee members and the broader NABCI partnership, and continue to empower Committee members to serve as ambassadors for the NABCI partnership.

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

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]
- 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]
 2. Recognize exceptional leadership within the NABCI partnership through presentation of the David Pashley Memorial Award [Awards Subcommittee]

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. Support efforts for data integration to address challenges of data collected across different spatial and temporal scales [Monitoring]
 2. Clarify the unique niches and capabilities of major avian databases, including eBird, Avian Knowledge Network, and Avian Conservation Assessment Database [Monitoring]
 3. Using examples from regional initiatives, provide guidance on development and implementation of outcome-based monitoring programs, including citizen science, on private and working lands [Monitoring/Private and Working Lands]
- b. Enable bird conservation partners to integrate human dimensions science and tools into bird conservation efforts.
 1. Create, promote, and evaluate utility of 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/Communications]
 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]
 3. Strengthen the social science capacity for bird organizations through sharing relevant research and tools and offering trainings and/or workshops [Human Dimensions]
 4. Improve understanding within the bird conservation community of how to support and engage birdwatchers, landowners, natural resource managers and other key audiences in bird conservation [Human Dimensions/Private and Working Lands]
- 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 Unified Science Team (UST), provide a forum for the UST to communicate needs, and respond to requests for support as appropriate [Monitoring?]
 - i. Work with federal agencies, data providers, and end users to evaluate and respond to needs described in the Unified Science Team’s Net Landscape Change Assessment Needs white paper [Monitoring?]

- ii. Follow up with federal partners who have offered to connect with data experts and leaders within their agencies, and develop and implement a strategy to communicate expressed needs to agencies. [Monitoring?]

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]

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]
- 2. Build and maintain field delivery capacity for Farm Bill and other private lands conservation programs through the development of a series of regional Private Lands Staff Forums [Private and Working Lands]
- 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]
- 4. Consider how NABCI can advance collaborative bird conservation on public lands, as recommended in 2012 State of the Birds: Public Lands report

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. Review bird conservation program fact sheets annually and update as necessary; maintain current fact sheets on NABCI website and annually distribute throughout the bird conservation community. [Legislative and Policy/Communications]
 2. 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]
- b. NABCI non-federal partners will develop, compile, and promote messaging that communicates how emerging legislation or funding could impact bird conservation.
 1. Develop 2018-2019 State of the Birds report focused on the role of state agencies in bird conservation, the need for additional funding support, and the role that Recovering America's Wildlife Act legislation could play. Support effective communication and distribution to key audiences, including Congress and directors of state fish and wildlife agencies. [State of the Birds/Communications/ Human Dimensions Legislative and Policy]

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]
- 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]
 2. Continue to promote Relevancy Toolkit. Solicit feedback on utility of Toolkit and evaluate how to improve for future revisions. Solicit additional relevancy examples for Version 2. [Ad Hoc Relevancy Team/Human Dimensions/Communications]
 3. Develop "Relevancy Success Stories" that highlight partnerships build on goals beyond bird conservation, through which bird conservation benefits. [Human Dimensions]
- c. Continue to emphasize the links between science and management and explore options for integrating monitoring into bird conservation [Monitoring]