

**2017-2018 Work Plan for the U.S. NABCI Committee**

*Within the framework of the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan*

**What This Document Is**: 1-2 year Work Plan built into the framework of the NABCI Strategic Plan. Actions and tasks listed here represent what NABCI has committed to undertaking over the next few years, either through its Subcommittees, its Coordinator, ad hoc groups, or other partnerships. While the NABCI Strategic Plan represents our 2017-2021 goals, the work plan spans a shorter time frame and will be updated periodically to reflect progress made towards goals, next steps, and emerging issues.

**Process of Building This Document**: In February 2017, the NABCI Committee approved the high-level Goals, Subgoals, and Actions (marked with lower-case letters under each Subgoal) of a five-year Strategic Plan. Guided by these Goals, Subgoals, and Actions, and in a parallel process, each NABCI Subcommittee developed a 1-2 year Work Plan. The Work Plans of most Subcommittees were formally approved at the February 2017 NABCI meeting. In March and April of 2017, the NABCI Coordinator, with input from the Subcommittee Chairs and Co-Chairs, incorporated each Subcommittee’s high-level actions and tasks into this Work Plan. The Coordinator also incorporated additional tasks, including: 1) high-level elements of the NABCI Coordinator’s work plan that support NABCI’s goals; 2) elements from NABCI’s 2014-2016 Work Plan that require follow-up; 3) Additional projects/tasks agreed on at NABCI meetings that do not fall within a specific Subcommittee’s jurisdiction. NABCI Committee members were given 7 weeks to review this Plan with their organizations or partnerships in April-June 2017, and the Coordinator considered and incorporated feedback, where appropriate. The amended plan was distributed to NABCI Committee members on 29 June 2017 and Committee members had until 17 July to submit any additional comments; after this date, the Work Plan was considered finalized.

**Guiding NABCI Into the Future**: NABCI has committed to the actions and tasks listed in this document, either through approval of these actions as part of Subcommittee work plans, votes during NABCI Committee meetings, the formation of ad hoc working groups, or approval of the 2014-2016 NABCI Work Plan. However, this Work Plan should be a living document and may be modified to reflect necessary follow up to current tasks, as well as additional tasks to accommodate emerging issues and needs.

*If you would like to see NABCI consider additional actions/tasks that will help us achieve our stated goals,* please consider whether these tasks fall within the purview of a specific subcommittee. If so, contact the Chair and Co-Chair of that Subcommittee (contact information can be found on each [Subcommittee’s page](http://nabci-us.org/how-we-work/)) and discuss whether they might consider incorporating your suggestion into their work plan in the future. If your suggestion does not fall within one of our Subcommittees, please contact [your NABCI representative](http://nabci-us.org/committee/membership/) to ask whether they might bring your suggestion forward to the Coordinator, the Executive Council, or the NABCI Committee for discussion.

**Work Plan Oversight**: The US NABCI Coordinator will keep track of anticipated completion dates and broad project milestones and solicit regular feedback from Subcommittees and others on Work Plan progress. This progress will be reported annually to the NABCI Committee.

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**Vision:** Healthy and abundant populations of North American birds are valued by future generations and sustained by habitats that benefit birds and people.

**Mission**: The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates collaborative partnerships that advance biological, social, and scientific priorities for North American bird conservation.

**Value proposition:** The U.S. NABCI Committee facilitates advancements in bird conservation and works to encompass the full-life-cycle needs of resident and migratory birds. Its work is rooted in both natural and social sciences, focused on the scale of continental bird conservation initiatives and Joint Ventures, and advanced by partnerships that leverage resources and expertise.

The U.S. NABCI Committee creates a unique forum for federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations to address shared bird conservation challenges and priorities. Its strength lies in its ability to directly engage conservation leaders and to collaboratively develop and express a collective voice that promotes strategic bird conservation.

Individuals who serve on the U.S. NABCI Committee build working relationships across the bird conservation community, contributing their expertise and insights to mutually beneficial goals. Collaborative efforts are aimed at the US and tri-national bird conservation communities and inform and highlight new frontiers in bird conservation.

Items assigned to subcommittees are color coded:

International Private and Working Lands Communications State of the Birds

Monitoring Human Dimensions Legislative and Policy Executive Council

Coordinator

*Subcommittee listed first after an action or task has primary responsibility for ensuring task progress and completion; additional subcommittees listed will collaborate on the task.*

**Goal I: Maintain a well-coordinated bird conservation community to achieve strategic conservation across the Western Hemisphere.**

*Subgoal 1. Support, develop, integrate, and promote priorities of regional, national, and international bird conservation partnerships.*

a. Work collaboratively across countries to support partnership development that will advance full annual cycle conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.

1. Support PIF VI conference by engaging international shorebird, waterbird, waterfowl, and nontraditional communities [International]
2. Support Western Hemisphere grassland initiatives where the US NABCI can add value, prioritizing a trilateral focus [International]
3. Collaborate with NABCI Canada, NABCI Mexico, and the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management to finalize and support implementation of a North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation

 [International/ Monitoring]

1. Work with Coordinators of NABCI Canada and Mexico to support redevelopment of NABCI Canada Committee and identify shared priorities for collaboration between countries [Coordinator]

b. Identify and support common priorities among Joint Ventures and between Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships.

* 1. Develop NABCI Priorities document to highlight highest-priority issues in bird conservation and communicate document to leadership, current NABCI partners, and potential partners [Coordinator /Priorities Team/ Communications]
	2. Work with Joint Ventures to coordinate a series of regional workshops with Farm Service Agency staff to explore opportunities for partnership [Private and Working Lands]

c. Facilitate and promote the development of novel partnerships between conservation and non-traditional organizations (e.g., industry, urban planning associations, etc.) that provide new resources and avenues for addressing bird conservation priorities.

1. Document recent or current projects with non-traditional partners internationally and use those examples to suggest and support new activities that benefit bird conservation and people [International]
2. Develop partnerships with agricultural specialty groups, such as cattleman’s associations, to identify common priorities and opportunities to collaborate to achieve shared goals on private lands [Private and Working Lands]
3. Work with NABCI Subcommittees, Committee members, BCPPs, and JVs to identify and reach out to additional non-traditional bird conservation partners whose goals align with bird conservation [All]

d. Maintain an effective US NABCI Committee.

1. Ensure that biannual NABCI meetings are engaging, well-attended, and effective in advancing priority work as identified in the NABCI strategic plan [Coordinator /Executive Council]
2. Committee members engage between meetings through participation on NABCI’s subcommittees, ad hoc working groups, or projects and communicate NABCI accomplishments and needs to their constituents [NABCI Committee members]
3. Ensure sufficient resources for NABCI coordination and projects through financial support of NABCI coordinator and other NABCI needs, as appropriate [NABCI Committee members]
4. Support collaboration and communication between NABCI Subcommittees [Coordinator]

*Subgoal 2. Strengthen communication within the bird conservation community.*

a. Facilitate effective development, promotion, distribution, and communication of NABCI products to target audiences.

1. Produce bi-monthly All-Bird Bulletin blog posts on themes currently relevant to bird conservation [Communications]
2. Regularly update NABCI website with news, events, resources, and NABCI documents [Communications]
3. Develop template to provide recognizable presentation theme for NABCI products [Communications]

b. Develop and maintain strong communication channels between the NABCI Committee members and the broader NABCI partnership.

1. Create and distribute detailed NABCI meeting notes and Executive Summary to NABCI Committee and community [NABCI Coordinator and Committee]
2. Distribute regular “NABCI News” reports to NABCI Committee and community providing Subcommittee opportunities and updates, as well as other news of interest to the bird conservation community [Coordinator]

c. Recognize leadership within the bird conservation community.

1. Annually recruit nominations and present the Gary T. Myers Bird Conservation Award to an individual that has shown exceptional accomplishments or leadership in bird conservation [ad hoc Awards Subcommittee]

**Goal II: Facilitate science-based conservation efforts that support healthy bird populations**

*Subgoal 1.**Promote and advance the use of ecological and social science in design and evaluation of bird conservation practices.*

a.Promote and advance bird monitoring that is integrated into strategic habitat conservation.

1. Develop a document that emphasizes the links between science and management and explores options for integrating monitoring into bird conservation [Monitoring]
2. Support efforts for data integration to address challenges of data collected across different spatial and temporal scales [Monitoring]
3. Clarify the unique niches and capabilities of major avian databases, including eBird, Avian Knowledge Network, and Avian Conservation Assessment Database [Monitoring]
4. Using examples from regional initiatives, provide guidance on development and implementation of outcome-based monitoring programs based on citizen science on private and working lands [Monitoring/Private and Working Lands]

b. Enable bird conservation partners to integratehuman dimensionsscience and tools into bird conservation efforts.

1. Develop “Human Dimensions” 1-page document to help bird conservation researchers, practitioners, and leadership understand social science and its application for bird conservation [Human Dimensions /Communications]
2. Support the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) human dimensions efforts, including helping NABCI partners understand how to apply the results of NAWMP hunter/viewer/public survey to bird conservation work Human Dimensions]
3. Strengthen the social science capacity for bird organizations through sharing relevant research and tools and offering trainings and/or workshops [Human Dimensions]
4. Create guidance for the bird conservation community on how to incorporate human dimensions into bird conservation, including examples of how human dimensions has successfully been used to advance bird conservation [Human Dimensions/ Private and Working Lands]

c. Support efforts to coordinate and unify science capacity among national bird conservation partnerships to more effectively address shared ecological science challenges and needs.

1. Monitor the progress of the Transitional Unified Science Team (TrUST), provide a forum for the TrUST to communicate needs, and respond to requests for support as appropriate [Monitoring?]
	1. Monitor and support efforts to identify common needs to measure and evaluate net landscape change between the bird conservation and broader communities [Monitoring]

d. Develop and promote effective communications that identify national and international bird conservation needs and inform actions to advance bird conservation.

1. Produce State of the Birds reports that synthesize science and align with key policy programs or initiatives to provide an effective communication tool to encourage science-based conservation policy [State of the Birds]

e. Promote and advance bird conservation objectives on both private and public lands.

1. Develop Guide to the 2018 Farm Bill and distribute to partners [Private and Working Lands/Communications/ Human Dimensions]
2. Assist NRCS in building and maintaining field delivery capacity by expanding the number of partner biologists in underrepresented, high-priority regions [Private and Working Lands]
3. Engage land trusts, USFS State and Private Forestry, State Forest Agencies, Partners for Conservation, USFWS Partners Program, the Bureau of Land Management, and game- and conservation-focused NGOs with strong private lands programs to identify opportunities to collaborate [Private and Working Lands]
4. Consider how NABCI can advance collaborative bird conservation on public lands, as recommended in 2012 State of the Birds: Public Lands report

**Goal III: Inform and support effective policy to advance bird conservation**

*Subgoal 1. Facilitate coordinated communication with government leadership about highest priority programs, initiatives, and needs of bird conservation.*

a. Annually compile or develop messaging demonstrating the importance of key bird conservation programs (NAWCA, NMBCA, SWG, Farm Bill, JVs) and promote use of coordinated messaging within the bird community

1. Develop 2017 State of the Birds: Farm Bill report and support effective communication and distribution to key audiences, including Congress [State of the Birds/Private and Working Lands/Communications/ Human Dimensions/ Legislative and Policy]
2. Non-federal NABCI partners coordinate with the Association of Joint Venture Management Boards to encourage Congress to support a Farm Bill with strong provisions for bird conservation [Private and Working Lands/Legislative and Policy]
3. Update bird conservation program fact sheets annually and maintain current fact sheets on NABCI website [Legislative and Policy/Communications]
4. Explore how NABCI NGO partners can communicate NABCI priorities and products to key leaders and legislators while Committee members are in DC for NABCI meetings [NABCI NGO Partners]

b. NABCI non-federal partners will develop or compile messaging that communicates how emerging legislation or funding could impact bird conservation.

1. Explore mechanisms and assess effectiveness for engaging birdwatchers in conservation funding [Human Dimensions]

Timeline: Ongoing

1. Coordinate with Blue Ribbon Panel to secure viewer-based funding for bird conservation [Human Dimensions /Legislative and Policy]

*Subgoal 2. Support partners in the creation and implementation of science-based policies that support bird conservation.*

 a. Conduct regular outreach to leadership of Committee member organizations to discuss NABCI priorities and solicit feedback on how NABCI can support the development and implementation of policy favorable to bird conservation.

1. Build relationships with key federal partners such as Directors of USFWS and NRCS, USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Forestry, and USFS Private Forestry to explore overlapping priorities and support mutual goals [Executive Council/Private and Working Lands]

b. Demonstrate bird conservation’s strong ties to healthy land, water, and people in order to communicate relevance beyond birds.

1. Incorporate messaging about bird conservation’s economic, human health, and landscape benefits into State of the Birds messaging and other NABCI products and communications [State of the Birds/ All Subcommittees]
2. Develop initial talking points supporting bird conservation relevancy for meetings with agency leadership, funding organizations, and non-traditional partners [Ad Hoc Relevancy Team/Human Dimensions/Communications