Partners in Flight: The next 30 years of collaborative bird conservation

US NABCI Committee
Washington DC
February 2020
Partners in Flight (1990 -2020)
‘Birds are ducks too’

Public-private partnership includes 17 federal agencies, 48 NGOs, over 60 state and provincial fish and wildlife agencies, numerous universities, and 14 corporations.

PIF Mission
Keeping Common Birds Common, Helping Species at Risk, through Voluntary Partnerships

PIF Coordinators:
US: Bob Ford (USFWS)
Canada: Becky Stewart (CWS)
Mexico: Sarahy Contreras Martinez (Univ. de Guadalajara)
Costa Rica: Pablo Lelizondo (Costa Rica Bird Obsv.)
Western Working Group: Tanya Luszcz (CWS)
Eastern Working Group: Randy Detmers (USFWS)

Avian Conservation Data Base (ACAD):
Prioritizes 1585 native and 18 non-native bird species found in mainland North America south to Panama plus adjacent islands and oceans.
The State of the Birds 2019

America’s Birds in Crisis

3 billion birds gone since 1970

30% of all North American birds have disappeared in the last 50 years:

New research published in the journal Science shows massive losses in North American bird populations—with steep declines for bird species in every habitat on the continent.

United States of America

But Conservation Works!

Recovery is possible when we invest in birds.
Net Population Change: *Loss of Common Species*

- 50% of loss is made up of 10 abundant species

- Horned Lark
- Dark-eyed Junco
- Savannah Sparrow
- Red-winged Blackbird

![Graphs showing population change for each species.](image)
North America Waterfowl Management Plan (1986)

The Plan set forth a strategy for restoring waterfowl populations to 1970s levels through voluntary, non-regulatory, public-private partnerships that work to conserve the wetlands habitats that waterfowl need to survive.
Game-Changer Opportunities

1. Unprecedented Collaboration:
   — Synergistic and functioning partnerships

2. “Smoking Guns” and New Science:
   — identifying causes of decli. Conservation

3. Investment Strategy:
   — Integration of PIF Business plans

4. New Legislative/ Policy Opportunities:
   — Recovering America’s Wildlife Act

5. Communication and engagement
   — build on “Bird Crisis” campaign

www.3billionbirds.org
**Goal for PIF 30th anniversary:**
triple the number of people/organizations engaged over the next 3 years

PIF engagement at > 8 major conferences and workshops in 2020

PIF 30th anniversary celebration with 25th American Bird Conservancy March 25th in Wash DC

Engagement though creative uses of eBird and Avian Knowledge Network (e.g. Avicaching, Bio-blitzes, INaturalist, Land Trust stewardship, etc.)

Promotion of World Migratory Bird Day – “Birds Connect Our World”

Integration of PIF Plans with State Wildlife Action Plans, Joint Ventures, Flyway councils and state outreach programs.

Fill the gaps in Joint Ventures implementation plans. Bring in key state, federal, and industrial partners that deliver upland habitat.

Promote full lifecycle conservation for target species and their habitats.
PIF Conference List 2020

AFWA Wildlife Diversity Coordinators (presentation)
San Diego, CA (Jan 27-29)

Society for Range Management (booth)
Denver, CO (Feb 10-14),

North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference (booth and workshop)
Omaha, NE (March 9-13),

North American Ornithological Conference (sessions)
Puerto Rico (August 10-15)

The Wildlife Society Meeting (booth and session)
Louisville, KY (Sept 27 – Oct 1)

Land Trust Rally: National Land Conservation Conference (booth and session)
Portland OR (Oct 8-10).

Other potential conferences:
Society for Conservation Biology, Society for American Foresters, Sustainable Forestry,
The Partners in Flight Eastern Working Group Is Taking Flight!

Join us for the next 30 years of advancing bird conservation in Eastern North America
PIF Eastern Working Group

• **Launching a reconfigured regional working group for Eastern North America**
  – Help address unmet conservation needs for Eastern North American birds
  – Structured coordination, communication, and action on key issues
    – Through science-based, adaptive management approaches
      – Throughout species’ full annual cycles across the Western Hemisphere
    – Initially focusing on three priority issues identified during first meeting
PIF Eastern Working Group

- Develop & implement conservation investment strategies
- Promote linkages between breeding, migration, and wintering grounds
- Addressing limitations and unmet management needs
- Forum for outreach around information sharing, using data to inform conservation action/decision
- Deliver BMPs to managers in clear, understandable way with “how to”
- Clearinghouse of outreach materials
PIF Eastern Working Group
Full Annual Cycle Conservation Team

**PURPOSE:**
catalyze conservation of migratory (land)birds of Eastern North America throughout their full annual cycles across the Western Hemisphere.

**INITIAL FOCUS:**
development and delivery of Bird Conservation Business Plans
- By 2020, one BCBP complete & another in progress
PIF Eastern Working Group

Links With NABCI

• Possible NABCI Subcommittee links and collaborations:
  – International Subcommittee
  – Monitoring Subcommittee
  – Private and Working Lands Subcommittee
  – HD Subcommittee

• Share information about the EWG and encourage engagement
  – All interested parties are welcome to participate
  – Join the EWG in helping to deliver conservation actions that will help address the “bird crisis”!