

The role of the U.S. North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Committee (Committee) is to provide a forum to enhance communication and collaboration among conservation partners, the bird conservation initiatives, and the bird conservation community so that we may work more effectively and increase resources for national bird conservation needs.

At the January 2005 meeting, the U.S. NABCI Committee agreed to a 3 to 5 year vision in order to forge a more assertive, pro-active, and energetic conservation agenda. The Committee identified 6 objectives for 2005 and determined that the first 2 objectives are highest priority in 2005, the third objective is of moderate priority, and the fourth, fifth, and sixth objectives are lowest priority. Committee

U.S. NABCI COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN UPDATE JULY 2005



Integrating monitoring programs with management decisions is an important element of the NABCI Committee's goal setting.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

members volunteered to provide leadership to implement each annual objective identified below and in support of the overall vision.

I. Communications and Public Support

The U.S. NABCI Communications Working Group is developing a 3 to 5 year strategy to identify critical gaps in communication and address priority NABCI communication needs. The strategy will include specific venues to communicate NABCI priorities to State and Federal wildlife administrators. The Working Group should present the draft strategy at the August 2005 Committee meeting, with a final draft and substantial implementation accomplished by the January 2006 Committee meeting.

II. Monitoring

A new U.S. NABCI Monitoring Subcommittee has been formed to provide technical support to the Committee and to produce a framework document that will strengthen Federal, State, NGO, and international collaboration for effective monitoring of bird populations and pertinent environmental conditions. The Subcommittee is developing consistent methods that integrate monitoring into conservation and management decisions.

III. Conservation Design

The Committee requested a 3-hour session at their next meeting so that they can better understand the issues associated with Conservation Design work, and their role, if any, in advancing that work. The Committee hopes to understand the different approaches to Conservation Design used by different Joint Ventures and other partners, and to develop a common understanding about terms and expectations from the process.

IV. Institutionalize Bird Interests

In coordination with the Communications Working Group and the Federal Agency Subcommittee, the Committee will begin implementing a targeted strategy to better institutionalize integrated bird management and conservation objectives of bird initiative plans into State and Federal agencies. The Working Group and Subcommittee will begin to examine mandates and missions of various agencies and look for opportunities for agencies to collaborate on important projects.

**V. Bird Conservation
Land Management
Recommendations**

The Committee will help facilitate the distribution of technical assistance brochures in each Bird Conservation Region based on the work of the NRCS. The brochures, written and published by the NRCS and the American Bird Conservancy, will be aimed at NRCS agents and others who work with farmers and ranchers throughout the country. The brochures will specifically address guidance on agricultural practices that will benefit birds.

VI. International

On May 17, 2005, in commemoration of the 12th International Migratory Bird Day, Interior Secretary Gale Norton signed the NABCI Declaration of Intent with Canada and Mexico to strengthen bird habitat conservation throughout the continent. This document will serve as a public expression of support for voluntary tri-national cooperation to advance

**U.S. NABCI COMMITTEE
MEMBERS**

Matt Hogan, Chair, for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Bruce McCloskey, Colorado Department of Wildlife, for the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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

Ellie Cohen, Point Reyes Bird Observatory, for the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan

Bob Ellis, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, for the National Flyway Council

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

Duane Shroufe, Arizona, for the Migratory Shore/Uplands Game Birds Working Group

Val Mezanis, USDA Forest Service, representing federal agencies

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

Jim Kushlan, for the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

David Pashley, American Bird Conservancy, representing nongovernmental organizations

Steve Williams, representing Wildlife Management Institute

Scott Yaich, representing Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

comprehensive bird conservation in North America. The Declaration formalizes the process for carrying out integrated bird conservation and can be used to increase the profile and recognition of joint venture and other partnerships implementing Partners In Flight's Continental Landbird Conservation Plan, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and regional plans for game species.

To implement the declaration, NABCI participants are developing an Action Plan around five goals focused on developing critical habitat projects and regional alliances (Joint Ventures) in Mexico, securing sustainable new funding, developing needed decision support tools, strategically engaging other countries, and securing the commitment of other partners.