

NATIONAL BIRD CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

PRIORITY ACTIONS

The U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) represents broad interests across the bird conservation community and facilitates coordinated communication about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation. **NABCI integrates priorities of regional, national, and international bird conservation interests to create a unified voice for conservation.**

This document highlights major themes and strategies that comprise comprehensive, national bird conservation priorities. Within each broad theme, we identify two actions that receive broad support from a majority of NABCI's bird conservation partners. These Priority Actions urgently need to happen over the next three to five years to help achieve NABCI's vision, and it is possible to make progress on these actions over that timeframe.

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

HABITATS IN CRISIS

Habitat loss and degradation represent pervasive bird conservation challenges that are addressed throughout multiple themes within this document, and the Priority Actions on the next pages will benefit birds across multiple habitats. However, birds in some habitats are in greater need of urgent conservation action than others. The 2016 State of North America's Birds report classified four key U.S. habitats as in crisis; more than 25% of bird species in oceans, coasts, grasslands, and aridlands are at risk of extinction without significant action or are experiencing steep declines.

Although overall concerns are less urgent in Temperate and Boreal Forests, Tundra, and Freshwater Wetlands, these habitats all support species of high conservation or economic importance, including species that are flagships for regional conservation initiatives. Therefore, the Priority Actions listed in this document represent both urgent short-term needs for habitats in crisis, as well as long-term needs that are equally important for sustaining healthy bird populations and ecosystems throughout the U.S.



National Bird Conservation Priorities

Commitments, Gap Analysis, and Project Highlight

Access the Priorities: <http://nabci-us.org/bird-conservation-community/national-bird-conservation-priorities/>

Elevating the Priorities

Committee Member Commitments

- NABCI Partner Commitments to Elevate Priorities
 - Take document to leadership
 - Cross-walk organizational priorities with bird conservation priorities
 - Inform planning/collaboration efforts
 - Highlight how organizational projects tie into bigger picture of bird conservation needs



Elevating the Priorities

Communication Highlights

- Presentations to community and leadership
- Article in *The Wildlife Professional*
- Upcoming symposium at The Wildlife Society
- Partners organizing around Priorities
 - US Shorebird Conservation Partnership
 - Grassland Summit



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Unanswered Questions

How do we identify and address gaps in implementation of Priority Actions?

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Unanswered Questions

NABCI will elevate, highlight, and communicate these priorities.

- What role (if any) does NABCI play in implementing specific Priority Actions?
- How can NABCI most effectively elevate specific Priority Actions?

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National Bird Conservation Priorities

Gap Analysis Survey

Purpose:

- 1) Explore gaps in implementation of Priority Actions
- 2) Explore how NABCI partnership specifically can play a role in supporting Priority Actions

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National Bird Conservation Priorities

Gap Analysis Survey

- Distributed to US NABCI Committee Members in December 2018
- 17 responses collected (68% of 25 sitting Committee members)

Part 1: Explore gaps in implementation of Priority Actions



Part 1: Explore gaps in implementation of Priority Actions

Based on your knowledge of work done in your organization or partnership as well as in the broader bird conservation community, which of these Priority Actions needs the most additional focus across the conservation community to achieve optimal outcomes? (Pick 2)



For these two actions,

- what do you see as the primary barriers that impede progress within your organization?
- what do you see as the primary barriers that impede progress across the broader conservation field?

Part 1: Explore gaps in implementation of Priority Actions



- The most votes any Action received was six (40%)
- Five Actions received between 4 (27%) and 6 (40%) votes
- All actions received at least one vote

Takeaway: Individual priorities vary across the NABCI partnership, and there is need for additional work across multiple Actions (also not surprising!)

Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

Recommendation #1: *When a Priority Action is closely aligned with the goals of a NABCI Subcommittee, Subcommittee will evaluate feedback on barriers to Action Implementation and assess specific Subcommittee role in elevating Priority or reducing barriers.*



Recommendation 1

Examples



Priority Action: Work with private agricultural landowners...

Subcommittee: Private and Working Lands



Priority Action: Develop multi-agency integrated approach to research and monitoring...

Subcommittee: Monitoring



Priority Action: Continue to authorize and adequately fund cornerstones of federal conservation legislation...

Subcommittee: Legislative and Policy



Most Commonly Selected (n=6): Leverage government dollars with private dollars to multiply conservation impacts through partnerships including Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and new programs



Barriers to Progress:

- **Lack of relationships or partnerships (x4)**
- **Competition for funding (x3)**
- **Communication (x2)**

Other barriers include: political will to tackle issue, restriction on agency's ability to solicit private funds, perception of impinging on private land rights

Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

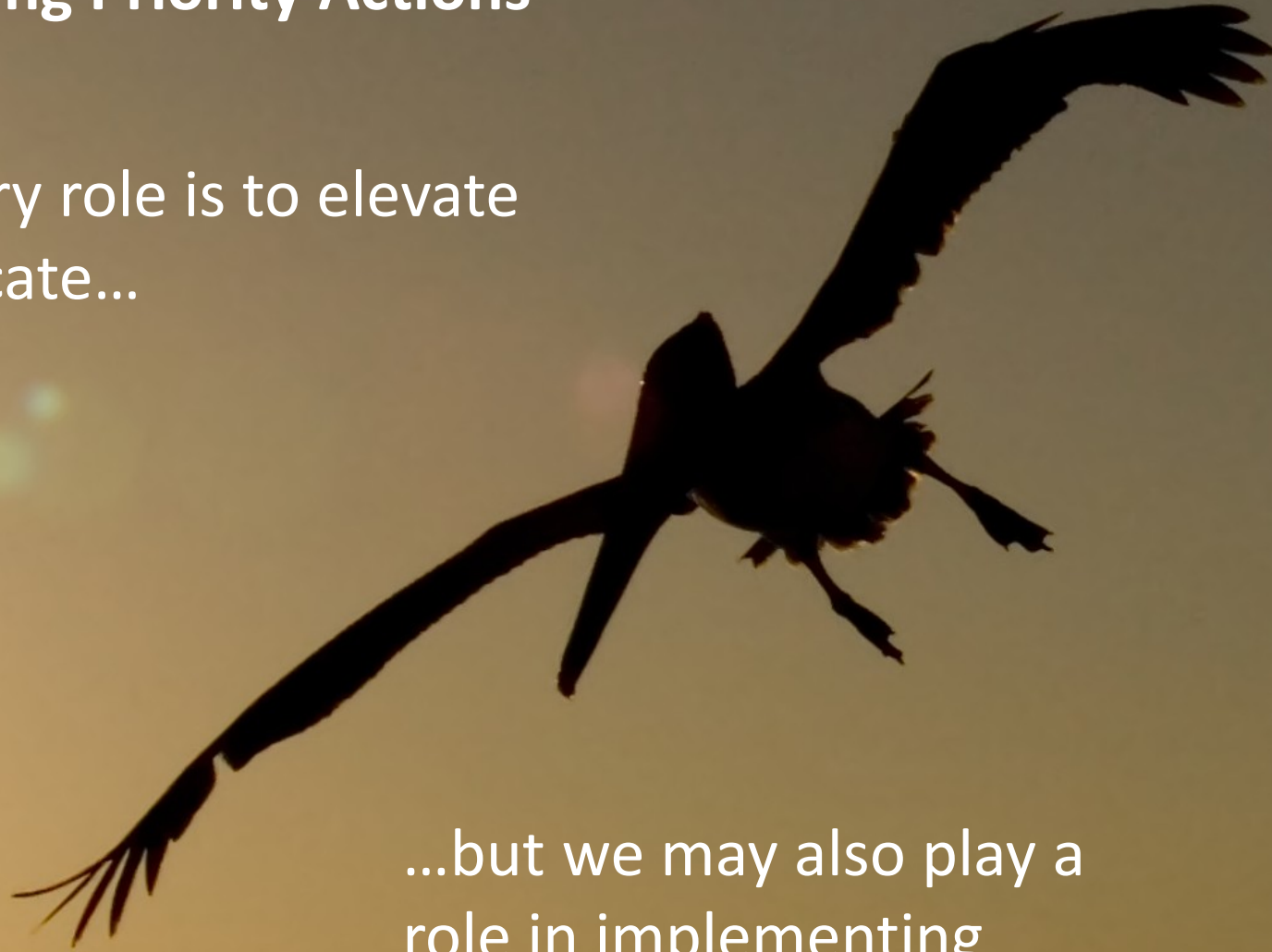
Recommendation #2: Identify NABCI's role in overcoming barriers to successful implementation of most commonly selected "Gap" Priority Action; Develop strategy for how NABCI can best elevate this Action



Part II: Explore how NABCI partnership specifically can play a role in supporting Priority Actions

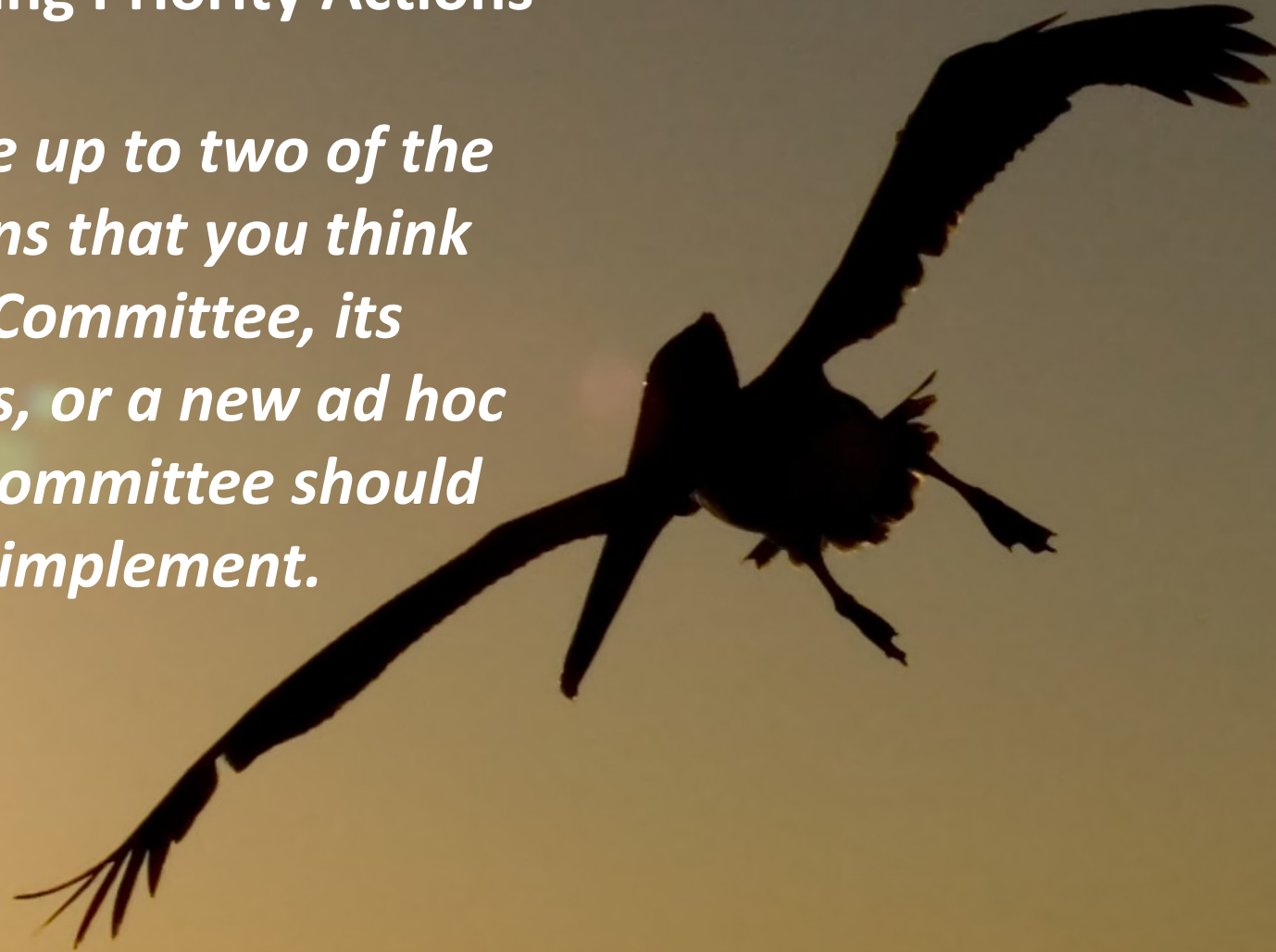
NABCI's primary role is to elevate and communicate...

...but we may also play a role in implementing specific Actions.

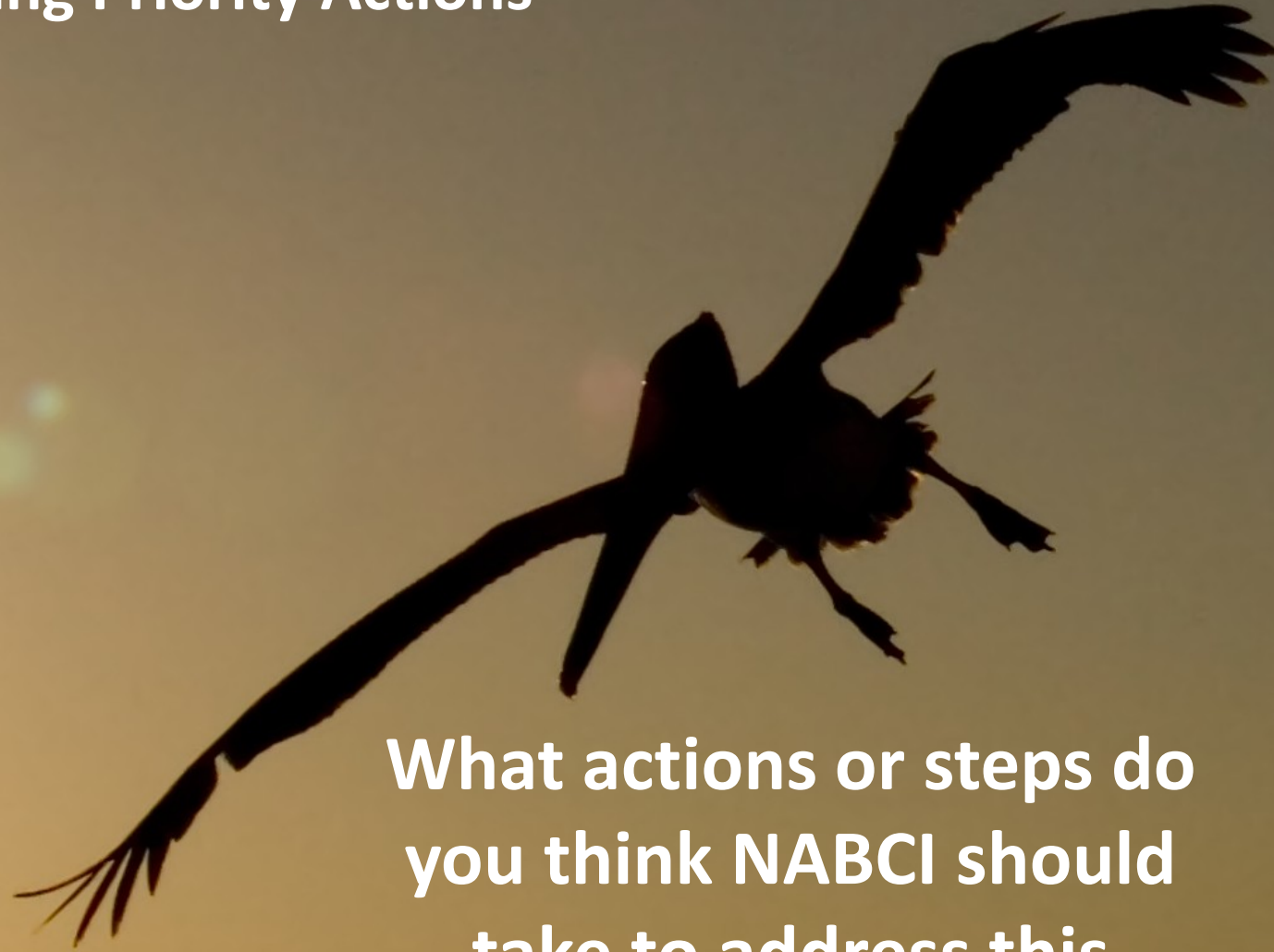


Part II: Explore how NABCI partnership specifically can play a role in supporting Priority Actions

Please indicate up to two of the Priority Actions that you think the NABCI Committee, its Subcommittees, or a new ad hoc group or Subcommittee should work to implement.



Part II: Explore how NABCI partnership specifically can play a role in supporting Priority Actions



What actions or steps do you think NABCI should take to address this Priority Action?

What Priority Actions should NABCI work to implement?

67% (n=10) selected “Increase coordination and cooperation across federal agencies, and among federal and state agencies, to implement conservation policies and actions at broad scales.”

Increase coordination and cooperation across federal agencies, and among federal and state agencies, to implement conservation policies and actions at broad scales.

What actions or steps should NABCI take to address this option?

- We are already doing this well (x2)
- Focus on mechanisms for communication (x3)
- Emphasize the Importance of Working Together (x2)

Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

Recommendation #3: Evaluate what parts of NABCI's work plan serve to increase coordination and cooperation across federal agencies, and among federal and state agencies, to implement conservation policies and actions at broad scales, and use survey feedback develop recommendations for any additional steps NABCI should prioritize to address this Priority Action.



Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

Recommendation #1: When a Priority Action is closely aligned with the goals of a NABCI Subcommittee, Subcommittee will evaluate feedback on barriers to Action Implementation and assess specific Subcommittee role in elevating Priority or reducing barriers.

Recommendation #2: Identify NABCI's role in overcoming barriers to successful implementation of most commonly selected "Gap" Priority Action; Develop strategy for how NABCI can best elevate this Action

Recommendation #3: Evaluate what parts of NABCI's work plan serve to increase coordination and cooperation across federal agencies, and among federal and state agencies, to implement conservation policies and actions at broad scales, and use survey feedback develop recommendations for additional steps NABCI should prioritize to address this Priority Action.



Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

Recommendation #2: Identify NABCI's role in overcoming barriers to successful implementation of most commonly selected "Gap" Priority Action; Develop strategy for how NABCI can best elevate this Action

Leverage government dollars with private dollars to multiply conservation impacts through partnerships including Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and new programs



Recommendations

Guidelines to Proceed

Two Step Process:

- 1) Are there other barriers that we have not already identified?
- 2) Which of these barriers are most universal/most prohibitive?



Most Commonly Selected (n=6): Leverage government dollars with private dollars to multiply conservation impacts through partnerships including Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, and new programs

Barriers to Progress:

- **Lack of relationships or partnerships (x4)** e.g. engaging entities with private dollars to leverage, limited capacity to build partnerships, lack of experience/knowledge re: how to seek private funds
- **Competition for funding (x3)**
- **Communication (x2)** e.g. lack of consistent messaging, information on how to achieve success in \$ leveraging

Other barriers include: political will to tackle issue, restriction on agency's ability to solicit private funds, perception of impinging on private land rights

Next Steps

- Follow up on Recommendations (modify as appropriate based on discussions)
- Consider how to approach the rest of the Priority Actions- do we need a specific strategy for elevating more than the one we discussed today?



Points to Bring Forward

- NABCI should continue to elevate and highlight all Priority Actions
- Individual NABCI members/organizations to follow up on specific commitments (and consider new ones?)
- Continue to work to make the Priorities a common language in bird conservation

