

Partners in Flight

Helping Species at Risk | Keeping Common Birds Common
Voluntary Partnerships for Birds, Habitats, and People



Partners in Flight Steering Committee Action Brief Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies Conference September 2020

Partners in Flight's 30th anniversary

Partners in Flight (PIF) is a broad collaboration among individuals and organizations working to meet landbird conservation needs at multiple scales including implementation of the 2016 Conservation Plan.



Our 30th anniversary offers us a unique platform to engage more people in bird conservation through our international network; our objective is to provide opportunities to build unparalleled collaboration that leads to a coordinated response to bring back 3 billion birds and increase the awareness about the importance of birds through the World Migratory Bird Day theme “Birds Connect our World”. Below are a few of the concrete steps we are taking this year to launch our next 30 years.

Partners in Flight is **working to secure resources for two new Conservation Delivery Specialist positions** to provide increased capacity to support coordinated large-scale conservation efforts, especially with state wildlife agencies. Delivery Specialists will take advantage of extensive partnership networks through PIF and NABCI to integrate existing **state wildlife action plan (SWAP) implementation with regional bird conservation plans and investment strategies**. Multi-state coordination will facilitate targeted and efficient use of resources, especially if RAWA funding is obtained soon. The work will be facilitated by PIF's Western and Eastern Working Groups (WWG and EWG) in collaboration with multi-state and international partnerships such as Joint Ventures and Flyways.

The **Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' resolution** to “. . .recognize the seriousness and urgency of this loss of bird abundance across North America, and commits to joining in the response by a unified wildlife conservation community to achieve healthy populations of all bird species . . .” is fully embraced by Partners in Flight as we continue to work with the AFWA Bird Conservation Committee and **Nongame Tech Sections of Flyway Councils** toward collaborative opportunities for bird conservation.

The **Partners in Flight International Science Committee** has been instrumental in developing the Road to Recovery, an effort to identify gaps in knowledge about significant limiting factors for key species' populations.



Partners in Flight's Western Working Group has been vital to recent grasslands discussions – assisting Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and others with developing the **Grasslands Summit, coordinating the strategy and deployment of MOTUS towers in grasslands, and providing input and coordination of science and conservation actions with trilateral collaboration.**

The **Partners in Flight Western Working Group** will hold its autumn 2020 meeting as three or four half-day Zoom sessions from 12 to 4pm Pacific Time. **The dates are Oct 28th, November 10th, November 12th, and November 19th.** Continuing the important themes from the spring meeting, we will provide updates on the expansion of the MOTUS network in the west, advance our response to the “3 billion birds” paper, discuss our 7 Simple Actions challenge, and the interplay of our conservation actions under the NABCI 5 game-changers. We will also continue collaborative efforts with states through the Pacific Flyway NTC, and include a session on grasslands as a follow-up to this summer's grasslands summit.

The **Conservation Investment Strategy** for the Central and South American Highlands, and for Mexico and Central America's Gulf Caribbean Slope is in the next phase of development. Several of North America's highest priority bird species occupy these geographies during winter months. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service recently **awarded members of PIF's Eastern Working Group a Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grant** to build international partnerships and advance collaborative conservation planning and action in these key areas.

The **Eastern Working Group virtual fall meeting** will be October 6 and 8 from 9-11 am Eastern Time, and October 13 and 15 from 1-3 pm Eastern. **The meeting's theme is Bringing Birds Back: Restoring Our Eastern Avifauna. The opening plenary session on Oct. 6 will celebrate the PIF 30th Anniversary and look ahead at opportunities for continued success over the next 30 years.** Plenary talks on innovative bird conservation approaches will catalyze creative ideas for future work. Each of the EWG Focal Teams (Science Delivery, Data Management, and Full Annual Cycle Conservation) will lead one of the other three sessions, exploring their collaborative and impactful work and gathering input on additional priorities. Meeting details are on the PIF EWG webpage.

The **Partners in Flight Steering Committee** will host a **virtual visioning session** this winter to brainstorm and strategize **Partners in Flight's** role for the next 30 years of international bird conservation. Details are under development and announcements will be distributed.

The **Partners in Flight web site (partnersinflight.org)** has posted news posts for our 30th anniversary, including a series on **ecological connectivity** and news posts on Partners in Flight origins and impacts over 30 years.

Partners in Flight remains an active voice for bird conservation in the conservation community and beyond. Join us!

- a. PIF is instrumental in developing peer-reviewed publications and hosts major symposia at scientific conferences, such as the full day symposium at The Wildlife Society's 2018 meeting and the upcoming American Ornithological Society meeting.
- b. The PIF website (partnersinflight.org) provides conservation resources, news, and access to conservation tools for land managers, biologists, citizen scientists, educators, community organizers and others.
- c. The PIF Facebook page provides opportunities for partners to interact and share stories for bird conservation.
- d. PIF has updated its use of email listserves for disseminating information to partners; contact PIF to be added to the PIFCOMMUNITY list for updates 2 – 4 times a month.

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