



JOIN US IN BUILDING A VISION FOR BIRD CONSERVATION FOR THE NEXT CENTURY

Answering the Challenge of Bird Conservation

A century ago, North American bird populations had declined dramatically in the absence of regulations and other efforts to protect them. Recognizing the importance of migratory birds to humans and the environment, in 1916 government leaders in Canada and the United States signed a treaty committing to conserve these valuable resources that cross our borders. This groundbreaking treaty was followed 20 years later by a similar agreement between Mexico and the United States. The result of these international agreements has been a century of cooperative conservation of our shared migratory birds and their habitats.

However, despite the treaties' successes, birds still need our help. The *State of North America's Birds 2016* report tells us that while some groups of birds are thriving, others - especially long-distance international migrants - are in urgent need of conservation action.

Recognizing that continued international collaboration is vital to conserve migratory bird populations, our three nations have come together to start to build a vision for sustaining bird populations for the future. We invite you to join us as we envision the next century of bird conservation.

Why Birds and Bird Conservation Matter

Successful bird conservation efforts recognize that the health of birds – and their habitats – is vital not just to sustaining their populations, but also to building and nourishing thriving human communities, economies and cultures, connecting people with nature, and providing valuable ecological services and benefiting many other wildlife species. Conservation unites people across broad geographies and a variety of cultures. We build our bird conservation vision on three key premises.

Conservation works

- Where partners come together for conservation, birds and their habitats are thriving

International cooperation brings success

- Governments and citizens are already working together to develop approaches to the conservation challenges of the future, such as ensuring resilient landscapes and adapting to changing conditions

Everyone wins with bird conservation

- Bird conservation leads to healthy environments and ecosystems that benefit human health and human communities



Isabel Francolini. Red Knot, Common Nighthawk, Canada Warbler. Graphite with white and black ink on Fabriano. 2016. Part of the "In Fine Feather" art expo by students from the Department of Fine Arts at Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada.

Our Vision for the Next 100 Years of Bird Conservation

While we have clearly made many strides over the last century, we know that to confront the conservation challenges of the next generations, we must work towards a shared vision to achieve hemispheric conservation for migratory birds. Our vision for the next century of bird conservation includes the following elements:

- **People value birds** and their habitats for their ecological, economic, aesthetic, and spiritual value.
- **Bird conservation aligns with human interests**, and our nations work together to support the clean air and water, food, and habitat that birds and people need.
- **All sectors are committed to conservation**, with governments throughout the Western Hemisphere, non-government organizations, the private sector and citizens working together to conserve birds and their habitats.
- **Bird populations and ecosystems are healthy**, thanks to cooperative efforts among government, industry, and the public.

How will we achieve our vision?

We must collectively take bold action to build on these values and protect our bird communities throughout their life cycles.

We will...

- **Collaborate across sectors** to demonstrate how bird conservation supports efforts to nurture healthy environments, sustain livelihoods, and improve economic conditions for landowners and communities by encouraging sustainable practices
- **Build partnerships** toward shared goals of conservation and human well-being
- **Engage social scientists and economists** to develop sustainable strategies that benefit birds and people
- Consider **long-term drivers of change**, such as global climate change and human population growth
- Continue to pursue scientific advances that will allow us to **adopt more effective and innovative approaches** to achieve both bird conservation and positive socioeconomic outcomes
- Encourage shared objectives and strategies, **guided by strong science**, to inform individual actions that achieve maximum return on our conservation investments and ensure resilient landscapes that can adapt to changing conditions;
- **Engage people and communities** in conservation and monitoring through citizen science and education
- Focus efforts on our **most vulnerable habitats**, including oceans, tropical forests, and grasslands, while building the foundation for conservation in all habitats
- **Consolidate efforts internationally** to ensure efficient and effective research, monitoring, conservation, and management actions throughout the flyways of the Western Hemisphere.

*The migratory birds
that link our nations
are among our
hemisphere's greatest
treasures*

Most importantly, **we will do it together**. A century ago we signed the first agreement to conserve migratory birds and joined forces to protect our mutual resources. In the 21st century, we will build and expand a network of diverse partners and learn from each other's successes, challenges, and priorities. We will focus on habitats, flyways and corridors that migratory birds need in order to guarantee connectivity to support birds through their full migratory cycle.

Together, across the hemisphere, we will unite to implement a shared vision of bird conservation.

Our Invitation to You: Join the Conversation

We hope that this document will start a series of conversations with partners throughout the hemisphere about the way forward for bird conservation in the next 100 years. We invite you to join us as we work toward developing and implementing a vision for the future of bird conservation.

Comments? Questions? Email us at vision@nabci.net.