



US North American Bird Conservation Initiative

Mission: The [U.S. NABCI Committee](#) facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.

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

January 2021 Meeting Theme: *Changing Populations- Birds and People*

The [January 2021 NABCI meeting](#) set the [loss of 3 billion birds](#) within a context of human population growth and change that must inform how we approach bird conservation. Understanding the opportunities and barriers presented by human values, interests, and demographics is critical to developing and implementing effective, lasting conservation actions. Aligning bird conservation outcomes with other positive human outcomes, where possible, will help build stronger bases of support for bird conservation and leverage the capacity of broad interest groups for lasting change.

[This video](#) provides a reminder about how human dimensions can help us implement better bird conservation and explores how social science can be incorporated into the Five Game Changing Paradigms.

Relevancy Initiative

NABCI released an updated [Relevancy Toolkit](#) in January 2021; the [Shared Outcomes for Birds and People: Relevancy Toolkit 2.0](#) offers new, sourced examples of how bird habitat is linked to human health, the economic benefits of bird conservation, and the many benefits of natural areas, along with examples of how birds benefit agricultural and timber producers. Partners used messaging from this toolkit to create the 2020 [Why Care About Birds](#) campaign to help the public understand the importance of the 3 Billion Birds loss. More recently, NABCI partners used the Toolkit to produce a set of International Relevancy Brochures, short documents aimed at [governments](#), [impact investors](#), and [environmental organizations](#) in Central and South America that connect bird conservation with other human goals and outcomes.

Developing Broad, Far-Reaching Partnerships

NABCI also released its [Field Guide to Developing Partnerships](#) in January 2021, which provides tips and guidance on how to identify potential partners with common goals, reach out to new partners, and build relationships and develop trust, especially with organizations or individuals whose primary focus is not bird conservation. An [Executive Summary](#) provides bulleted suggestions on elements of partnership building, and a [partnership worksheet](#) guides professionals through the concepts in the Field Guide as they relate to specific projects. NABCI also provides examples of collaborations between bird conservation organizations and groups whose primary focus isn't birds. Project highlights include:

- A partnership between Audubon Southwest and the Western Rivers Brewers' Council to protect rivers and waters, with benefits to birds and craft breweries ([watch the video](#))
- A partnership between Audubon Connecticut and local schools and communities that connects New Haven youth with nature and conservation action ([watch the video](#))

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ)

The NABCI Committee accepted a [proposal](#) that lays out NABCI's role in DEIJ work and recommends actions, which includes developing a Community of Practice (CoP) to share insights, give and receive feedback, and hold each other accountable for commitments. As part of the foundation for this CoP, David Buggs introduced a model to inform, educate, perform, model, and lead on DEIJ issues and provided examples of how the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is implementing each of these steps ([watch presentation](#)). Staff from the Environment for the Americas highlighted more than a decade of work to engage different groups of people in bird conservation ([watch presentation](#)).

See the [full meeting notes](#) and [additional meeting materials](#).