

## NABCI Human Dimensions Subcommittee

### *August 2020 Update*

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The 2019-2020 Work Plan of the Human Dimensions Subcommittee is guided by an overarching Goal (derived from the NABCI Strategic Plan) to *Enable bird conservation partners to integrate human dimensions science and tools into bird conservation efforts*. Below are recent activities of the Subcommittee under each of our three Actions. Our next work plan will be submitted for review by the NABCI Committee at the February 2021 Committee meeting.

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#### ***1. Support and connect the human dimensions efforts of NABCI partners across scales, regions, and bird taxa***

- Jessica Barnes (Subcommittee Co-Chair) presented at meetings of the Human Dimensions Committees of both the **Southeastern (SEAFWA) and Western (WAFWA) Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies** in order to liaise with these committees, share resources developed by NABCI, and identify shared priorities.
- Multiple Subcommittee members have been working as part of a national team including members of the Unified Science Team and North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Human Dimensions Working Group (HDWG) to **support the integration of human dimensions in conservation planning by the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs)**. The team is 1) assessing attention to human dimensions and the use of and demand for social science within the JVs through document analysis and interviews with all JV Coordinators; 2) developing guidance on establishing social or people-focused objectives at the JV scale; and 3) modeling the integration of social objectives with the biological objectives that have traditionally driven conservation planning and delivery, using a handful of JVs as test cases.

#### ***2. Strengthen social science capacity and facilitate the integration of social science into bird conservation by developing, supporting, and sharing human dimensions resources and trainings***

- Subcommittee members were involved in the **2020 Social Science Summit of the US Fish and Wildlife Service**, which focused on identifying strategies for mainstreaming social science within Service and developing a vision for social science integration. Jessica Barnes represented NABCI as an external partner on a panel titled *Following the Leaders: Learning from our Conservation Colleagues*.
- In response to growing interest within the bird conservation community in understanding barriers to and strategies for increasing participation in birdwatching and conservation by people of color, the Subcommittee has **arranged to co-host a webinar on ethno-racial diversity in birding and conservation on Thursday, August 27, 2020**. The webinar will be hosted in collaboration with the Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Working Group of AFWA. **SAVE THE DATE**- an announcement with details will be circulated in advance of the NABCI Committee meeting.
- Subcommittee members are currently writing up details of stories submitted through the Subcommittee's call for **Relevancy Success Stories**. Story submissions included lessons learned about how to build and maintain effective partnerships. Some of these insights have been incorporated into NABCI's *Field Guide for Developing Partnerships*. Subcommittee members have been engaged in helping draft the Field Guide and in recruiting external reviewers.
- The National Social Science Coordinator is participating in the Central Grasslands Roadmap Summit within the Research and Evaluation theme. The coordinator is contributing to developing priorities for social science strategies that ultimately will help conserve grasslands across the

Central Flyway.

**3. Share and translate the implications of social science research for bird conservation practice**

- Subcommittee members continue to be engaged in **analysis of data from the NAWMP surveys** of the public, birdwatchers, and waterfowl hunters and are working on a number of manuscripts for peer-reviewed publication. Research which focuses on relationships between ethnicity, race, and birdwatcher specialization, will be incorporated into the webinar scheduled for August 27.
- Subcommittee members (Ashley Dayer and Jessica Barnes) have continued to lead social science research and a participatory planning process in Virginia focused on building the relevance of state fish and wildlife agencies to broader constituencies. Insights from this work were shared in a **training session at the AFWA Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Academy** that discussed 1) connections to the Fish and Wildlife Relevancy Roadmap and importance of considering birders and wildlife viewers as stakeholders; 2) approaches to engaging with this group of recreationists; and 3) how other states can apply insights from Virginia to their own work. Connections made through this training session resulted in the formation of a team (including three Subcommittee members) that submitted a **pre-proposal for the 2021 AFWA Multistate Conservation Grant Program**. This project would lead to recommendations for strategies and tactics to build agency awareness and trust with wildlife viewers, better serve their interests, and strengthen their conservation behaviors, including their support of fish and wildlife agencies. The team was recently invited to submit a full proposal for funding, a portion of which would support the National Bird Conservation Social Science Coordinator position.
- Jessica Barnes continued to lead **analysis and translation of findings from a social science research project on private lands conservation** that aims to understand landowner motivations and needs in order to cultivate participation and retention in financial incentive programs and ongoing stewardship after payments end. The study was presented at the *Pathways: Human Dimensions of Wildlife Conference* and *North American Congress for Conservation Biology*. Results and feedback from state meetings will be discussed with staff in the FSA and NRCS national offices in an upcoming webconference to inform the next phase of this study. The first publication from this work was recently published in [\*Conservation Science and Practice\*](#).
- Anything about 3 billion birds and social science?