

**MICHIGAN ALL-BIRD CONSERVATION WORKSHOP**  
**October 23-24, 2003**  
**Holiday Inn, Grayling**

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**Purpose**

The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) is financially supporting state migratory bird conservation workshops. The workshops are intended to gather state biologists, wildlife managers, and their conservation partners to learn about national bird conservation programs and how to apply conservation initiatives at the state level. The purpose of the meeting is to enhance collaboration among parties interested in bird conservation efforts in Michigan and contiguous states.

**Geographic Scope**

The three Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) defined for Michigan and extending into the surrounding states—including the boreal hardwood transition (Region 12), eastern tallgrass prairie (Region 22), and prairie hardwood transition (Region 23) areas. Workshop invitees will include government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and other individuals with an interest or stake in bird conservation in the focus areas.

**Objectives**

Enhance participant understanding of existing North American bird conservation planning initiatives: NA Bird Conservation Initiative, Partners in Flight, NA Waterfowl Conservation Plan, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, NA Waterbird Conservation Plan and NA Marshbird Conservation Plan, relationships with joint venture groups and Michigan initiatives.

Identify priority needs and funding sources for all-bird conservation project implementation for the three BCR's being addressed.

**Location**

Holiday Inn  
2650 I-75 Business Loop  
Grayling, MI 49738  
(989) 348-7611  
(800) 292-9055

**Sponsors**

International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA)  
Wildlife Division, Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan Chapter The Wildlife Society



## Agenda



October 23, 2003

8:30 Welcome..... **Lori Sargent**  
Natural Heritage Program, Wildlife Division, MDNR

8:40 Objectives ..... **Ray Rustem**  
Natural Heritage Program Supervisor, Wildlife Division, MDNR

### National Programs

8:50 North American Waterfowl Management Plan ... .....**Barbara**  
**Pardo,**  
Coordinator, UMGLJV, US Fish & Wildlife Service

9:20 US Shorebird Conservation Plan .....**Bob**  
**Russell**  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

10:10 North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan.....**Linda**  
**Wires**  
Dept. Fisheries, Wildlife & Conservation Biology, University of Minnesota

10:40 Break

10:50 Partners in Flight ..... **Bob**  
**Russell**  
US Fish & Wildlife Service

11:20 North American Bird Conservation Initiative ..... **Ray**  
**Adams**  
Kalamazoo Nature Center

11:50 Role of International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies.....**Debbie**  
**Hahn**  
IAFWA Migratory Bird Coordinator

12:00 Lunch

### Regional/State Programs

1:00 Michigan GAP applications to bird conservation ..... **Mike**  
**Donovan**  
Wildlife Division, MDNR

1:20 Bird Conservation and the Farm Bill ..... **Mark**  
**Sargent**

Wildlife Division, MDNR

- 1:40** Upper Great Lakes Plain BC Plan .....**Melinda Knutson**  
USGS Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center, LaCrosse, WI
- 2:00** Boreal Transition BC Plan .....
- 2:20** Break
- 2:40** Michigan Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan.....**Amy Clark Eagle**  
Wildlife Division, MDNR
- 3:00** Upper Mississippi River–Great Lakes Region Joint Venture ..... **Barbara Pardo**  
Coordinator, UMGLJV, US Fish & Wildlife Service
- 3:20** History of wetland wildlife management in Michigan ..... **Greg Soulliere**  
Wildlife Division, MDNR
- 3:40** Important Bird Areas & Breeding Bird Atlas ..... **Ray Adams**  
Kalamazoo Nature Center
- 7:00** Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society membership meeting

**October 24**

- 8:30** Welcome/Agenda .....**Lori Sargent**  
Natural Heritage Program, Wildlife Division, MDNR
- 8:40** Objectives for breakout sessions ..... **Ray Rustem**
- Identify bird species on the bird list that occur in Michigan. Any missing?
  - Identify issues associated with each BCR and the species within them
- BCR 12 – Boreal hardwood transition  
BCR 22 – Eastern tallgrass prairie  
BCR 23 – Prairie hardwood transition
- 12:00** Lunch
- 1:00** Reconvene General Session.....**Lori Sargent**

Reports of priorities from Breakout Session Chairs  
(15 minutes each for 45 minutes)

**Implementing projects**

**2:00** What do we do now? .....**Lori**  
**Sargent**

**2:30** Wrap-up

Adjourn

# Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative

Introductory Meeting

October 23-24, 2003

Grayling, MI

The primary objective of the first meeting of the Michigan Bird Conservation Initiative was to initiate a dialogue amongst those responsible for bird management in the state and bird specialists to begin consideration of an all-bird management plan for the state of Michigan. Other objectives included updating and introducing the participants to the existing national, regional, and state programs, plans, and initiatives and also to gather all the agencies and organizations involved in bird management to discuss potential partnerships. The agenda included presentations from US Fish & Wildlife Service staff and University staff responsible for these programs. The three Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) defined for Michigan and extending into the surrounding states – including the boreal hardwood transition (BCR 12), eastern tallgrass prairie (BCR 22), and prairie hardwood transition (BCR 23) were also to be introduced and discussed.

To start off the morning of the first day Barbara Pardo, coordinator of the Upper Mississippi River-Great Lakes Region Joint Venture, from the US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) Region 3 office, presented information on the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Bob Russell, from the same office, presented information on the US Shorebird Conservation Plan and Linda Wires, from the University of Minnesota, presented the North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan. To round out the morning, Bob Russell, substituting for Tom Will, presented information on Partners in Flight and Ray Adams, from the Kalamazoo Nature Center, presented information on the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). Debbie Hahn, from the International Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), told us about the role of her organization in bird management and how Michigan can be involved in national and international initiatives.

The afternoon of the first day was devoted to regional and statewide programs and projects. Mike Donovan, Mark Sargent, and Greg Soulliere, from the Wildlife Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), presented information on projects they're involved with at the state level and how they fit into national programs. Amy Clark Eagle, from the MDNR, presented information on the recently initiated Michigan Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Plan and how the all-bird management efforts will contribute to that effort. We learned that this all-bird management meeting is very timely in relation to this federally-mandated plan. Ray Adams told us about Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and the status of the update of the Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas. The IBA concept was new to most meeting participants and was accepted as a good first effort at focusing on critical bird areas in Michigan. The Michigan Breeding Bird Atlas is in its second year of the update and Ray is actively looking for volunteers to help with survey efforts.

The second day of the meeting started with the final two presentations. Barb Pardo presented information on the Upper Great Lakes Bird Conservation Plan, in place of Tom Will who was originally scheduled to speak on this topic. Bob Doepker, from the MDNR in the western Upper Peninsula, told us about the Mesic Conifer Initiative and habitat conditions in the western UP.

The objective for the second day was to actively involve the meeting participants in discussion that would hopefully result in proposed actions leading to all-bird management in Michigan. Many agencies and organizations were represented at the meeting, including MDNR, USDA Forest Service, USFWS, The Nature Conservancy, Kalamazoo Nature Center, Michigan Natural Features Inventory, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Michigan Department of Transportation, National Park Service, Michigan Audubon Society, Central Michigan University, Ducks Unlimited, Michigan Chapter of The Wildlife Society, and Lansing Community College. Suggestions of other organizations that should be involved were made. These included the following:

- MDNR – FFMFD (Forestry etc.)
- Pheasants Forever
- MDNR Fisheries
- MDEQ
- EPA
- MDNR Parks & Recreation
- Private Landowners

- NRCS
- Farm Bureau
- MUCC
- Timber Industry
- Tribal Governments
- Ag Industry
- MDA
- Local Governments
- Huron-Clinton MetroParks
- Watershed Councils
- Landtrusts/Conservancies
- Power Industry
- Home Builders Assoc of MI
- MI Lakes & Streams Society
- USDA Wildlife Services
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Wild Turkey Fed.
- MI Wild Turkey Hunters Association
- Other Canadian Org.
- MI Loon Preservation Association
- Bird Observatories (WPPO, etc.)
- Detroit Audubon Society
- Wildlife Habitat Conservancy
- Sharptail Grouse Assoc.

It was agreed that there are probably others that should be included but that enough time was spent developing this list for now.

It was then decided that the MBCI should emulate the national effort, NABCI, and that the mission was similar. “To deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through ecologically-based, biologically-driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.” The goals of this effort should be:

- Formation of a steering committee
- Identify potential partnerships
- Monitoring and inventory

The following existing strategies/plans/initiatives were recognized and deemed useful in this effort:

- NAWMP/UMRJVP/MI Imp. Strategy
- NAWCP/UM Plan
- USSCP/UM Plan
- PIF Plans 16 & 20
- TNC Ecoregion Plan
- MDNR Ecoregional Planning
- MDNR OG/BS Planning
- National Forest Plans
- Recovery Plans (Eagle, Loon, KW, PP, PF, etc.)
- Common Tern Monitoring Plan
- Cerulean Warbler Atlas?
- Status Assessments (Cerulean Warb., Golden-winged Warb, Logger-head shrike)
- USFS Conservation Assessments
- NGO Plans (DU, TNC, etc)
- Cornell Management Guidelines (Thrushes, shrikes, etc.)

- Game Area Strategic Plans
- Related, non-bird plans
- Timber Co. long term plans
- IBA
- USFWS/UMN waterbird conservation plans
- MDNR Park Master Plans
- State Forest Master Plans

It was also agreed that there should be development of a clearing house for dissemination of the information contained in the documents listed above and that other sources of information should be continuously added at the discretion of the steering committee.

The next order of business was to develop a steering committee that would be responsible for carrying the effort forward and directing courses of action. It was agreed that the final committee should be no more than 10 individuals and that we needed a diversity that included representatives of different organizations in the state. Also, the question of key partners arose, but was not definitively answered. It was also agreed that this first committee was not necessarily the final committee and that other individuals may be sought to participate in the future. The following individuals volunteered to serve on the steering committee:

- Ray Adams (KNC/MAS/IBA)
  - Jean Fierke (MDNR Wildlife Disease Lab)
  - Mike Monfils (MNFI)
  - Kim Hall (MSU)
  - Mike Tansy (USFWS)
  - Goran Blomberg (Bird Enthusiast/LCC)
  - Lori Sargent (MDNR Wildlife)\*
  - Dave Ewert (TNC)
  - Ed Laurent (MSU)
  - Steve Sjogren (USFS)
  - Katie Kahl (MSU)
  - Greg Soulliere (MDNR-Wildlife)
- \* - interim chairperson of the interim committee

The following tasks for the interim steering committee were agreed upon:

- Develop future workshop with as many partners represented as possible (to define organization, structure, non-binding agreement)
- Acquire organization and structure information from other state BCIs
- Identify specific products
- Develop mailing list
- Identify ad-hoc working groups as needed
- Communications strategy (web site, etc.)
- Develop Timeline/schedule
- Identify funding sources
- Determine whether group has operation budget or simply a coordinating group funded by partnering agencies/organizations
- Communication with other state BCIs
- AND DO IT QUICKLY

Other topics of discussion included products of Michigan All-Bird Initiative, monitoring and inventory of species and habitat, database management, funding, prioritization of conservation needs, education and communication, conflict resolution, compatibility with other states' initiatives, and bird groupings. These topics, and others, will be discussed more at length at future workshops and committee meetings.

The general consensus on this first meeting was that it was informative and successful. It was also conveyed to me by several participants that they were glad to see someone in Michigan moving forward on this important effort. I realized that, after getting updates on the national and statewide plans and initiatives, that this topic was very timely for Michigan and should mesh well with these current and ongoing plans. I would also like to report that it is the intent of the MDNR to hire an All-Bird Coordinator whose responsibilities will include coordinating with the MBCI Steering Committee and to coordinate bird management efforts in Michigan. The position has been created but due to current budget constraints, it is currently lower priority than other positions. We have been assured, however, that the position will be filled.