



MIGRATORY BIRD WORKING TABLE – ACTION ITEM REPORT
XX Trilateral Committee Meeting
Ensenada, Mexico
May15-18, 2017

The Migratory Bird Working Table conducted its working sessions between May 15th and 18th, 2017. The following Action Items were agreed upon and address the current priorities of the Trilateral Committee.

SUBTITLE: Advancing a shared 100-year Vision for bird conservation across the Americas			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 1: Finalize the shared Vision document; seek final approval of the document by the three countries' NABCI committees; and promote the Vision.	Charles Francis (CWS), Veronica Aponte (NABCI-Canada), Brad Bortner (USFWS); Judith Scarl (NABCI-US); Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO / NABCI-Mexico)	August 2017, with ongoing outreach after this date	Late 2017
<p>Goals: Co-chairs of the Migratory Birds Table and the three countries' NABCI coordinators work together to finalize the Vision statement, so that it can be used to guide future bird conservation efforts in North America.</p> <p>A near-final version of the Vision was presented to the Executive Table and the plenary during the Trilateral Committee meeting; review and approval by the three NABCI committees is needed to finalize it. Once the Vision is finalized, it should be promoted widely to as many traditional and non-traditional partners as possible across the hemisphere to encourage collaboration and exploration of shared interests and goals.</p>			
Requested Action from ET (if any): Assist in promotion and dissemination of the Vision once it is finalized.			
<p>Results: The North American Vision for Hemispheric Bird Conservation was finalized in June 2017 and endorsed by the US NABCI Committee in July 2017, the Canadian NABCI Committee in April 2017, and the Mexican NABCI Committee. This Vision was distributed broadly to the bird conservation community in the United States in July of 2017, highlighted at the August 2017 US NABCI Committee meeting, distributed to state fish and wildlife directors, and. It was promoted and distributed widely this past year in Canada through the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, the North American Wetlands Conservation Council-Canada, the NABCI-Canada Newsletter, as well as the Environment and Climate Change Canada website.</p>			
SUBTITLE: Advancing a shared 100-year Vision for bird conservation across the Americas			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 2: Develop a comprehensive list of international partnerships that are focused on bird conservation and identify their potential roles in implementing the Vision.	Judith Scarl, Greg Butcher, and Deb Hahn (NABCI-US); Veronica Aponte (NABCI-Canada); Humberto Berlanga (NABCI-Mexico)	Oct/Nov 2017	Late March 2018
<p>Goals: To understand existing international partnerships that can assist in promoting the Vision and implementing actions to help achieve the Vision.</p> <p>International engagement is essential for achieving conservation of migratory and resident birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. The most efficient way to do this may be through existing international partnerships, initiatives and organizations that may be able to engage government agencies or non-government organizations in other countries in the Western Hemisphere. The list should identify who is involved, what is their mandate, what are their strengths, what</p>			

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actions are already being undertaken, and what are the opportunities for working with them to promote implementation of the shared Vision.

Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time

Results: In an effort led by Rob Clay of WHSRN/Manomet, NABCI developed a hemispheric list of international partnerships focused on bird conservation. This list will be finalized in March 2018 and posted on the US NABCI website. Potential partner roles in implementing the Hemispheric Vision will be considered in conjunction with the development of a short- and medium-term action plan.

SUBTITLE: Advancing a shared 100-year Vision for bird conservation across the Americas

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 3: Develop short-term (~2-year) and medium-term (~10-year) action plans to support implementation of the shared Vision.	Judith Scarl, Greg Butcher, Deb Hahn (NABCI-US); Veronica Aponte (NABCI-Canada); Humberto Berlanga (NABCI-Mexico)	Draft for February 2018 Final for 2018 Trilateral	In Progress

Goals: Action plans are developed that identify and prioritize next steps that can be taken by individual NABCI partners within each of our three countries, as well as actions that can be taken cooperatively by all three countries.

Once the shared Vision for the next 100 years is finalized and disseminated, it is important to identify specific actions for partners to move this Vision forward. Medium-term plans should identify actions to be undertaken over the next ~10 years. Short term plans should identify which of those actions are of highest priority to be undertaken over the next 1-2 years. The action plans (especially short-term) should identify who should take the lead or leads in implementation (agencies / organizations / individuals), as well as specific timeframes and measurable outcomes to track progress. Each committee should investigate actions that are already underway that will help to achieve the Vision, and strive to build on those actions. Actions should consider involving both traditional and non-traditional partners with emphasis on actions that will have the greatest long-term benefits through mainstreaming of bird conservation—in essence, addressing the “we will” components of the Vision.

Requested Action from ET (if any): to support actions, once they have been identified, that will help to achieve the Vision

Results: Our three countries have taken steps to move towards an action plan:

- 1) Since this Action Item was developed, we learned that many the countries in Central and South America are pursuing a similar process through the America’s Flyways Framework, which aims to develop an action plan for hemispheric bird conservation. Several members of our team have been invited to participate in the Americas Flyways Framework when it holds its initial meetings and evaluate opportunities to work together to build a unified vision.
- 2) The three NABCI Coordinators met in Arlington, VA in February 2018, along with US NABCI International Subcommittee members Greg Butcher, Deb Hahn, Rob Clay, Scott Johnson, and Guy Foulks to discuss trilateral collaboration and the Hemispheric Vision action plan. Rob Clay is working closely with the Americas Flyways Framework and will communicate about the Vision to the AFF. The team discussed a strategy to move forward.

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Action Item 4: Recommitment to the tri-national mission of NABCI	Veronica Aponte (NABCI-Canada) / Charles Francis (CWS), Brad Bortner (USFWS) / Judith Scarl (NABCI-US), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO, NABCI-Mexico)	May 2018	In progress
<p>Goals: To enhance the trinational aspect of NABCI to better support full life-cycle approaches to conservation and to enable countries to more fully benefit from shared practices and information.</p> <p>The development and implementation of the Vision is providing an impetus and mechanism to enhance and support the activities of NABCI in all three countries as well as leading to improved cooperation and activity among the three countries. This is also enhancing the relationships between NABCI and the migratory birds table of the Trilateral committee.</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): no further action is requested of the ET at this time</p>			
<p>Results: All three of North America’s NABCI Coordinators (Humberto Berlanga, Marie-France Noel, and Judith Scarl) attended the US NABCI Committee meeting on January 31 and February 1 2018 and met to discuss potential tri-national projects and collaborations.</p>			
SUBTITLE: Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 5: Develop workshop to address urgent conservation concerns in Chihuahua related to loss of grasslands	Arvind Panjabi (BCOR), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Charles Francis (CWS), Eric Kershner (USFWS)	Dec 2017	In Progress
<p>Goals: To conserve the remaining Chihuahuan grasslands through engaging multiple sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, biodiversity) to find common solutions that work for all parties in the region (mainstreaming biodiversity conservation).</p> <p>The Chihuahuan grasslands remain a conservation concern for the Trilateral Committee because several rapidly declining grassland birds are dependent upon these habitats for their survival. These habitats are threatened by conversion of rangelands to irrigated crops, which also affects the livelihood of ranchers and threatens the water resources in the region. Mainstreaming conservation of these habitats has the potential to benefit both birds and people. The mainstreaming concept engages multiple sectors (e.g., agriculture, water, biodiversity) in an effort to find common solutions that benefit all parties in the region. Mainstreaming can create a sense of responsibility not just from the conservation partners but also from other government and industry partners. A workshop is proposed to bring together these diverse sectors to explain the conservation urgency – both for birds and for people – and to work together to seek common solutions. CWS and FWS have committed to provide partial funding through collaboration involving NGOs and CONABIO.</p>			
<p>Requested Action from ET (if any): support participation in the workshop</p>			
<p>Results: The workshop is being planned for late 2018 to occur after the 2018 Mexico Presidential Election. Humberto Berlanga (Mexico co-Chair) is working to provide a cost estimate for the workshop and Charles Francis (Canada Co-Chair) and Ken Richkus (US Co-Chair) will determine where the funding might come from.</p>			

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SUBTITLE: Mainstreaming Grassland Bird Conservation			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 6: Support the re-establishment of the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Alliance	Aimee Roberson (Rio Grande JV Coordinator), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO), Arvind Panjabi (BCOR)	Dec 2017	In Progress
<p>Goals: To ensure ongoing support for conservation of Chihuahuan desert grasslands, through creating a mechanism for ongoing involvement of traditional and non-traditional partners.</p> <p>The Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Alliance could be a strong mechanism to bring together partners to support mainstreaming grassland bird conservation in this region, and to follow-up from the workshop proposed in Action Item 4. The Alliance of partners in one forum will allow better coordination, cooperation, and partnering to achieve the conservation goals set forth. Efforts are needed to bring together partners in a way that encourages cooperation, while reducing competition among organizations for limited conservation resources.</p>			
Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time			
<p>Results: Since the 2017 Trilateral meeting, we have had several calls and meetings to determine what is needed to re-activate the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Alliance (Alliance). Ultimately, we have determined that in order to have an active, engaged, and healthy partnership that can make significant progress in conserving Chihuahuan Desert grasslands in Mexico, we need to complete the Chihuahuan Desert Grasslands Conservation Investment Strategy (Investment Strategy) and hire a coordinator for the Alliance. Rio Grande Joint Venture partners are currently seeking funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to complete analyses for the Investment Strategy and from several sources for hiring a coordinator. This will be a topic of discussion at the Rio Grande Joint Venture Board meeting in February 2018, and we anticipate the support of the Board in hosting a meeting of the re-activated Alliance in 2018.</p>			
SUBTITLE: Conservation Tools and Information Sharing			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 7: Develop a one page summary and short presentation that can be used to generate support for the Avian Conservation Assessment Database, and arrange a presentation to potential partners, including the US Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds	Arvind Panjabi (BCOR), Mike Green (FWS), Eric Kershner (FWS), others	Sept 2017	June 2017
<p>Goals: To secure ongoing funding support for maintenance and development of the Avian Conservation Assessment Database (ACAD).</p> <p>ACAD is currently the foundation for many bird conservation planning activities in North and Central America. This database has been used to develop several planning products that highlight the conservation needs of migratory birds (e.g., State of North America’s Birds, PIF Landbird Plan, Canadian BCR plans). It also contributes to legislated requirements in the U.S. related to prioritizing birds. However, it does not have secure long-term funding support. Efforts are needed to find a way to ensure the database can be hosted and disseminated securely, and that resources are available to update the status assessments on a regular basis to ensure they are current. Potential sources of long-term funding for the support and maintenance of ACAD include federal governments (FWS and CWS) and other US federal agencies via the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds.</p>			
Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time			

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Results: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies developed a powerpoint and one-page proposal to more fully fund ACAD maintenance and development, both of which were presented to the USFWS Migratory Bird Leadership Team at their fall meeting. The MBLT agreed to partially fund the ACAD from HQ at the level of \$27K/yr, minimum. Their hope is that this will provide a secure base of support that can be leveraged by other agencies or entities.

SUBTITLE: Conservation Tools and Information Sharing

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 8: Develop mechanisms to increase coordination and information sharing outside of the Trilateral meeting cycle on ways to reduce anthropogenic impacts on birds.	Eric Kershner (FWS), Judith Kennedy (CWS), Vicente Rodriguez (CONABIO)	Oct/Nov 2017	In Progress

Goals: To ensure that information developed by each of the three countries on ways to reduce anthropogenic impacts to migratory birds is widely shared and available to support conservation actions.

Many different initiatives are underway in each of the three countries to find ways to reduce mortality to birds as a result of anthropogenic activities. For example, successful campaigns and documents have been developed related to cats, wind turbines, windows, etc. However, we currently lack mechanisms to ensure information and tools developed are readily shared among the three nations and readily available to both government agencies and non-government organizations in each country to promote their use. The Trilateral Committee can be a catalyst for coordination. This committee can promote the sharing of information under increasingly more frequent discussions, not just once/year at the Trilateral Committee Meeting. Representatives from each country should work together to determine how best to increase the coordination and information sharing outside of the Trilateral Committee meetings. This working group will explore how this coordination will take place and explore options of where to house shared information – including the option of using the Trilateral Webpage for trinational information sharing, or a Wiki or Google drives or other tools.

Requested Action from ET (if any):

Results: Initial coordination has begun but no concrete solutions have been identified at this time.

SUBTITLE: Conservation Tools and Information Sharing

Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 9: Develop a webinar for delivery to various trinational partners on the direction of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN), including the U.S. National Node, to encourage broader participation in the network for the benefit of hemispheric conservation	Eric Kershner (FWS), AKN Steering Committee, Charles Francis (CWS), and Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)	Sept/Oct 2017	22 March 2018

Goals: To ensure that data and information related to the distribution, abundance and trends of bird populations are shared efficiently within and among countries in ways that maximize their value to bird conservation.

The AKN was developed as a mechanism for managing and sharing data among projects. The U.S. FWS has recently developed a national node to support greater use of the AKN within the U.S. federal government. The purpose of this presentation will be to explain to the trinational parties the value of the AKN, and the way that it is being used by the U.S. FWS, so that other organizations and agencies can understand how they might make best use of the AKN.

Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time.

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Results: Coordination and development of a AKN webinar has begun. The webinar will be scheduled for Canadian participants for 22 March 2018.			
SUBTITLE: Conservation Tools and Information Sharing			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 10: Present a webinar to interested trinational partners on the use of Data Basin to bring together data on bird populations (e.g., from AKN) with geospatial information on land-use, habitats, etc. to aid with conservation planning.	Kelly VanBeek, Tom Will (FWS), Charles Francis (CWS), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)	Sept/Oct 2017	
Goals: To ensure that partners are aware of, and can consider using, existing tools to facilitate use of bird distribution and monitoring data for planning bird conservation.			
The USFWS supported development of a Conservation Atlas for Midwest Grasslands to serve as a planning tool for conservation in the region. The approaches and tools that they used to develop this atlas (especially Data Basin) may be valuable and useful for other partners, including in Canada and Mexico. Thus, it would be valuable to have a presentation and discussion of this tool that engages not only the trilateral table, but also technical experts from each of the organizations, so that they can consider whether to use a similar approach for conservation planning in other regions. It would be valuable to identify other similar conservation uses of Data Basin as part of the presentation. For example, the Boreal Avian Modelling project in Canada has also developed some applications with Data Basin.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time.			
Results: No action has taken place on this to date.			
SUBTITLE: Coordinated Bird Population Monitoring			
Action	Responsible Party	Due	Date Completed
Action Item 11: Bring together representatives from Canada and Mexico with the NABCI-US Monitoring subcommittee to identify approaches for improving coordination and collaboration.	Charles Francis (CWS), Judith Scarl (NABCI-US), Humberto Berlanga (CONABIO)	Sept/Oct 2017	
Goals: To enhance coordination and planning of monitoring programs to provide cost-effective data that contribute to decision making in bird conservation actions, and to identify efficient ways to address key gaps in monitoring that will reduce risks to decision making.			
This will involve sharing approaches for reviewing, prioritizing and enhancing monitoring; sharing development of new technologies for collecting (acoustic, visual imagery, tracking technologies) and analyzing (computer assisted, crowd-sourcing, etc.) monitoring data.			
Requested Action from ET (if any): none at this time.			
Results: The US Monitoring Subcommittee continues to work on its leadership transition and needs to define its goals and evaluate what capacity it has to meet those goals. Once the Subcommittee regroups and commits to a path forward, it will be better equipped to develop collaborations outside of the US.			