

Over the past 10 years, the Committee has partnered with national committees in Canada and Mexico to foster increased tri-national cooperation and collaboration, build relationships, develop tools, and promote projects that span geographic, taxonomic, organizational, and socio-cultural divides.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS IN TRI-NATIONAL COLLABORATION

✓ **Developed Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) to organize and facilitate integrated bird conservation.** A tri-national mapping team developed a BCR map to systematically apportion the North American continent into ecologically distinct regions with similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues. The success of the BCRs is evidenced by the many initiatives, organizations, and programs that use them for biological planning, conservation design and program implementation, including resident game bird initiatives and NRCS' Conservation Effects Assessment Project.

✓ **Created and facilitated an international bird conservation agreement.** In 2005, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and Environmental Secretary and Minister

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

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

in Mexico and Canada signed the NABCI Declaration of Intent to promote a continental approach to conserve North America's birds and their habitats.

✓ **Promoted five continentally important proposals in Mexico.** Over the last 20 years, the number of bird biologists and conservation professionals in Mexico has been increasing. This expanded bird conservation community has enabled the development of Mexican regional

alliances and continentally important proposals that link priority sites for shared bird species across the three countries – a priority of NABCI. Since 2003, these Joint Venture-like partnerships and continentally important proposals have been developed to varying degrees in the five project areas with support from NABCI.

#### INCREASING COMMON GROUND: A LEGACY AND A FUTURE

Increased urbanization, increasing demands for grain, and increasing climate change concerns have conservationists on alert to the management implications of these and related threats to bird conservation. Today, there is tremendous opportunity and urgency to improve all aspects of bird conservation in the U.S. and across North America, including biological planning, conservation design, conservation delivery, monitoring and research. The success of NABCI will endure as long as the bird conservation community continues to advance an integrated bird conservation approach – one that is grounded in sound science and landscape-level, partnership-driven delivery across the continent.



Barn owl

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#### U.S. NABCI Committee Members

- American Bird Conservancy
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Association of Joint Venture Management Boards
- Bureau of Land Management
- Department of Defense
- Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
- Farm Service Agency
- Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group
- National Audubon Society
- National Flyway Council
- National Park Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- North American Waterfowl Management Plan
- Partners in Flight
- Resident Game Bird Working Group
- The Nature Conservancy
- USDA Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
- Waterbird Conservation for the Americas
- Wildlife Management Institute



# A DECADE OF INTEGRATING BIRD CONSERVATION

*Finding Common Ground through the North American Bird Conservation Initiative*



#### FLOCKING TOGETHER: USHERING IN A NEW ERA OF BIRD CONSERVATION

In the late 20th century, bird conservation in the United States experienced a profound evolution. Once focused on individual species or suites of game birds and endangered species, the bird conservation community began expanding its reach and integrating efforts across international and regional landscapes to provide the greatest benefits for all species of concern.

Conservationists soon realized that partnerships were critical to every aspect of bird conservation. Given limited resources and the rapid pace of habitat loss and deterioration, partners in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico agreed that they needed to apply their collective effort, intelligence, and resources to successfully secure a future for North America's birds.

## A DECADE OF GROWTH: VISIONARY LEADERSHIP FOR U.S. BIRD CONSERVATION

In October 1999, the U.S. NABCI Committee (Committee) met for the first time in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, with nine conservation leaders in attendance including three directors of state wildlife agencies and the director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Committee members strive to provide visionary leadership and implement policy and funding changes to address the needs of all bird species.



Wood duck

Over the past decade, the Committee's strategy has been to bring state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) together to promote integrated bird conservation. It has worked to advance coordination and facilitate learning across the conservation community on various aspects of this topic, including conservation design, monitoring, private land conservation, and international cooperation. It has also motivated organizations to collaborate on increasing and allocating resources in mutually beneficial ways.

### U.S. NABCI COMMITTEE ADVANCEMENTS

#### ORGANIZATIONAL INNOVATION & COORDINATION

✓ Spread integrated bird conservation vision and goal. Many public agencies, organizations, and partnerships have adopted the NABCI vision and goal for integrated bird conservation including state-level bird conservation initiatives and bird habitat joint ventures across the U.S. and Canada.

✓ Promoted a cultural shift to integrated bird conservation. The creation of the Committee represented a cultural shift toward a more collaborative bird conservation community. The Committee

continues to encourage this paradigm change, which is evidenced by the diverse representation of Committee members, an increase in state and federal agency bird biologists, a breadth of bird working groups of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Bird Conservation Committee, and the growth and expansion of the bird habitat joint ventures in the U.S. and Canada.

✓ Promoted coordination among the bird conservation initiatives. The Committee initiated and promoted formal gatherings and discussions among the national and international bird conservation initiatives. These groups work collaboratively on the shared issues of integrated bird conservation.

✓ Facilitated collaboration among diverse public and private agencies. The Committee enables collaboration among state and federal agencies and NGOs to advance integrated bird conservation through joint implementation of policies and actions.

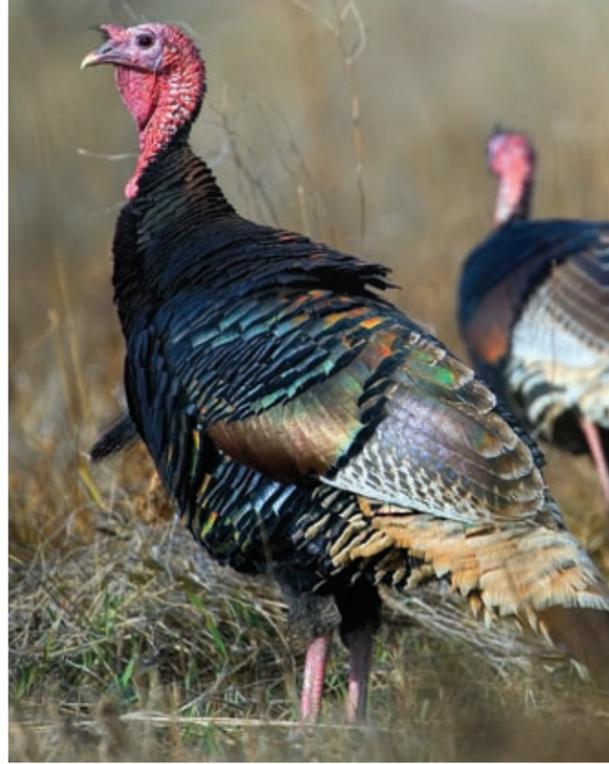
#### POLICY & FUNDING

✓ Influenced agency policies on issues important for advancing bird conservation. Knowledge gained at Committee meetings influences the stances member agencies and organizations take on important state and national policies and strategies for birds. For example, the FWS Director shared ideas with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) leadership about the importance of using bird conservation design tools and products to help focus habitat

conservation on private lands at a regional scale.

✓ Encouraged NGOs to speak with one voice on funding priorities. The Bird Conservation Funding Coalition (BCFC), which grew out of the Committee's NGO

Subcommittee, has enabled NGOs to speak with one voice in promoting common funding messages on Capitol Hill. Over the last four years, BCFC's advocacy work has helped maintain steady or increased funding levels for key programs. BCFC has advocated for the following funding priorities: State Wildlife Grants, science support funding for the FWS's Division of Migratory Bird Management, Joint Ventures, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the Neotropical Migratory



Wild turkey

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addresses critical issues across the bird conservation initiatives.

### BEYOND BORDERS: AN INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Of the 700 bird species that occur regularly in the continental U.S., most are migratory and many have continental — even hemispheric — geographic ranges. For U.S. bird conservation efforts to be successful, they must also address the needs and habitats of these birds beyond our borders.



Cerulean warbler

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Bird Conservation Act, FWS's Wildlife Without Borders Program, the Forest Service's International Program, and the Breeding Bird Survey.

#### REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS

✓ Produced *Opportunities for Improving Avian Monitoring* to advance coordinated bird monitoring. The report presents a set of national bird monitoring issues and needs agreed upon by diverse partners. The Committee and Monitoring Subcommittee have promoted a shift to increase the understanding of the importance of monitoring to management decisions and supported regional coordinated monitoring partnerships such as the Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership.

✓ Produced bimonthly newsletter, *The All-Bird Bulletin*. To promote the vision and work of NABCI in the U.S., the Committee established a newsletter that

addresses critical issues across the bird conservation initiatives.

Significant events mark the transformation from a traditional conservation focus to a comprehensive, partnership-based effort to conserve habitat across regional landscapes for all bird species of concern.

<b>1952</b>	Formation of Flyway Councils
<b>1973</b>	Endangered Species Act
<b>1986</b>	North American Waterfowl Management Plan Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
<b>1989</b>	North American Wetlands Conservation Act
<b>Late 1980s</b>	Joint Ventures Created
<b>1990</b>	Partners in Flight
<b>1996</b>	U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan
<b>1998</b>	North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan (now, Waterbird Conservation for the Americas) NABCI I Meeting in Puebla, Mexico
<b>1999</b>	U.S. NABCI Committee Established Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) Developed
<b>2000</b>	Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Start of the Resident Game Bird Conservation Plans
<b>2002</b>	FWS Director's Order 146 Defining Joint Ventures Role for All Bird Conservation Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
<b>2003</b>	Start of State-level Bird Conservation Initiatives
<b>2004</b>	Bird Conservation Funding Coalition
<b>2005</b>	State Wildlife Action Plans Completed
<b>2006</b>	Nongame Technical Sections in the Flyways Created