



# Executive Summary

**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.

## February 2022 Meeting Theme: *One Health*



The February 2022 U.S. NABCI meeting set the progress and continued momentum of the loss of 3 billion birds within a context of environmental wellness and human wellness goals. One Health's holistic approach to achieving positive health outcomes recognizes the interconnections between people, animals, and our shared environment. Integrating human values, interests, and communities 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.

### Reimagining Bird Conservation

The U.S. NABCI Strategic Plan is taking on a version of the [Five Game Changing Paradigms](#) as we reimagine U.S. NABCI's role with the 3 Billion Birds momentum and Initiatives.

The USFWS's 3 Billion Bird Response acknowledges we cannot save birds by only focusing on birds. They established six teams to amplify USFWS's ongoing actions focusing on five bird taxa or habitat types and at least one major threat.

The State of the Birds group is in the process of producing the 2022 Report. This report shines a national spotlight on authoritative science on continuing declines. This 2022 Report will include the themes of the Biden Administration's [America the Beautiful plan](#). Throughout the Report, they will show how protecting birds benefit biodiversity, climate, and environmental justice outcomes that are so important to the health of our nation.

The Central Grasslands Initiative has been working at local, regional, national, levels - to achieve optimal health (and well-being) outcomes by recognizing the interconnections between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment. As well as, elevating voices and communities from Indigenous and First Nation to private landowners and partners in Mexico.





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## Reimagining Bird Conservation (continued)

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Both Partners in Flight (PIF) and the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) have been working on visioning their next priorities, how to best engage with broader constituencies, and making sure dedicated funding continues for both Coordinator positions. Bob Ford and Brad Andres will be retiring in 2022.

Our partners in Canada shared their engagement with braiding Indigenous Science into their bird conservation programs. They shared the Mid Elevation Forest Plan engaged with 12 countries, over 130 partners, and 79 organizations. Meeting partners where they are at and co-creating are invaluable to how we move forward in conservation.

The Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza situation in North America will be influential in how we handle and monitor bird species. The outbreak situation is evolving daily. Interagency coordination is key to messaging and recommendations.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act has gained huge bipartisan support and shifted to when and how from an if. Birds continue to be great messengers for the bill. [Great one pagers](#) developed with State agencies and partners that highlight shovel-ready projects from State Wildlife Action Plans. The recently passed Infrastructure Law has over 200 billion dollars in direct funding that touches fish, wildlife, and ecosystem services. The [Justice 40 Initiative](#) from the Infrastructure law focuses on ecosystem services that benefit specific communities facing environmental injustices. We must recognize all things are connected. We do not have to lead with birds, we can get where we need to be with the connections. A healthy environment includes all the wildlife and humans. NABCI has and continues to do a phenomenal job at looking at the whole picture.

## NABCI's Role in Incorporating Authentic Equity, Inclusion, and Justice in Conservation

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In 2020, the U.S. NABCI Committee accepted a [proposal](#) that laid out NABCI's role in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice work and recommended actions, which included developing a Community of Practice (CoP) to share insights, give and receive feedback, and hold each other accountable for commitments. As we reimagine bird conservation and more generally, the larger conservation field, we must take intentional steps to authentically engage with Black, Indigenous, People of Color, people with disabilities, neurodivergent folks, LGTBQA+ community, and beyond. When we lead with equity we can cultivate a sense of belonging and better reflect the communities we serve. We invite you to lean into the discomfort to unlearn and relearn. The CoP will be exploring how we can take personal steps to reflect on our role as environmentalists and how we can amplify voices and stories. We can often times focus on the issues with lack of inclusion or lack of representation in the field. We must remember to celebrate the beauty of cultures and identity groups, especially the resiliency.

**See the full meeting notes [here](#).**