

SUMMARY AND HIGHLIGHTS
NABCI FEDERAL AGENCY SUBCOMMITTEE
JULY 16, 2003

US FOREST SERVICE
WASHINGTON DC

The Federal Agency Subcommittee for NABCI met July 16, 2003 at the US Forest Service office at Franklin Court, Washington DC. Nine people were in attendance, representing 5 agencies, as follows: Antionette Condo (State Dept.), Jack Capp, Keith Manasco, Jennifer Peterson (US Forest Service), Charlie Rewa (Natural Resource Conservation Service), Bob Ford, Guy Foulks (US Fish and Wildlife Service), Rick Kearny, Ken Williams (USGS).

In the text below, action items are in bold.

Federal capacity for bird conservation -

The Wildlife Management Institute's (WMI) Priority Bird Funding workshop in January 2003 generated 5 broad priorities; these were the 1) North American Wetlands Conservation Act, 2) Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, 3) State Wildlife grants, 4) Joint Ventures, and 5) science support. Among those priorities was the need to increase the capacity for science support across Federal and State Agencies. Although potential budget figures were proposed for other priority action items in the WMI workshop, the outyear funding needs projection was not estimated for science support, and that NGOs have requested a better definition of this function and an outyear budget needs from Federal agencies.

As a result, **the Federal Agencies agreed to respond to this NGO request and start the process of better defining the function and needs of monitoring and to estimate a Federal outyear program and funding need back to this Subcommittee, based on work developed by the US NABCI Committee's Monitoring Working Group (Jon Bart).**

Mexico Regional Alliances (Joint Ventures) -

A series of regional workshops was held in Mexico in early 2003. Workshop participants expressed a strong interest in developing regional partnerships, or regional alliances, for conservation work. These Regional Alliances would be based upon the successful experiences of the Joint ventures in the US and Canada. However, in all cases the need for some operative base funds was a constant concern to ensure keeping the momentum, securing continuity and to help individual stakeholders and regional leaders to begin to work on a completely different approach for planning and implementation.

The goals of these alliances are:

To develop and establish in the next 12 - 14 months, 4 formal Regional Alliances for the conservation of all birds and habitats in each of the NABCI pilot sites.

To ensure that the local leaders, stakeholders and other participants will have proper resources, including experience and technical assistance to support all the activities necessary to establish the Regional Alliances for bird and bird habitat conservation according to the NABCI principles.

If any Federal Agencies have interest or capacity to promote these alliances, please contact Bob Ford, 703-358-1935 or Robert_P_Ford@fws.gov.

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act - 2003 update

Guy Foulks with the US FWS provided an overview of Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act activities over the past few weeks. Proposals this year have been received and ranked by expert review teams.

Major points were:

- X \$3 million again appropriated for FY2003
- ? Received 150 proposals from United States, Latin America and Caribbean.
- ? Total request \$11.6 million, matched by \$43.1 million.
- ? Reviewed proposals in two teams: one for Latin American countries, and one for the US
- ? Reviewers came from Bird Habitat Conservation, International Conservation, Migratory Bird Management, and Refuges of the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- ? On line proposal review was operational

Staff recommend funding 38 proposals for \$2,891,085 (full amount of available funds)

- ? 75% of the funding to Latin America, 25% to the U.S.
- ? 21 projects in Latin America, 11 in the U.S., and 6 in both. 19 countries are represented

USFWS Migratory Bird Strategic Plan

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is developing a Strategic Plan for their Migratory Bird Program. A draft plan (discussed at the last Federal Agency Subcommittee meeting) is under internal review, but should be available to partners by mid-August 2003. (LATE NOTE: The

USFWS Strategic Plan is now available for review at the following site - <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/mbstratplan/mbstratplan.htm>).

Agricultural Policy/Private lands incentives

Jack Capp was asked by the NABCI staff to put together a small working group to discuss opportunities to better incorporate bird conservation actions, based on bird conservation initiative plans and objectives, into Federal agricultural and private lands incentive programs. If you would like to participate, contact, Jack Capp. It is one of the nine goals of the US NABCI Committee to advance bird conservation as part of US agriculture.

All Bird Bulletin

The “All Bird Bulletin” is an electronic newsletter produced by the US NABCI Communications group and is distributed about every 3 months. Any items related to bird conservation that Federal Agencies would like to include will be considered. If you would like to submit a news item, please contact Bob Ford (Robert_P_Ford@fws.gov).

WHSRN meeting in Chile

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network is holding a meeting in conjunction with the Neotropical Ornithological Congress in Chile in October, and needs funding to assist with the meeting. For more information, contact, Antionette Condo (condoaj@state.gov). For general information about the ornithological congress in Chile, contact Herb Raffaele (herb-raffaele@fws.gov).

Next Meeting date

The next meeting date and location will be between the IAFWA meetings (Sept 8 - 14) and late October. Meeting date and location will be announced by early September.

Highlights and Summary compiled by Jack Capp and Bob Ford