

Update March 2002: North American Bird Conservation Initiative

Trinational Committee and US NABCI Committee: 9 Action Items

1. International

* International MOU - An international MOU has been developing for about 12 months, it is in the final stages of development, signatures by end of year at the Secretarial level.

* International cooperative projects - Mexico has identified 16 first phase Important Bird Areas that would provide benefits to both migratory bird priorities and Mexican endemic species. US and Canadian Committees are working to develop opportunities for partnership and project development.

2. Sustainable uplands funding source

The US NABCI Committee provides a forum for strategic discussion to develop an sustainable uplands funding source parallel to the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). Current discussions points include: modification and growth of the "Neotrop Act", revisions to NAWCA, or new legislation.

3. Partnership development

Early in their development, the US NABCI Committee agreed that a high priority was to facilitate and provide opportunity for, local partnership development, such as Joint Ventures. New partnerships are developing, such as in the Central Hardwoods and East Gulf Coastal Plain.

4. Federal agency outyear needs coordination

The "Bird Funding Group", made up of NGOs, requested that the Federal agencies develop coordinated outyear budget needs to accomplish comprehensive bird conservation. This request resulted in an effort by 14 program areas across 8 Divisions and 2 Departments to coordinate long term needs, as well as address the staff needs of bird conservation initiatives.

5. Maintain health and vitality of bird conservation initiatives

The US NABCI Committee is dedicated to continuing the autonomy of each bird conservation initiative, and to help facilitate full staffing support for those initiatives.

6. Communications

A communications strategy has been developed and accepted by the US NABCI Committee; implementation of that strategy is ongoing.

7. State roles for bird conservation

IAFWA has taken a lead to develop state leads in bird conservation using State wildlife Grants and other mechanisms as they develop.

8. Monitoring - No progress to date

9. Agricultural policy - No progress to date