

A Guide to North American Bird Conservation - the four major plans and NABCI

**Alison J. Banks
November 20, 2001
Posted February 2002**



*...Conserving birds of the
Rocky Mountains and Great Plains*



*For Wildlife-
For People*

Introduction

This document provides information regarding the four “major bird plans”: three international (North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan), one national (United States Shorebird Conservation Plan) - in addition to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, established to stimulate coordination among the plans. Plans are presented chronologically, with the following information: 1) a synopsis, 2) a description of plan implementation at the national, regional, and local levels, and 3) plans, publications, and other products available to land managers and conservation partners. This information will assist Colorado wildlife managers, private landowners, and other wildlife conservation partners to locate Colorado within each of these plans and apply resources from the plans to the management and conservation of birds in Colorado.

To facilitate the use of this guide, we include the names of current coordinators and contacts, realizing these will change over time. For help finding current contacts in the future, please consult <http://abcbirds.org/directory/directory.htm>. We will also do our best to post changes where the document is located on the Colorado Division of Wildlife website (<http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/habitat/wetlands/wetlandsindex.asp>).

Please refer any questions to Alison Banks, Wetlands Program Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (Alison.Banks@rmbo.org).

Acknowledgements

I thank Brad Andres, Mike Carter, Alex Chappell, Chris Eberly, Seth Mott, Larry Nelson, David Pashley, Terry Rich, Ted Toombs, and Jennifer Wheeler for commenting on drafts of this document. Maps were created by Tammy VerCauteren and formatting assistance provided by Meg McLachlan and Debra Dickey.

Table of Contents

North American Waterfowl Management Plan.....	2
Partners In Flight.....	7
United States Shorebird Conservation Plan.....	15
North American Waterbird Conservation Plan.....	19
North American Bird Conservation Initiative.....	23

North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)



North American Waterfowl
Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

<http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWMP/nawmphp.htm>

Summary

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) of 1986 responded to record lows of many waterfowl species in the 1980's and sustained losses of wetland habitat. Recognizing the importance of waterfowl and wetlands to North Americans and the need for international cooperation to help in the recovery of a shared resource, the Canadian and United States governments worked with states, provinces, and private organizations to develop a strategy to restore waterfowl populations through habitat conservation. The Plan, commonly referred to as "the North American," was signed by Mexico in 1994.

International in scope, the Plan is implemented regionally in Joint Ventures (JVs). Its success depends upon the strength of JV partnerships, involving federal, state, provincial, tribal, and local governments, businesses, conservation organizations, and individual citizens. Joint Ventures develop implementation plans for the protection of wetland resources within their regions, and working groups in local communities are often developed to protect more local wetland focus areas. JV actions include protection, restoration, and enhancement of wetland and associated upland habitats. Protection strategies include habitat acquisition, conservation easements, leases, and management agreements with private landowners. Restoration activities take place in all wetlands habitat types and associated uplands across the continent. Habitat enhancement activities include rest/rotational grazing practices, seasonal flooding of active croplands, and construction of nesting islands and structures for waterfowl and songbirds. Partners' conservation projects not only advance waterfowl conservation, but also contribute substantially toward the conservation of all wetland-associated species. Through 1999, Plan partners had invested more than \$1.7 billion to protect, restore, and/or enhance more than 5 million acres of habitat.

The most recent Plan update, *1998 Update, Expanding the Vision*, articulates three visions for strengthening delivery of the Plan. Firstly, to strengthen the biological foundation of the Plan, implementation shall be guided by biologically based planning, which in turn is refined through ongoing evaluation. Secondly, a landscape approach to habitat management, balancing conservation and socioeconomic objectives within working landscapes, will be most effective in securing healthy habitats to achieve Plan goals. Finally, broadening the scope of partnerships, particularly with migratory bird initiatives, and with sectors beyond the traditional wildlife conservation community, will increase capacity for waterfowl conservation.



North American Waterfowl
Management Plan
Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine
Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

NAWMP at the International Level

Organization and Leadership

The **Plan Committee**, comprised of six representatives each from Canada, the U.S., and Mexico, oversees the NAWMP. The Committee provides a forum for discussion of major, long-term, international waterfowl issues and recommends to directors of the three national wildlife agencies. It approves the formation of Joint Ventures and reviews and approves Joint Venture implementation and evaluation plans. The Committee updates the Plan, considers new scientific information and policy developments, and identifies needs for Plan activities.

- **United States** - Two representatives from USFWS and one state representative from each of the four flyways. Co-chair is David Smith, Chief, USFWS Division of Bird Habitat Conservation.
- **Canada** - Six delegates represent the federal and provincial governments and one non-profit organization. Co-chair is Robert McLean, Director, Wildlife Conservation Branch, Canadian Wildlife Service.
- **Mexico** - Delegates represent the federal government, universities, business, and non-profit organizations. The three federal natural resource agencies seats are permanent; the others have a 3-year rotation. Co-chair is Fernando Clemente, Director General of Wildlife of Secretaría de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (SEMARNAT), of El Instituto Nacional de Ecología (INE), Mexican Ministry of Ecology.

Plans and Publications available

- *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* (1986)
- *1998 Update, Expanding the Vision* (1998); available online at <http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWMP/images/update98.PDF>.



- *Birdscapes* (formerly *Waterfowl 2000*) is a magazine published three times a year by the USFWS Division of Bird Habitat Conservation and the Canadian Wildlife Service. This is an interesting source about on-the-ground conservation projects and partnerships continent-wide.
- Many reports (regarding adaptive harvest management and population status) are available from the USFWS Division of Bird Habitat Conservation at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/reports/reports.html>.

Complementary Efforts

The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) of 1989 provides matching grants for wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to private or public organizations or to individuals in partnerships (<http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWCA/act.htm>). NAWCA was passed largely to support activities under the NAWMP. NAWCA is overseen by the North American Wetlands Conservation Council (Council), which reviews and recommends project proposals to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission (MBCC), which, in turn, approves funding for projects. The Council is comprised of nine members: the Director of the USFWS, Executive Secretary of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, one state representative from each of four flyways, and three non-governmental organization (NGO) representatives appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. In addition, four non-voting *ex officio* members, also appointed by the Secretary, represent Canada, Mexico, and two NGO's. The current Chair is Duane Shroufe, AZ Game and Fish Department, and the Coordinator is David Smith, USFWS. Twelve staff people are dispersed around the country. The MBCC is led by the Secretary of the Interior and comprised of appointees. Congress appropriated \$43 million for NAWCA projects in Fiscal Year 2002, which is made available in \$1 million and \$50,000 grants. In Colorado, NAWCA grant applications are coordinated by the DOW Wetlands Program Coordinator; contact Alex.Chappell@state.co.us for more information.

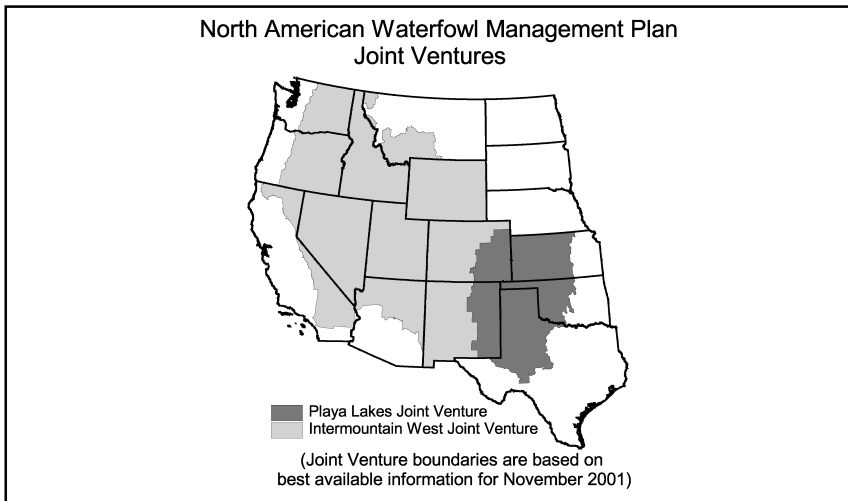


North American Waterfowl
Management Plan

Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine

Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica

NAWMP at the Regional/ State/Local Levels



Organization and Leadership

Joint Ventures – Colorado lies in two of twelve habitat-based Joint Ventures in the U.S.: the Intermountain West (IWJV) and the Playa Lakes (PLJV). Please see inset map.

- **Intermountain West JV**– Chair is William Molini, and coordinator is Jim Cole. Management Board comprised of 15 members (Walt Graul, CDOW, represents CO).
- **Playa Lakes JV** – Chair is Ross Melinchuk (Ducks Unlimited), and coordinator is Mike Carter (Brighton, CO). Management Board is comprised of 15 members (Alex Chappell, CDOW, represents CO). Monitoring, Evaluation, and Research Team (MERT), the science technical committee, has 12 members (Alison Banks represents CO). The Education and Outreach Committee has 9 members (Alex Chappell represents CO).
- **Colorado JV State Steering Committee** – This leadership team for Wetlands Focus Areas in CO links the local and regional levels. Wetlands Focus Area chairs and Wetlands Initiative Partners (Division of Wildlife, State Parks, USFWS Partners for Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and The Nature Conservancy) comprise the committee.



Wetland Focus Areas - Within some Joint Ventures, Wetland Focus Area working groups have been formed. In Colorado, 10 Wetland Focus Areas have been designated, of which the first five listed below are currently quite active, meeting every month or so. To become involved in a Wetlands Focus Area working group, contact Alex.Chappell@state.co.us.

- Gunnison Basin – IWJV – Strategic Plan 2001
- Lower Colorado River – IWJV – Strategic Plan 1996
- San Luis Valley – IWJV – Strategic Plan 2000, Action Plan 2002
- South Park- IWJV – Strategic Plan 2001
- South Platte River- IWJV – Strategic Plan 2002
- Arkansas River/Playa Lakes – PLJV – Strategic Plan 1996
- Middle Park – IWJV – Strategic Plan 1996
- North Park – IWJV – Strategic Plan 2002
- Yampa/White River – IWJV – Strategic Plan 1996
- Southwest – IWJV

Plans and Publications available

Joint Ventures

- **Intermountain West JV**
 - o Implementation Plan (1995) – currently being updated.
 - o Intermountain Quarterly – newsletter
- **Playa Lakes JV** Implementation Plan (1994) – currently being updated.

Wetland Focus Areas in Colorado each have Strategic Plans, several of which have recently been updated or are currently being revised (see above list).



Partners In Flight (PIF)

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

Summary

Partners In Flight (PIF) is an international effort launched in 1990 in response to growing concerns about population declines of many land bird species. The initial focus was on species that breed in North America and winter in Central and South America, but the scope has expanded to include most birds requiring terrestrial habitats.

The primary goal of Partners In Flight is to “provide for the long-term health of the avifauna of this continent” (Pashley et al. 2000). This may be broken down into three tasks: 1) prevent rare species from going extinct; 2) prevent uncommon species from becoming threatened 3) keep common birds common. The top priority work, preventing extinctions, is wholly supported by PIF, but often accomplished by governmental or other entities. The second group, the “species that are in a precarious status but not yet endangered” are often top priority for PIF, as these “require concerted conservation attention to prevent their condition from deteriorating further” (Pashley et al. 2000). The “keeping common birds common” task, for which PIF is most well known, is generally expressed in the form of long-term monitoring and direction of responsibility toward regions in which species are most common, which should then carry the highest responsibility for sustenance of those species.

PIF has been instrumental in conservation planning; over 52 bird conservation plans have been completed across the continent to date. The planning process entails prioritizing species and habitats most in need of conservation, setting measureable objectives for achieving conservation, establishing local working groups to implement the plan, and evaluating the success of conservation efforts. PIF works simultaneously with species-directed and habitat-oriented conservation efforts.

The central premise of Partners In Flight has been that the resources of public and private organizations in North and South America must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to conserve bird populations. Thus, PIF involves partnerships among government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals.

PIF at the International Level



Organization and Leadership

Coordinator: Terry Rich, National Coordinator (USFWS, Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington, VA; located in Idaho).

Committees: PIF is coordinated by four parallel committees (1–4 below) and two oversight committees (5-6).

- **The State Committee** – the chair is appointed by the president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), currently Allen Farris. Four regions of IAFWA each are represented, and all states may send representatives. Current Western Region representative is Bruce McCloskey (Deputy Director of CDOW, CO).
- **The Federal Committee** – up to 3 representatives from each agency that signed the federal *Partners In Flight* Memorandum of Agreement (MOA); other Federal agencies may also participate. Chair rotates every two years among member agencies; currently, is Chris Eberly (Department of Defense, Virginia). The USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management gives technical advice. Currently, from CO: Carol Beidleman (NPS) and Rick Wadleigh (USDA, APHIS).
- **Nongovernmental Organization Committee** – member organizations signed a MOA. Elected chair is George Fenwick, of American Bird Conservancy. From CO, Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory (RMBO) is a member organization.
- **Industry Committee** – member industries signed a MOA. Chair is elected and rotates every 2 years; current chair is Tony Melchior. Mostly timber groups, but from CO, Anheiser-Busch is represented.
- **The Management Steering Committee** coordinates PIF priorities and overall direction, identifies issues for the Joint Steering Committee (JSC) to discuss, and implements decisions of the JSC. The chairs of the regional and technical working groups, the National and Regional Coordinators, official Staff Coordinators from agencies, and representatives from Canada and Mexico meet twice a year at the N.A. Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference and the annual meeting of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA). Current chair is Laurel Moore (Arkansas).



International Organization and Leadership (continued)

Joint Steering Committee – consists of the chairs of the four national committees, who coordinate activities, foster cooperation, and discuss program-wide policy issues and priorities. Chair rotates each meeting; committee meets twice annually, as above.

Technical Working Groups: Five national-level technical working groups synthesize and apply the work of experts to provide a basis for action. They produce action plans annually, identifying ongoing needs and goals as well as specific objectives and projects. Working group co-chairs are members of the Management Steering Committee; membership is open to all. Current co-chairs are listed below.

- **International** – George Fenwick and Megan Hill
- **Research** – Peter Vickery and Therese Donovan
- **Monitoring and Inventory** – C.J. Ralph and Jon Bart
- **Information** (communication and outreach) – Merrie Morrison and Ron Rohrbaugh
- **Education** – Susan Bonfield (Dillon, CO)

Plans and Publications available

- *Bird Conservation Plans* for regions (Physiographic Area) or states are available at <http://www.partnersinflight.org> (see next section). There is no national plan.
- *Partners in Flight: Conservation of Land Birds of the United States*. (2000); Pashley, Beardmore, Fitzgerald, Ford, Hunter, Morrison, and Rosenberg. American Bird Conservancy. This 92 page publication summarizes the work of PIF and reports conservation priorities for each physiographic area. Copies are available at ABC, PO Box 249, 4249 Loudoun Ave., The Plains, VA 20198, or at <http://www.abcbirds.org/pif/pif.htm>.



- *Bird Conservation* is a quarterly magazine about PIF and “bird conservation throughout the Americas,” published by American Bird Conservancy. This presents good technical information in a very readable format and is an excellent publication for outreach. Recent articles are featured online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/birdcons.htm>; for copies, please call 1(888)BIRD-MAG.
- *La Tangara* is a bi-monthly online newsletter of International Partners in Flight, at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/latangara.htm>.
- A quarterly **National PIF newsletter** is available at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/pifnews.HTM>.
- **Monitoring Working Group** reports are available at <http://www.rsl.psw.fs.fed.us/pif/pubs.html>.

Products

- **Species Assessment** – PIF has created a process for assessing the conservation needs of bird species in all regions of North America, incorporating factors such as distribution of species, rarity, threats to breeding, and population trend. The database is found at <http://www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html>, from which you can download species assessment scores for either Physiographic Areas or Bird Conservation Regions. Also posted on the site are explanatory papers: *PIF Handbook on Species Assessment and Prioritization* (2001) and an earlier one explaining foundations of the process (*Setting conservation priorities for landbirds in the United States: the Partners in Flight approach* (2000); Carter, Hunter, Pashley, Rosenberg. *The Auk* 117(2): 541-548.)
- **National Watch List** highlights those birds not already listed under the Endangered Species Act that most need conservation attention, serving as an early warning system for birds that may be at risk. Birds are categorized into extremely high, moderately high, and moderate priority groups. Available at http://www.abcbirds.org/pif/pif_watch_list.htm and <http://www.audubon.org/bird/watch/index.html>.



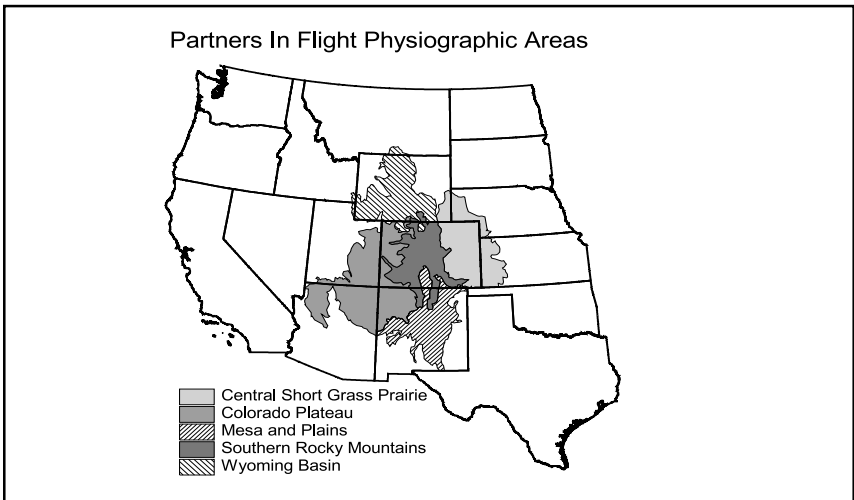
International Products (continued)

- **Research Needs Database** – <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pifneeds/searchform.cfm> contains research and monitoring needs from all the Bird Conservation Plans. For example, type “wetlands” in the “Western” Region, and find topics prioritized as wetland research needs by all of the western states’ Bird Conservation Plans.

Complementary Efforts

Species Accounts – <http://www.partnersinflight.org/birdacct.htm> refers reader to species accounts written by The Nature Conservancy, Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, US Army Corps of Engineers, Waterways Experiment Station, and USFWS; the site also gives BNA account numbers, by species. Accounts give comprehensive ecology, conservation, and management information.

PIF at the Regional/State/Local Levels



Organization and Leadership

- **Regions** – PIF is organized into four Regions; Colorado is in the Western Region. The Western Working Group coordinator is Carol Beardmore (USFWS, Arizona); the chair is Dan Casey (American Bird Conservancy, Montana).



- **Physiographic Areas** – Regions are divided into Physiographic Areas (PAs).* Colorado lies primarily within three PAs: Colorado Plateau (87), Southern Rocky Mountains (62), and Central Shortgrass Prairie (36). In addition, a small portion of NW Colorado lies within Wyoming Basin (86), and small part of Southern Colorado lies in the Mesa and Plains (85). Please see inset map.
- **States** – Some states have formed active working groups. News from our state working group, CO-PIF, made be found online at <http://www.rmbo.org/pif/copif.html>. The group meets several times a year, and meetings are open to all interested. Current chair is Carol Beidleman (National Park Service, Estes Park).

Plans and Publications available

- *Bird Conservation Plans* have been produced nationwide either for Physiographic Areas (in the east) or by states (in the west); see <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pifbcps.htm>.
- *The Landbird Conservation Plan for Colorado* (2000) available at <http://rmbo.org/pif/bcp/index.htm>, gives species accounts and habitat descriptions for each of the three major PAs in Colorado, including discussions of management issues, conservation recommendations, status assessments, and biological objectives. This is a great start to articulating conservation needs of birds in Colorado and should be used extensively by managers and conservation planners.
- *Western Working Group Newsletter* is available quarterly, in hard copy or online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/magnews.htm>.

Products

Species Assessment scores are available for each PA or BCR in Colorado (see <http://www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html>).

*A note about Physiographic Areas (PAs) and Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs): PAs were designated by PIF in the early 1990's, modified from Breeding Bird Survey physiographic strata (thus, bird-habitat defined regions). BCRs are a later iteration (~1998), proposed by those implementing the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI). PIF now supports the use of BCRs for bird conservation and planning, and currently works with both PAs and BCRs, depending on what makes the most sense for implementation. Generally speaking, BCRs are a little bigger than PAs but smaller than Joint Ventures.

United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP)

<http://www.manomet.org/USSCP.htm>

Summary

The United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) is a partnership involving organizations throughout the United States committed to the conservation of shorebirds. Initiated in 1996 and completed in 2000, the USSCP is a scientific, habitat-based national framework for the conservation of shorebirds and their habitats. The goal is to ensure stable and self-sustaining shorebird populations distributed throughout their ranges. By stepping national goals and objectives to 11 regional plans, land and wildlife managers in all 50 states are guided toward integrating shorebird management with conservation activities for other species.

The USSCP responds to substantial declines apparent in most of the 26 shorebirds studied through the International Shorebird Surveys conducted in the United States and other American countries since 1972. Over the next ten years, five of these species are predicted to continue declining by up to 25%, and predictions for most other species show similar downward trends. However, the USSCP focuses not only on shorebird species experiencing decline but also on providing sufficient habitat for common or abundant species.

The USSCP addresses three primary objectives: a) development of a standardized, scientifically sound system for monitoring shorebird populations that will provide practical information to researchers and land managers for shorebird habitat conservation; b) identifying the principles and practices upon which local, regional and national management plans can integrate shorebird habitat conservation with multiple species strategies; c) design of an strategy for increasing public awareness and education about shorebirds and their habitats.

Because of the long-distance migrations of most shorebird species, this Plan emphasizes the security and quality of migratory stop-over sites. In addition, a lack of survey information for most shorebirds indicates an urgent need for monitoring and research.

Organization and Leadership

- **The U.S. Shorebird Plan Council** oversees Plan development, implementation, and integration with other bird conservation initiatives. The Chair is Jon Andrew, Chief of the USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management.
- **The National Coordinator** is Brad Andres (USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management, Arlington VA).
- **Research and Monitoring Working Group** – Jonathan Bart (USGS, Idaho)
- **Education and Outreach Working Group** – Heidi Luquer (Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network).

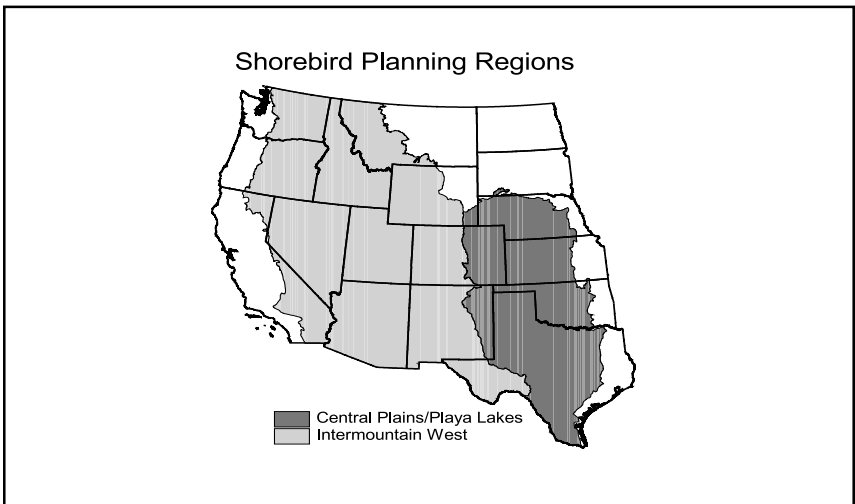
Plans and Publications available

The following are published by Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, downloadable at <http://www.Manomet.org/USSCP/files.htm>.

- *United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, 2nd ed.* (2001); Brown, Hickey, Harrington, and Gill, eds.
- *A Comprehensive Monitoring Program for North American Shorebirds* (2000); Howe, Bart, Brown, Elphick, Gill, Harrington, Hickey, Morrison, Skagen, and Warnock, eds.
- *National Shorebird Research Needs: A Proposal for a National Research Program and Example High Priority Research Topics* (2000); Oring, Harrington, Brown, and Hickey, eds.
- *National Shorebird Education and Outreach Plan* (2000); Johnson-Shultz, Burton, Cirillo, and Brown, eds.
- *National Shorebird Conservation Assessment: Shorebird Conservation Status, Conservation Units, Population Estimates, Population Targets, and Species Prioritization* (2000) Brown, Hickey, Gill, Gorman, Gratto-Trevor, Haig, Harrington, Hunter, Morrison, Page, Sanzenbacher, Skagen, and Warnock
- *North American Shorebird Assessment and Monitoring Plan* (in preparation); Bart, et al.

- **Species Assessments** are provided for prioritization of conservation effort by species, by region. Based on the PIF protocol, species are categorized into Highly Imperiled, Species of High Concern, Species of Moderate Concern, Species of Low Concern, and Species Not at Risk. Available online in an Excel file, “Bird Conservation Region Area Importance Scores.”
- **The Shorebird Sister Schools Program** (<http://sssp.fws.gov>) is the cornerstone education program for the Plan. National Coordinator is Hilary Vinson Chapman, USFWS National Conservation Training Center; regional contact is Suzanne Fellows.

USSCP at the Regional/State/Local Levels



Organization and Leadership

- **Shorebird Flyways** – Colorado is in two of five flyways in the nation: the Central (flyway expert: Susan Skagen, USGS, Fort Collins) and Intermountain West (Lew Oring, University of Nevada).
- **Shorebird Planning Regions** – Colorado is in two of eleven regions and working groups: the Central Plains/Playa Lakes (Suzanne Fellows, USFWS, Denver) and Intermountain West (Lew Oring). See inset map.

- *Central Plains/Playa Lakes Regional Shorebird Conservation Plan, version 1.0.* (2001); Fellows, Stone, Jones, Damude and Brown.
- *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Plan, version 1.0* (2000); Oring, Neel, Oring. CO is not mentioned much in the Plan.

Complementary Efforts

- **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)** <http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN.htm>. Initiated in 1986, the WHSRN identifies and targets for protection the most important stop-over and wintering sites for shorebirds in North and South America. Run from Manomet Center for Conservation Science, WHSRN is a voluntary, non-regulatory coalition of over 160 private and public organizations in seven countries working together. Their mission is the conservation, restoration, and management of critical shorebird habitats throughout the Americas. WHSRN designates sites of critical importance to shorebirds (none in Colorado). WHSRN produces a selection of high quality publications, including manuals for shorebird habitat management and outreach/education materials. Two favorites are listed below, and these are online at <http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN/Publications.htm>.
 - *Shorebird Migrations: Fundamentals for Land Managers in the United States* (1999); Harrington; U.S. Forest Service, Ducks Unlimited. This beautiful water-colored brochure also contains sound scientific information.
 - *Shorebirds and Agriculture: Managing Wetlands of the Intermountain West Region to Benefit Shorebirds* (1992); US Prairie Pothole JV. Brief handout appropriate for landowners (RMBO has copies). A Playa Lakes version is also planned.
- *Biogeographical Profiles of Shorebird Migration in Midcontinental North America.*(1999); Skagen, Sharpe, Watermire, and Dillon. USGS-BRD BSR-2000-0003. US Gov. Printing Office, Denver, CO. This document gives detailed information about timing, specific locations, and numbers of shorebirds on migration sites in/around Colorado.



North American Waterbird Conservation Plan

<http://www.nacwcp.org/>

Summary

The mission of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan* is to create a cohesive, multi-national partnership for conserving and managing waterbirds, including seabirds, colonial wading birds (such as herons and storks), coastal waterbirds (such as gulls, terns, and pelicans), and marshbirds (such as rails and bitterns) and their habitats throughout North America. The goal is to produce a plan whose implementation results in maintaining healthy populations, distributions, and habitats of waterbirds in North America, throughout their breeding, migratory, and wintering ranges.

These species rely on aquatic habitats that are under threat across the continent (such as lakes, streams, shallow water wetlands, coastal environments, and the open ocean) and also compete with humans for the resources contained within these habitats. The colonial nesting habit of many of these species renders them particularly vulnerable to disturbance; disturbances to a limited number of colonial nesting sites can threaten the persistence of species, and even result in extirpation or extinction.

The NAWCP was initiated in 1998. A Second Review Draft of Volume 1 of the Plan (for seabirds, colonial wading birds, and coastal waterbirds) is under review and will be completed in Spring 2002.

* Plan was previously known as N.A. *Colonial* Waterbird Conservation Plan; in October 2000, the “colonial” was dropped, allowing the group to adopt all waterbirds not covered by other plans: mostly, the non-colonial marsh-dwelling birds.



Organization and Leadership

- **Steering Committee** – 22 members from several countries. Current Chair is Jim Kushlan (USGS and Smithsonian Institution, Edgewater, Maryland).
- **Advisory Committee**– All interested parties advising and reviewing the Plan; new members welcome.
- **Director** – Melanie Steincamp (USGS, Laurel, Maryland)
- **Regional Planning Coordinator (US)** – Jennifer Wheeler (USFWS Division of Migratory Bird Management; Arlington, Virginia)
- **International Region Leads** –
 - **Mexico** – Coro Arizmendi Arriaga (Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Estado de Mexico), Humbarto Berlanga (Proyecto Invitado de CONABIO, Mexico, D.F.)
 - **Canada** – H. Loney Dickson (Canadian Wildlife Service, Migratory Bird Conservation Division, Edmonton, Alberta), Bob Milko (Canadian Wildlife Service, Migratory Birds Cons. Div., Hull, Quebec)
 - **United States** – Jennifer Wheeler (as above)
 - **Central America** – Ghiselle M. Alvarado Quesada (National Museum of Costa Rica)
 - **Caribbean** – Ann Haynes Sutton (university of the West Indies, Jamaica), David Wege

Plans and Publications available

All of the following are available for download at the above website:

- *Review Draft II of the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, Volume One: Seabirds and Colonial Waterbirds* (2001); NAWCP Steering Committee, Washington, D.C. Comments on draft are due by December 31, 2001. This portion of the plan addresses only colonial nesters.



International Plans and Publications (continued)

- *Notes from the Marshbird Conservation Workshop* (2001) is a basis for Volume Two of the NAWCP, to be developed in 2002, addressing non-colonial marshbirds (loons, grebes, bitterns, cranes, rails, coots). Notes are proceedings from a meeting in Denver in August 2001.
- *Colonial Waterbirds and North American Aquaculture* (2000); Werner, King, Glahn, and Huner.
- *Environmental Contaminants and Colonial Waterbirds* (2000); Ratner.
- *Colony Site Management Techniques* (2000); Kress.
- *Banding Issues for Colonial Waterbirds in North America* (2000); Tautin.
- *Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries: Guidelines for Colonial Waterbird Conservation Practitioners* (2000); Rivera.
- *Annotated Bibliography for North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation* (1999); Parsons and Wisneski.
- *Breeding Season Population Census Techniques for Seabirds and Colonial Waterbirds throughout North America* (draft)
- *Interdecadal Changes in Indices of Abundance of the Double-crested Cormorant*

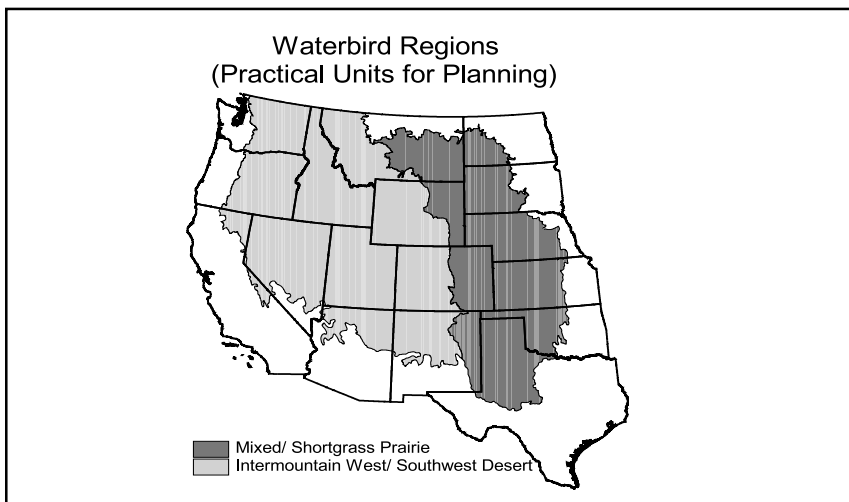
Products

Waterbird Database – a centralized, web-accessible database for waterbird data retrieval and entry is under development at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, to be available by the end of 2001. Please see website or contact Melanie_Steincamp@usgs.gov for information.

Complementary Efforts

Proceedings of the Marsh Bird Monitoring Workshop (1999) Ribic, Lewis, Melvin, Bart, and Peterjohn, USFWS/USGS, Denver CO. These reports give suggestions about monitoring secretive marsh birds. Copies available from David Dolton, USFWS/ MBMO, PO Box 25486 DFC, Denver CO 80225. A National Protocol for monitoring marshbirds is forthcoming; contact Courtney Conway (cconway@Ag.Arizona.Edu) for information.

NAWCP at the Regional/State/Local Levels



Organization and Leadership

Practical Units for Planning (PUPs) are the regions for the NAWCP, and Regional Working Groups are currently assembling. Colorado is in two of 14 terrestrial PUPs; please see inset map.

- **Mixed/Shortgrass Prairie** – leaders: David Klute (USFWS, Denver) and Steve Moran (Rainwater Basin JV, Nebraska)
- **Intermountain West/Southwest Desert** – leaders: Mike Green, Don Paul, and Gary Ivey.

Plans and Publications available

- **Regional Information Reports** are available for both the Great Plains-Prairie Potholes WCR (now the Mixed/Shortgrass Prairie) and the Intermountain West-Southwest Desert WCR. These are informal; essentially minutes from the regional meetings in 2000.
- **Regional Plans** are being developed in all of the PUPs, and will include seabirds, colonial waterbirds, and marshbirds.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative

<http://www.nabci.org/>



Summary

In November 1998, in Puebla, Mexico, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) was launched by more than 100 leading conservationists from Mexico, the United States and Canada. The intent of the initiative is to facilitate the conservation of native North American birds by increasing the effectiveness of existing initiatives, enhancing coordination, and fostering greater cooperation among the nations and peoples of the continent (US NABCI Committee 2000). NABCI is supported by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, created by the North American Free Trade Agreement to deal with environmental issues affecting Mexico, the U.S., and Canada.

The vision of NABCI-US is to see populations and habitats of North America's birds protected, restored, and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional, state, and local levels, guided by sound science and effective management (US NABCI Committee 2000). NABCI strives to "deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships,...to take bird conservation to the next level."

The NABCI-US seeks to accomplish this vision by (1) broadening bird conservation partnerships; (2) working to increase the financial resources available for conserving birds in the United States and wherever else they may occur throughout their life cycle; and (3) enhancing the effectiveness of those resources and partnerships by facilitating integrated bird conservation. NABCI will promote the focus and independence of existing programs while providing a forum to address deficiencies in coverage (of species, habitats, monitoring, etc), the integration of objectives within ecosystems, the evaluation of range-wide needs of species, and international consistency and cooperation (US NABCI Committee 2000).

Organization and Leadership

- **The Tri-national Committee** leads NABCI, comprised by the following members:
 - **Mexico** - Coro Arizmendi, Jorge Soberon, Eduardo Iòigo, Humberto Berlanga (coordinator)
 - **Canada** - Michael Bradstreet, Steve Wendt, and Arnold Boer, Art Martell (coordinator)
 - **United States** - Gary Myers, Paul Schmidt, George Fenwick, David Pashley (coordinator)
- **NABCI-US Coordinator** is David Pashley, of American Bird Conservancy.
- **The U.S. NABCI Committee** is comprised of 11 members, including representatives from the sub-committees and other bird plans (none from CO).
- **U.S. Federal Agency Sub-committee** – 13 agencies and an NGO representative. Co-chaired by Marshall Jones (USFWS) and Val Mezainis (USFS).
- **U.S. Non-governmental Organization Sub-committee** –co-chaired by Rollie Sparrowe (Wildlife Management Institute), Alan Wentz (Ducks Unlimited), and George Fenwick (American Bird Conservancy).

Plans and Publications available

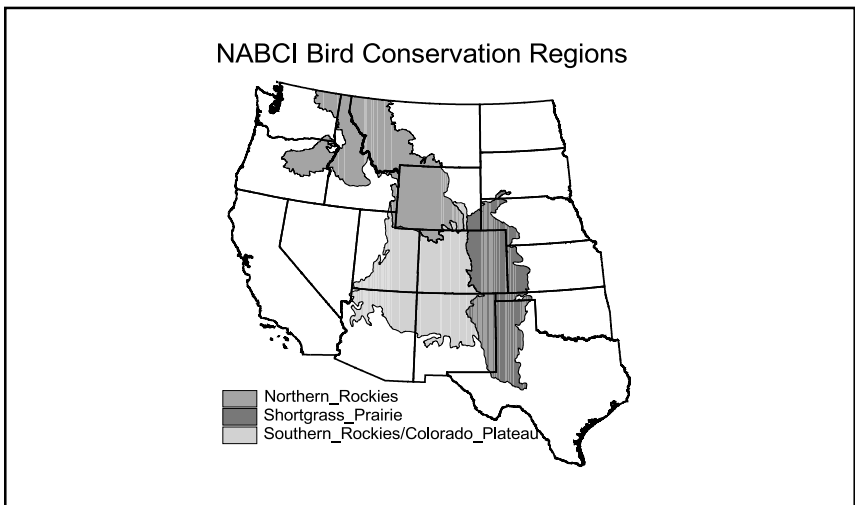
- *NABCI: BCR Descriptions* – *A supplement to the NABCI BCR map* (2000); US NABCI Committee. This is an outreach brochure and large fold-out map, available from USFWS at (703) 358-1784.
- *NABCI: A Vision of American Bird Conservation* (2000); US NABCI Committee. This articulates the purpose, vision, goals, and strategies of NABCI and is available for download at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/nabci.htm>.



Complementary Efforts

Important Bird Area (IBA) Programs have been created worldwide to identify and conserve key sites for birds, addressing the most serious threat of habitat loss and degradation. An IBA is broadly defined as a place that provides essential habitat for one or more species of bird, whether in breeding season, winter, or during migration. Originated by BirdLife International in Europe, IBA programs are now implemented at local, regional, and national level; in the U.S., American Bird Conservancy and The Audubon Society are both involved with administering IBA programs.

NABCI at the Regional/State/Local Levels



Organization and Leadership

- Bird Conservation Regions** – North America is partitioned into 67 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), of which Colorado is in primarily two: Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau (16) and Shortgrass Prairie (18). A small portion of NW Colorado also lies within the Northern Rockies BCR (10). (Note: BCR boundaries may change over time; an update to the map is planned for 2002.)

- **BCR Coordinators:** Some BCRs have coordinators, who work with the Joint Ventures and states in implementing regional bird conservation. The Shortgrass Prairie BCR coordinator is Christopher Rustay (New Mexico). A joint effort among states was initiated in 2000 to raise funds for a Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau coordinator; that is still in the works.

Plans and Publications available

The Shortgrass Prairie Bird Conservation Region Implementation Plan is planned for drafting in 2002.

Complementary Efforts

Important Bird Areas (IBA's) in Colorado have been identified by Audubon of Colorado. The first report, *Important Bird Areas of Colorado* (Cafaro 2000), named 46 sites, which support species of high conservation priority, represent rare or representative habitats, support high concentrations or diversities of birds, or are important for research or education. Additional sites are still being identified, and IBA-based monitoring and outreach programs are being developed. To find an IBA near you or learn more about the program, see <http://www.audubon.org/chapter/co/co/wildlife.htm>.



*North American Waterfowl
Management Plan*

*Plan nord-américain de
gestion de la sauvagine*

*Plan de Manejo de Aves
Acuáticas de Norteamérica*

<http://northamerican.fws.gov/NAWMP/nawmphp.htm>



Partners in Flight

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

United States Shorebird Conservation Plan

<http://www.manomet.org/USSCP.htm>



**North American Waterbird
Conservation Plan**

<http://www.nacwcp.org/>



**North American Bird Con-
servation Initiative**

<http://www.nabci.org/>