



Questions and Answers

The US Communications Working Group of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) developed an 8-page Q&A document for people seeking answers to specific questions regarding NABCI and how it relates to other bird conservation initiatives, organizations, and programs. This document is an abbreviated version of the Q&A.

Please visit the US NABCI web site at <http://www.nabci-us.org> to see the rest of this document and to get more information about NABCI and integrated bird conservation.

1. What is the North American Bird Conservation Initiative?

NABCI is a vision for the future of bird conservation in North America. It's an exciting vision of people in the United States, Canada, and Mexico working in partnership to better coordinate, and when necessary, integrate their efforts to conserve bird populations and the landscapes upon which they depend. It's a vision of people taking on the challenge of working across geopolitical borders, across landscapes, across taxa-specific bird initiatives, across programmatic and organizational divides, and across social and cultural boundaries. NABCI is about people joining forces across all of these divisions to secure the future for North America's wild birds.

The US NABCI Vision: Populations and habitats of North America's birds are protected, restored, and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional, state, and local levels, guided by sound science and effective management.

The US NABCI Goal: To deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.

NABCI is a forum for:

- Initiating and broadening partnerships for bird conservation across the continent;
- Increasing funding for conserving birds in the United States, Mexico, and Canada and wherever else they may occur during their life cycles;
- Making partnerships and resources more effective and efficient by fostering integrated bird conservation;
- Building on existing structures for delivering conservation, such as Joint Ventures, and stimulating new Joint Venture-like structures and mechanisms as appropriate;

- Developing a common biological framework for conservation planning, design, and delivery;
- Working together through the challenges presented by conserving birds on a landscape scale; and
- Fostering greater cooperation among the nations and peoples of the continent.

NABCI's overall approach is to provide these services by strengthening and facilitating coordination among existing partnerships and initiatives, rather than creating new, redundant structures for conservation delivery.

2. Why was NABCI started?

The concept of NABCI grew out of the realization among bird conservation leaders that, despite our best efforts, bird populations in North America still face tremendous threats to their long-term health. Only through a coordinated, integrated approach among the many segments of the bird conservation community can these numerous threats be overcome.

The last two decades of the 20th century experienced an unprecedented development of proactive, partnership-based bird conservation initiatives: The North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, US Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas. In the United States, NABCI evolved out of a recognition among conservationists of the value of coordinating and integrating the conservation planning, implementation, and evaluation efforts of these initiatives to achieve a comprehensive, landscape-oriented approach to conservation.

The phenomenal growth in non-consumptive bird recreation and expanding grassroots support for comprehensive bird conservation gave added impetus to the development of the cooperative approach embodied in NABCI.

3. Who's in charge of NABCI?

No single individual or entity has top-down authority over NABCI and its participants. NABCI is an integrated approach, which many in the conservation community voluntarily espouse, to protect and restore bird populations for future generations. To the degree that there is a NABCI "organization," it is designed to serve as a forum for furthering this approach.

The following entities exist in the United States:

- US NABCI Committee
- Subcommittees and Working Groups
- National Coordinator

In addition, there is a Trilateral NABCI Committee consisting of three representatives each from the United States, Canada, and Mexico. These individuals represent their national committees in consideration of issues that are appropriately addressed at a trilateral level.