



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 2024 Meeting Theme: Twenty-Five Years of Partnering for Bird Conservation

- **Anniversary Planning**

The February 2024 U.S. NABCI Meeting was an opportunity to reflect on the successes and challenges of our continued efforts to build effective partnerships for sustainable bird conservation. This year marks the 25th Anniversary of U.S. NABCI and represents a welcome benchmark for self-assessment. What has changed since 1999? We first and foremost remain a forum bringing together true conservation leaders from federal and state agencies with non-governmental organizations to chart a path forward for birds together in collaboration. U.S. NABCI also remains steadfast in our commitment to be an informational clearinghouse for the benefit of our members and the shared community beyond. Prominent areas of growth, however, have included the embrace of social science and human dimensions as an integral part of successful conservation and the elevation of diversity, equity, inclusivity, and justice as a priority focus. We are hopeful that the next twenty-five years of bird conservation will see the realized Vision of U.S. NABCI.

- **International Focus**

As an extension of our focus to remove systemic barriers to equity while promoting conservation across the entire range of migratory birds, U.S. NABCI was proud to

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introduce the STORK Grant system to our members. This system will provide funding to translate research manuscripts intended to be published in English-language scientific journals. Researchers producing valuable conservation information from Latin America and the Caribbean face additional costs when looking to publish their work, costs which can prohibit not only professional development but the transmission of critical information for U.S. breeding birds. Relatedly, U.S. NABCI was excited to be presented with information about the Bird City Network and the hemispheric reach of this important program. We also see the need to develop a central hub of information related to the development of Conservation Investment Strategies. These plans need an accessible repository where they can be easily shared, and the creation of such a database aligns well with the objectives of U.S. NABCI. These efforts typify the assertion that full annual cycle conservation is critical to recovering U.S. bird populations.

- **Human Dimensions and Social Science**

Effective conservation, even if hemispheric in reach, cannot be accomplished without human engagement. U.S. NABCI was reminded of the commitment to social science laid out in our Strategic Plan and the need to continue making investments in our human dimensions capacity for the benefit of the entire bird conservation community. This point was made especially clear by a preview of the USFWS National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation addendum focused specifically on birdwatchers. Birdwatching is clearly a universally appealing activity enjoyed by large segments of the population, and we need to engage with those segments to be successful through social science. The upcoming State of the Birds Report will attempt to integrate some of this information with the biological and scientific foundation integral to the successful uptake of that document.

- **Addressing Threats**

As planning for the next State of the Birds Report advances, we are hopeful that it will be useful in advising legislative discussion. U.S. NABCI strives to provide updated information on policy that may affect bird populations and received a briefing on a number of those current issues. Specific time was devoted to the Recovering America's Wildlife Act and similar measures, as well as the development of educational documents pertaining to them that can be used by member organizations in their own work. We also devoted additional time to coordinating a plan for addressing light pollution and bird-building collisions, highlighted by the recent Multi-Sector Summit hosted by USFWS.