

# Partners in Flight

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



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## Partners in Flight Steering Committee Action Brief North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference March 2022

*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.*



The Partners in Flight Steering Committee launched a **long and short term visioning exercise** to consider obstacles and opportunities for bird conservation for the next 10 – 30 years and to determine desired short term (1-2 years) results.

For long term visioning, three working groups were formed to consider Partners in Flight's

- **History** – successes and challenges,
- Engagement with **diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice** topics, and
- **Future obstacles and opportunities** in bird conservation (“Horizon scanning”).

The Horizon Scanning working group interviewed several national conservation leaders for their perspectives of the future for conservation. Their collective thoughts were that the future of bird conservation will engage the

- role and conservation needs of **private land** owners,
- intersection between conservation and **human well-being**,
- intersection of conservation with **diversity, equity, and justice** topics,
- **role of government** to provide incentives for innovative conservation solutions, and
- our ability to sustain the **renewed interest in conservation** that emerged during the pandemic.

To discuss desired short term results (1-2 years), the Partners in Flight Steering Committee held two virtual sessions of three hours each to identify how the Steering Committee can best function to ensure that we continue to look forward and use the strength of the **Partners in Flight network to address challenging topics as they arise for bird conservation**.

The major themes that developed during the sessions were about “**how**” **we work** and not so much about “what” specific projects should be prioritized. For example, in the next 1 -2 years, the Partners in Flight Steering Committee will work towards integrating the following principles into ongoing projects.

- Human well-being targets are fully integrated into Partners in Flights plans and projects.
- Partners in Flight is operating as a multi-national initiative across full annual cycles of birds.
- Partners in Flight prioritizes engagement with Indigenous communities in all countries across full annual cycles of birds and integrates their knowledge of the land.



- Human dimensions is integrated into Partners in Flight science priorities from the earliest stages to “co-produce” research that provides conservation solutions applicable to the human communities who live there.
- Conservation Investment Strategies are completed for Watch List species that integrates the aspects of all of Partners in Flights efforts (such as science, conservation delivery, and outreach/communications) and done with equity for conservation partners and the human communities in those geographies.
- Partners in Flight supports policy development that is positive for bird conservation through a variety of means, including providing science, data, and technical support.
- Partners in Flight builds technical capacity, as well as institutional capacity in the areas of leadership and organizational culture, to make bird conservation more efficient and effective.

This is a preliminary overview stemming from our long and short term visioning exercise. The next steps include **discussions across the bird conservation community, refinement of current ideas, and developing ways of working** that will be most effective for bird conservation.

Current projects in which Partners in Flight is engaged has been driven primarily by the 2014 Strategic Planning document (20<sup>th</sup> anniversary) and the 2016 Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan. The Partners in Flight Steering Committee will look for opportunity to integrate the above principles, such as human wellbeing, into ongoing and new projects. A sample of current projects include:

- **Avian Conservation Database Assessment**
- **Science and technical support for a Western Forests Initiative (with western JVs)**
  - **Eastern Working Group – full annual cycle project and others**
  - **Help develop Conservation Delivery capacity for multistate projects**
    - **Road to Recovery**
    - **Grasslands Roadmap**
    - **US State of the Birds reports**
    - **World Migratory Bird Day**
    - **Avian Knowledge Network**
  - **Migratory Bird Joint Venture Landbird Plans**
  - **Alaska Bird Conservation Plan (Aug21) and implementation**
- **Science Communications (*partnersinflight.org*, Klamath Bird Observatory)**
  - **PIF Science full annual cycle publication**
    - **Partners in Flight Awards**
    - **“Forest for the Birds” webinar series (NCTC, USFWS)**
  - **Publications (independent and peer review journal) and symposia**
  - **Host major international conferences (six in 30 years, last in 2017)**
    - **Forest Industry and the Wildlife Conservation Initiative**

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