



## NABCI

U  
P  
D  
A  
T  
E

U.S. NABCI Committee  
Debbie Hahn, U.S. Coordinator  
444 North Capitol Street, N.W.  
Suite 725  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
(202) 624-8917  
dhahn@iafwa.org  
<http://www.nabci-us.org>



*Advancing  
integrated bird conservation  
in North America*

## THE NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

### U.S. NABCI Committee Work Plan Update – September 2006

The U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Committee (Committee) is dedicated to helping partners across the continent meet their common bird conservation objectives by ensuring that organizations have the capacity to support and deliver integrated bird conservation on-the-ground. At the same time, the Committee is fostering increased cooperation and collaboration through partnerships that span geographic, taxonomic, organizational, and sociocultural divides.

Over the past year, the Committee has been making great strides to expand its membership, accomplish its 2006 objectives, and set new tasks for 2007 to further integrated bird conservation. Through its work plan, the Committee has focused on the following priorities:

- Advance effective and efficient bird monitoring,
- Advance the science of conservation design,
- Increase institutional support for bird conservation within state and federal agencies,
- Promote international conservation, and
- Increase the bird conservation benefits of private lands management.

For more information on the Committee, please visit <http://www.nabci-us.org>.

#### **Bird Monitoring**

The Committee established a Monitoring Subcommittee to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of monitoring strategies through increased cooperation among public and private wildlife organizations in monitoring bird populations and their habitats in North America. By working together, state and federal agencies and initiatives will be able to increase survey efficiencies, ensure more reliable inferences at biologically meaningful spatial scales, pool resources, and help to meet continuing legal and regulatory challenges in bird conservation.

The Subcommittee's interim draft of a report to guide this national and international cooperation is now available for review. Please see the U.S. NABCI website for a copy of the report and comment instructions. Visit <http://www.nabci-us.org/monitoring.html>.

#### **Conservation Design**

The Committee established a Conservation Design Subcommittee to facilitate the development of technical tools to improve the bird community's ability to perform conservation design. The Subcommittee is also working to increase knowledge and support for these practices at administrative and management levels. To achieve this goal, the Subcommittee developed the plenary session devoted to conservation design at the Fall '06 meeting of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Speakers from around the country will discuss their approaches to conservation design.

*Turn page, please*

**Conservation Design** *(continued)*

Conservation design is a process partners undertake to develop detailed blueprints for conserving and managing bird habitats on specific landscapes, based upon science and decision support technologies. Partners across the country can use these blueprints to help guide their conservation activities, not only for birds, but for other wildlife species as well. For example, conservation design information can provide valuable coarse-scale guidance for achieving broad wildlife goals outlined in State Wildlife Action Plans. American Woodcock, for instance, is serving as the umbrella species for northeastern early successional forest and shrubland habitats to conserve other high priority species such as Mourning Warbler, New England Cottontail, and Wood Turtle.

**Institutional Support**

Bird-related recreation is the fastest growing outdoor activity in the United States. To ensure the continued survival of these species, state and federal agencies must be fully engaged in managing and conserving birds, in addition to the many other wildlife species under their responsibility. To this end, the Committee is currently implementing specific strategies to work with state agencies to help augment their capabilities to contribute to and engage in integrated bird conservation, such as organizing the plenary session on conservation design at the Fall '06 AFWA meetings, as mentioned above.

**Private Lands**

The Committee established a Private Lands Subcommittee to add value to bird conservation and management on private lands. The first task of the Private Lands Subcommittee is to develop a half-day workshop on integrated bird conservation for Natural Resource Conservation Service biologists from across the nation. Other work will include engaging in the Conservation Effects Assessment Project and updating a Farm Bill user's guide once the legislation is reauthorized.

**International Bird Conservation**

The U.S., Canadian, and Mexican members of the Trilateral NABCI Committee are working jointly to help partners develop trilateral projects and advance regional alliances in Mexico — goals cited in the NABCI Declaration of Intent signed by all three countries. Mexican partners, working with the three NABCI national coordinators, have developed draft proposals from critical sites, including Marismas, Chiapas, Janos, Laguna Madre, and the Yucatán. Partners used the sites' bird lists to develop maps that delineate these birds' migratory destinations in the U.S. and Canada. Joint Ventures in the U.S. and Canada are now planning the development of complementary proposals. Workshops will be held in fall 2006 and winter 2007 to bring together Mexican, U.S., and Canadian partners to further these efforts.

**New Committee Members**

The Committee welcomes the following new members: Bureau of Land Management and Department of Defense.

**U.S. NABCI Committee Members**

**Bruce McCloskey**, Chair, Colorado Division of Wildlife  
for the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

**Sally Benjamin**, Farm Service Agency

**Richard Bishop**, retired, for the North American  
Waterfowl Management Plan

**Peter Boice**, Department of Defense

**Greg Butcher**, National Audubon Society

**Breck Carmichael**, South Carolina Department of Natural  
Resources, for the Resident Game Bird Working Group

**Don Childress**, Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks  
for the National Flyway Council

**Dwight Fielder**, Bureau of Land Management

**Randy Gray**, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Dale Hall**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**Sue Haseltine**, U.S. Geological Survey

**Catherine Hickey**, Point Reyes Bird Observatory,  
for the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

**Jim Kushlan**, for Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

**Dave Mehlman**, The Nature Conservancy

**Val Mezainis**, USDA Forest Service

**Gary Myers**, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
for Partners in Flight

**Kirk Nelson**, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission  
for the Association of Joint Venture  
Management Boards

**David Pashley**, American Bird Conservancy

**Duane Shroufe**, Arizona Game and Fish Department  
for the Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group

**Steve Williams**, Wildlife Management Institute

**Scott Yaich**, Ducks Unlimited, Inc.