

DoD PIF Key Focus Area: Partnerships and Cooperation

Bird Conservation in the Military



Mission

To conserve migratory and resident birds and their habitats on Department of Defense lands.

DoD Partners in Flight

The Department of Defense (DoD) Partners in Flight (PIF) Program identifies strategies, goals, and priorities for eight key areas that support and enhance the military mission: stewardship, partnerships/cooperation, communications, habitat and species management, bird/animal aircraft strike hazard, monitoring, research, and information and education. These goals and priorities outline the DoD PIF Program vision for developing and implementing conservation actions that support the mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and their habitats. One of these key focus areas is **partnerships and cooperation**, which enables DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs.

Focus Area Goal

Identify and participate in conservation partnerships at the local, state, regional, national, and international levels to establish relationships that help develop and implement plans for bird conservation, promote sharing of migratory bird conservation information, and provide support to other installation offices.

Background

Many migratory bird species face significant population declines due to habitat loss and alteration, climate change, and other human-induced causes. Without intervention and proper management, some of these may become listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered. No single agency or organization can reverse these declines—this can be achieved only by working through partnerships among federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations.

DoD PIF was founded on a base of cooperative relationships, both formal and informal, local and regional. For example, DoD was instrumental in assisting the Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team help rebound the warbler from a low of 167 pairs in 1987 to more than 1,800 pairs today, surpassing the recovery goal of 1,000 pairs. DoD helped surpass this goal while allowing the military to continue its training mission and improving jack pine habitat

where the Kirtland's Warbler primarily nests. This is a prime example for how partnerships and cooperation can significantly improve the efficacy of conservation actions.

Priorities

DoD PIF developed the following priorities to help DoD achieve its partnerships and cooperation goals:

- Promote migratory bird conservation through Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans and partnerships that support the military mission.
- Participate in bird conservation planning and implementation at local, state, regional, national, and international levels.
- Coordinate and cooperate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure DoD is adequately addressing the requirements of the Migratory Bird Rule, Executive Order 13186, and the associated Memorandum of Understanding.
- Participate in the Coordinated Bird Monitoring (CBM) effort and contribute to the CBM database, maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.
- Work with internal partners (e.g., range personnel) to ensure appropriate conservation measures are utilized.
- Implement other conservation initiatives beyond installation boundaries to broaden conservation efforts, and work to integrate these efforts with existing Joint Venture and other bird conservation partnerships.



*DoD was instrumental in helping to increase the Kirtland's Warbler's population from 167 pairs to over 1,800 pairs today.
Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Contact Information:

Chris Eberly
DoD Partners in Flight
Program Coordinator
540-349-9662
ceberly@dodpif.org
www.dodpif.org



Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources
Department of Defense Natural Resources Program