

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

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Janet M. Ruth



nabci 

## **Introduction**

This document is a reference handbook of information regarding the four “major bird plans”: three international (North American Waterfowl Management Plan, Partners in Flight, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan) and one national (United States Shorebird Conservation Plan) – in addition to the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), established to stimulate coordination among the plans. Plans are presented chronologically from when they were established, 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 New Mexico wildlife managers, private landowners, and other wildlife conservation partners to locate New Mexico within the context of each of these plans and to apply resources from the plans to the management and conservation of birds in New Mexico.

Because names change so frequently, we have chosen not to include the names of current coordinators and contacts in most cases. For help in finding current contacts, please consult the appropriate website listed for the initiative.

Please refer any questions regarding this document to Janet Ruth (USGS) at [janet\\_ruth@usgs.gov](mailto:janet_ruth@usgs.gov)

## **Acknowledgements**

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**North American Waterfowl  
Management Plan**  

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**Plan nord-américain de  
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**Plan de Manejo de Aves  
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## North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP)

<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/index.shtm>

### Summary

The North American Waterfowl Management Plan of 1986 responded to record low populations 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. In 1986, the U.S. and Canada signed the Plan, commonly referred to as "the North American", or "NAWMP," and Mexico signed in 1994.

International in scope, the Plan is implemented regionally in Joint Ventures (JVs). Its success is dependent 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 established 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 2003, Plan partners have marshaled more than \$3 billion for waterfowl habitat and population conservation, including conservation actions on more than 13 million acres of land.

The 1998 Plan update, *1998 Update, Expanding the Vision*, articulated three visions for strengthening delivery of the Plan. First, 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, as well as with sectors beyond the traditional wildlife conservation community, will increase capacity for waterfowl conservation.

*NAWMP Science Support Team – 2006: Setting the Technical Agenda, Strengthening the Biological Foundation*, is the first comprehensive plan document since 1986. The document presents the mission, objectives, and roles of the NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST) and charts a course for



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developing its vision, goals, and objectives, based on a comprehensive analysis of historical documents. The report brings to light the primary challenges facing the NSST, including the need to address the coherence of harvest and habitat management, which are by nature inextricably linked. The report discusses the need to coalesce regional habitat objectives and link them to continental population objectives. While being partitioned among the Joint Ventures, the objectives should enable a cogent continental assessment of NAWMP progress, while accounting for uncontrolled environmental variation. The report also discusses the need to develop creative, efficient approaches to waterfowl and habitat conservation, given limited resources and globalization of stewardship initiatives that reaffirm our commitment to these species in the context of “all bird” management.

*NAWMP – Continental Progress Assessment Final Report* Feb. 2007 – An independent review team evaluated responses to written questionnaires and conducted interviews with each species and habitat Joint Venture, Mexican partners, and Flyway Councils. Achievements to date are reported by Joint Ventures, and several areas are identified where improvements to overall operations are needed. The report outlines strengths and weaknesses of each Joint Venture, and notes the importance of the Prairie Pothole region for maintaining populations of prairie ducks. Most duck species are at or near population goals but several are below goals and/or are experiencing severe declines. Better monitoring and more highly targeted research on habitat requirements for these species are called for. Better targeting of conservation acres, especially using the substantial resources in the Farm Bill, is needed. There exists an integration and communication deficit between Flyways, JVs, the NSST and the North American Wetlands Conservation Council. Addressing the issues identified in the report should result in improved ability to set and meet population goals, investment in monitoring and evaluation and strengthening of performance metrics.

## NAWMP at the International Level

### Organization and Leadership

**The Plan Committee**, comprising 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 makes recommendations 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.

- **United States** - Two representatives from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and one state representative from each of the four flyways.
- **Canada** - Six delegates represent the federal and provincial governments and one non-profit organization.
- **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.

**The NAWMP Science Support Team (NSST)**, was established in 2000 by the Plan Committee to help strengthen the biological foundations of the Plan and facilitate continuous improvement of Plan conservation programs. The NSST is now the Committee's principal technical advisory body with a prominent role in helping achieve the Plan's vision and goals. The NSST provides the leadership, direction, and capabilities necessary to carry out an adaptive resource management approach to conserving North America's waterfowl. It serves as the primary forum for facilitating scientific communication and collaboration among joint ventures, the Plan Committee, and federal wildlife agencies.

The NSST consists of three national representatives appointed by the Plan Committee Co-Chairs, one technical representative from each of the joint ventures and flyway councils, and representatives from working groups or subcommittees of the NSST.

Information about the members of the Plan Committee and the NSST can be found from the main NAWMP website.

## Plans, Publications, and Products

- ***NAWMP Science Support Team - 2006: Setting the Technical Agenda, Strengthening the Biological Foundation***; available online at [http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/NSST/files/NSSTchallenge\\_2006.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/NSST/files/NSSTchallenge_2006.pdf)

Previous NAWMP documents, including the following, are available online at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/Planstrategy.shtm>

- *North American Waterfowl Management Plan* (1986)
- *1994 Update, Expanding the Commitment*
- *1998 Update, Expanding the Vision*
- *2004 North American Waterfowl Management Plan-Strengthening the Biological Foundation*
- *2007 North American Waterfowl Management Plan – Continental Progress Assessment Final Report*

Many reports (regarding adaptive harvest management and population status) are available online at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/NAWMP/Waterfowlreport.shtm>

## Complementary Efforts

**The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA)** of 1989 provides matching grants to private or public organizations or to individuals in partnerships for wetlands conservation projects in the United States, Canada, and Mexico (<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>). NAWCA was passed



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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. Twelve staff people are dispersed around the country. The MBCC is led by the Secretary of the Interior and comprised of appointees. Information about the members of the Council and staff can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/CouncilAct.shtm>

Congress appropriated \$39.4 million for NAWCA projects in Fiscal Year 2007. Additional program funding comes from fines, penalties, and forfeitures collected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918; from Federal fuel excise taxes on small gasoline engines, as directed by amendments to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, to benefit coastal ecosystem projects; and from interest accrued on the fund established under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act of 1937. The President's FY 2008 appropriation request is \$42.6 million. These NAWCA funds are made available in up to \$1 million standard grants and small grants of up to \$75,000. More information about Standard and Small Grants can be found online at <http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NAWCA/index.shtm>.

In New Mexico, NAWCA grant applications should be coordinated with Tim Mitchusson, NMDGF ([Tmitchusson@state.nm.us](mailto:Tmitchusson@state.nm.us)), and Hira Walker, NMDGF ([hira.walker@state.nm.us](mailto:hira.walker@state.nm.us)), and either the Intermountain West Joint Venture or Playa Lakes Joint Venture. New Mexico has received three standard and no small NAWCA grants.

## NAWMP at the Regional/State/Local Levels

See Appendix A for a map of NAWMP Habitat Joint Ventures.

## Organization and Leadership

**Joint Ventures** – New Mexico lies in two of thirteen habitat-based Joint Ventures in the U.S.: the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) and the Playa Lakes Joint Venture (PLJV). Please see map in Appendix A.

- **Intermountain West JV** – <http://www.iwjv.org/>  
Information about IWJV organization is available online at <http://www.iwjv.org/organization.htm>
- **Playa Lakes JV** – <http://www.pljv.org/>  
Information about PLJV organization is available online at <http://www.pljv.org/cms/administrative-structure>



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## Plans and publications available

### Joint Ventures

- **Intermountain West JV (IWJV)** <http://www.iwjb.org>
  - *Coordinated Implementation Plan for Western New Mexico* (2005) – available online at <http://www.iwjb.org/Images/NMPlan2005.pdf>
  - *Intermountain Quarterly* – newsletter available online at <http://www.iwjb.org/newsletter.htm>
- **Playa Lakes JV (PLJV)** <http://www.pljb.org>
  - Area Implementation Plan for the Shortgrass Prairie BCR 18 of New Mexico, Hierarchical All-Bird Strategy (HABS) database, and Species for Management Action (SMA) database available – contact PLJV staff
  - *Playa Post* – monthly newsletter available online at <http://www.pljb.org/cms/news-media>



## 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 declines in the populations of many landbird species. The initial focus was on species that breed in North America and winter in Mexico, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, but the scope has increased to include all of the landbirds of the continental United States and Canada, and it is anticipated that Mexican species will be included in the near future.

The Partners In Flight mission is expressed through three related concepts: 1) helping species at risk; 2) keeping common birds common; and 3) voluntary partnerships for birds, habitat, and people. The top priority work, preventing extinctions, is wholly supported by PIF, but often accomplished by governmental or other entities. The species that are in a precarious status but not yet listed as endangered or threatened are often top priority for PIF. Allowing species to become threatened or endangered results in long-term and costly recovery efforts whose success is often not guaranteed. The “keeping common birds common” task, for which PIF is most well known, is generally addressed through long-term monitoring and assignment of responsibility to regions where the species are most common, regions with the highest responsibility for sustenance of those species. The “voluntary partnerships” concept is tied directly to the central premise of PIF - that the resources of public and private organizations throughout the Americas must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to conserve bird populations. Current PIF partners include government agencies, tribes, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals.

PIF has been instrumental in conservation planning; over 52 bird conservation plans have been completed across the continent to date. The planning process entails assessing species and habitats most in need of conservation, setting measurable 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.

### PIF at the National Level

#### Organization and Leadership

Information about PIF National Level Organization is available online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/description.cfm> and information about PIF National Level Contacts is available online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/contactus.cfm>



**PIF National Coordinator** – The National Coordinator is responsible for leadership and coordination necessary to achieve PIF goals. The coordinator communicates regularly with all PIF working groups and committees, and participates in meetings of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative to facilitate integrated bird conservation in the Western Hemisphere.

**PIF Council** – Partners in Flight is coordinated by the PIF Council. The Council is composed of the chairs of the four PIF National Committees – State Agency Committee, Federal Agency Committee, Non-governmental Organization Committee, and Industry Committee. Specific responsibilities include: 1) identifying program-wide priorities and making decisions on courses of action, 2) ensuring that effective communication and coordination exists, 3) discussing policy issues that concern the structure, operation, and mission of the initiative, 4) reviewing working group activities to ensure that all needs are addressed and duplication is avoided, and 5) elevating issues and needs to the U.S. NABCI Committee or other appropriate entities. The appointment of the chair, and procedural rules are determined by the Council.

**PIF National Committees** – PIF has four national committees whose roles are to: 1) solicit and synthesize opinions of its members on landbird conservation issues and bring them to the PIF Council for presentation, discussion, and resolution, 2) assign specific tasks and responsibilities to members, and 3) take action to achieve the goals and objectives of PIF.

- **State Agency Committee** – This committee is synonymous with the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies’ (AFWA) Partners in Flight/Shorebird Waterbird Working Group. It consists of representatives from State and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies. The composition of the committee, appointment of the chair, and procedural rules are determined by AFWA. <http://www.fishwildlife.org/index.html>
- **Federal Agency Committee** – This committee is comprised of representatives from each federal agency interested in taking an active role in bird conservation. Member agencies are encouraged to take appropriate actions within the limits of their respective authorities, missions, policies, and budgets. The composition of the committee, appointment of the chair, and procedural rules are determined by the committee.
- **Non-Governmental Organization Committee** – The NGO Committee consists of representatives from each organization that endorses PIF and will actively commit resources to foster its goals. The composition of the committee, appointment of the chair, and procedural rules are determined by the committee.
- **Industry Committee** – This committee consists of representatives from private industry that have signed the Industry Committee Memorandum of Agreement. It was established in 1996 in recognition of the critical role that industry is playing in bird conservation action. Participation is open to all industries that endorse PIF and will actively commit resources to foster its goals. The composition of the committee, appointment of the chair, and procedural rules are determined by the committee. Currently, the committee is mostly composed of timber industry groups.

**PIF Implementation Committee** – The PIF Implementation Committee is a problem-solving body that produces information, processes, and tools that partners need for implementing landbird conservation actions. It identifies and discusses appropriate landbird conservation issues and frames them for advice, decisions, or assistance in implementation from the PIF Council. The committee consists of the chairs of the regional and technical working groups, the National Coordinator, chair of the Science Committee, Staff Coordinators from those partner agencies that have designated them, and representatives from both Canada and Mexico. In addition, any other interested party is welcome to participate in this committee. The chair and vice-chair of the



committee are elected by a majority of those present at the meeting during which the election occurs. The chair serves for two years. The Implementation Committee meets regularly, but not fewer than two times per year.

**PIF Science Committee** – The Science Committee is primarily responsible for implementing actions to ensure an active scientifically-based conservation design process. This includes maintaining, revising, and evaluating the technical content of the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan, PIF Species Assessment Database, and PIF Population Estimation Database. It also addresses all other technical issues concerning landbird conservation at the national and international levels. The committee consists of the National Coordinator, chair of the Monitoring and Inventory Working Group, chair of the Research Working Group, representatives from Canada and Mexico, and other technical experts that the incumbent members or other partners suggest.

**Technical Working Groups:** National-level technical working groups have been established. Each working group is composed of experts in their respective fields who have volunteered to contribute to achieving the goals and objectives of PIF. Each working group periodically reviews and revises short- and long-term objectives for inclusion in the PIF Strategic Plan and pursues accomplishment of those objectives. Membership in technical working groups is open to all with a desire to contribute to bird conservation. Each working group has one or two chairpersons who convene meetings, consult with members as needed, and who are members of and report to the PIF Implementation Committee. Current working groups are listed below.

- International
- Research
- Monitoring and Inventory
- Communications
- Education

## Plans, Publications, and Products

- *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan* (2004) is available online at [http://www.partnersinflight.org/cont\\_plan/](http://www.partnersinflight.org/cont_plan/)
- Bird Conservation Plans for states or regions are available online at [http://www.partnersinflight.org/conservation\\_plans/default.htm](http://www.partnersinflight.org/conservation_plans/default.htm)
- PIF Technical Series – Is a series of technical publications produced by the PIF Science Committee and made available online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/ts/>
- *Bird Conservation* is a quarterly magazine about “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. Information about subscribing is available online at <http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/birdconservation.html>



- **La Tangara** is a bi-monthly online newsletter of International Partners in Flight, available at <http://www.latangara.org>.
- A quarterly National PIF newsletter, issued by the PIF National Coordinator, is available at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pubs/pifnews.HTM>.
- **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 wintering populations, and population trend. The PIF Species Assessment Database is hosted on the RMBO site, <http://www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html>, from which you can download species assessment scores. A Users' Guide is included on site.
- **Landbird Population Estimation** – PIF has created a process for estimating the populations of landbirds, which was used in the PIF North American Landbird Conservation Plan. The PIF Landbird Population Estimates Database is hosted on the RMBO site, [http://rmbo.org/pif\\_db/laped/](http://rmbo.org/pif_db/laped/), from which you can search or download population estimation information. A Users's Guide is included on site.
- **Research and Monitoring Needs Resources** – several documents and databases providing information about priority research and monitoring needs identified by PIF are available online at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/pifneeds/default.htm>
- **Species Accounts** – <http://www.partnersinflight.org/birdacct.htm> refers reader to species accounts written by a number of sources including The Nature Conservancy, USGS Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center, and USFWS; the site also provides Birds of North America (BNA) account numbers, by species. Accounts give comprehensive ecology, conservation, and management information.

## Complementary Efforts

### **The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)**

(<http://www.fws.gov/birdhabitat/Grants/NMBCA/index.shtm>) of 2000 establishes a competitive, matching grants program that supports public-private partnerships carrying out projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean that promote the long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats. The goals of the Act include perpetuating healthy populations of these birds, providing financial resources for bird conservation initiatives, and fostering international cooperation for such initiatives. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Bird Habitat Conservation is responsible for managing the Act's Grants Program. At least 75 percent of the total funding available for grants each fiscal year is to be used to support projects outside the United States; however, projects in the United States may receive up to 25 percent of the total funding. Total funding for the Act's Grants Program in FY 2007 was approximately \$4 million.

Information about the NMBCA Advisory Group and application for grants is available on the website listed above.



## PIF at the Regional/State/Local Levels

See Appendix B for a map of Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs).

### Organization and Leadership

- **Regions** – Four PIF regional working groups have been established in the West, Midwest, Southeast and Northeast; New Mexico is in the Western Region. Each regional working group has a chair but otherwise devises the structure and procedures that best meet the needs of regional partners. The mission of each regional working group is to develop strategies for the conservation of landbirds by identifying problems, synthesizing information, and generating solutions to be used by resource professionals and the general public. Information about the current Western Working Group chair can be found at <http://www.partnersinflight.org/contactus.cfm>
- **States** – Some states have formed active working groups. The New Mexico Partners in Flight Working Group has now merged into the newly established New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners (NMACP), which focuses on all-bird conservation, including the landbirds covered by PIF. Information about this group is available online at <http://www.nmpartnersinflight.org>

### Plans, Publications, and Products

- *The New Mexico Bird Conservation Plan, Version 2.1* (2007) is available online at <http://www.nmpartnersinflight.org/>
- **Species Assessment scores** are available for each BCR in New Mexico online at <http://www.rmbo.org/pif/pifdb.html>.
- The PIF Western Working Group maintains a List-Serve for the exchange of information. You can subscribe to the List-Serve by going to <http://www.partnersinflight.org/wwg> and following the instructions.
- The New Mexico Avian Conservation Partners (NMACP) also maintains a List-serve for the exchange of information. You can subscribe to the List-serve by going to <http://www.nmpartnersinflight.org> and following the instructions.
- The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) provides access to all State Wildlife Action Plans, including New Mexico, online at [http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/new\\_mexico.html](http://www.wildlifeactionplans.org/new_mexico.html)
- The AFWA also provides access to State by State Partners in Flight Landbird Reports that were produced to help states in the development of State Wildlife Action Plans; these reports are available online at [http://www.fishwildlife.org/allbird\\_landbird.html](http://www.fishwildlife.org/allbird_landbird.html)



## United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP)

<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird.htm>

### Summary

Partners from state and federal agencies and non-governmental organizations across the country pooled their resources and expertise to develop a conservation strategy for migratory shorebirds and the habitats upon which they depend. The United States Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP) provides a scientific framework to determine shorebird species, sites, and habitats that most urgently need conservation action. The main goals of the plan, completed in 2000, are to ensure that adequate quantity and quality of shorebird habitat is maintained at the local level and to maintain or restore shorebird populations at the continental and hemispheric levels. Separate technical reports were developed for a conservation assessment, research needs, a comprehensive monitoring strategy, and education and outreach. USSCP committees have continued to develop ideas originally outlined in these reports. National assessments were used to step down goals and objectives into 11 regional conservation plans. Although some outreach, education, research, monitoring, and habitat conservation programs are being implemented, accomplishment of conservation objectives for all shorebird species continues to require a coordinated effort among traditional and new partners. National and regional plans and other plan-related documents are available on the USSCP website (address above), and updates and subsequent documents are posted regularly.

The USSCP addresses four primary goals: 1) to understand the status of shorebirds populations and how they are changing, 2) to determine what is causing observed changes in populations, 3) to define the habitat needs of shorebirds throughout their annual cycle and provide and manage high-quality habitats, and 4) to raise awareness of shorebirds and their conservation needs with the public. Because most species of shorebirds are long-distance migrants, this Plan emphasizes the continued conservation of shorebirds throughout their annual cycle. A special emphasis is placed on the conservation of migratory stop-over sites. In addition, a lack of survey information for most shorebirds indicates an urgent need for continued and/or increased monitoring and research programs.

### USSCP at the National Level

#### Organization and Administration

- The **U. S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Council** serves as the steering committee for the U. S. Shorebird Conservation Plan and oversees the implementation of the regional, national, and international goals of the Plan. The Council is open to all private and public organizations that support implementation of the goals and objectives developed in the Plan. There is also a National Shorebird Coordinator. Information about



the Council and contact information for the National Coordinator is available at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird/plancouncil.htm>

## Plans, Publications, and Products

The following original publications are available for download from the USFWS at: <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird/PlanDocuments.htm>

- *United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* (2001)
- *A Comprehensive Monitoring Program for North American Shorebirds* (2000)
- *National Shorebird Research Needs: A Proposal for a National Research Program and Example High Priority Research Topics* (2000)
- *National Shorebird Education and Outreach Plan* (2000)
- *National Shorebird Conservation Assessment: Shorebird Conservation Status, Conservation Units, Population Estimates, Population Targets, and Species Prioritization* (2000)

The following updates are also provided at: <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird.htm>

- PRISM - Program for Regional and International Shorebird Monitoring (January 2002)
- Download Directory of Shorebird Education Materials (November 2002)
- Promoting a Western Hemisphere Perspective (November 2001)
- Priority Shorebirds - August 2004
- Minutes of Council meetings

The following resources are also available:

- **Species Assessments** are provided for prioritization of conservation effort by species, by region. Somewhat 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. An update was completed in 2004 and another is planned for 2008. Population sizes are also reviewed periodically.
- **Bird Conservation Region Area Importance Scores** are available online at: <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird/PlanDocuments.htm>
- The **Western Shorebird Survey** (WSS) was initiated in 2000 by the US Fish and Wildlife Survey and the US Geological Survey to enhance shorebird monitoring during the non-breeding period, especially in the western United States. The goal of the WSS is to monitor numbers of shorebirds at major stop-over sites, with specific survey areas being chosen to include the most heavily used areas at each site and any areas that are of special interest to local managers. Direct questions or comments about the WSS to Jon Bart (USGS) at [jon\\_bart@usgs.gov](mailto:jon_bart@usgs.gov)



- The **Shorebird Sister Schools Program** is the cornerstone education program for the Plan; see <http://sssp.fws.gov>.

## Complementary Efforts

### **Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN)**

<http://www.whsrn.org>

The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network is a conservation strategy launched in 1985. Their mission is the conservation, restoration, and management of critical shorebird habitats throughout the Americas. The Network aligns with the simple strategy that we must protect key habitats throughout the Americas in order to sustain healthy populations of shorebirds. During the last 20 years, over 21 million acres of shorebird habitat has been brought under the auspices of WHSRN. There are currently 67 sites in nine countries.

WHSRN works to:

- Build a strong system of international sites used by shorebirds throughout their migratory ranges.
- Develop science and management tools that expand the scope and pace of habitat conservation at each site within the Network.
- Establish local, regional and international recognition for sites, raising new public awareness and generating conservation funding opportunities.
- Serve as an international resource, convener and strategist for issues related to shorebird and habitat conservation.

Shorebird population thresholds for designating WHSRN sites are posted at:

<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/USShorebird.htm>

## USSCP at the Regional/State/Local Levels

See Appendix B for a map of USSCP Planning Regions. A map is also posted at

<http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/RegionalShorebird/RegionsMap.asp>



## Organization and Leadership

**Shorebird Planning Regions** – Of the 11 USSCP planning regions, New Mexico is located within two – the Central Plains/Playa Lakes Region and the Intermountain West Region. Information on the planning regions can be found at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/RegionalShorebird.htm>

## Plans and Publications

- The *Central Plains/Playa Lakes Regional Shorebird Conservation Plan, Version 1.0* (2001) is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/RegionalShorebird/RegionalPlans.htm> and shorebird information has been incorporated into the plans of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture.
- The *Intermountain West Regional Shorebird Conservation Plan, Version 1.0* (2000) is available online at <http://www.fws.gov/shorebirdplan/RegionalShorebird/RegionalPlans.htm>. The Intermountain West Joint Venture is currently developing a shorebird component for their updated Implementation Plan.



## Waterbird Conservation for the Americas

<http://www.waterbirdconservation.org>

### Summary

The mission of Waterbird Conservation for the Americas (WCA) is to create a cohesive, multi-national partnership for conserving and managing waterbirds, including seabirds, colonial wading birds (such as herons and egrets), 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 (such as lakes, streams, shallow water wetlands, coastal environments, and the open ocean) that are under threat across the continent and also compete with humans for the resources contained within these habitats. The colonial nesting habits 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.

WCA was initiated in 1998. *Waterbird Conservation for the Americas: the North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, Version I* (covering seabirds, colonial wading birds, and coastal waterbirds) was completed and published in 2002. A companion status assessment of non-colonial waterbirds such as grebes, bitterns, and rails, was developed in 2006.

### WCA at the International Level

#### Organization and Leadership

- **Waterbird Conservation Council** – 34 members from several countries. The Council is the keeper of the Plan and has responsibility for coordinating, facilitating, and communicating implementation of this and other waterbird plans, updating the plans, and facilitating actions for waterbird conservation throughout the Plan area. Information about the Council and contact information for the Council Coordinator can be found at <http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/council.html>
- **Council Committees** – Seven Committees have the responsibility of updating, coordinating, and facilitating implementation of the Plan. They report to the Executive Committee.
- **Planning Regions** – Waterbird planning regions were identified to allow for planning at a scale that is practical yet provides a landscape-level perspective. Planning region boundaries are based on a combination of political considerations and ecological factors. There are currently 16 established planning regions for North and Central America. Information on regions, regional planning leads, and international cooperators can be found at <http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/region.html>



## Plans, Publications, and Products

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

- ***Northern Prairie and Parkland Waterbird Conservation Plan*** (2004). Published by Prairie Pothole Joint Venture
- ***Wings over Water: Canada's Waterbird Conservation Plan*** (2003).
- ***Waterbird Conservation for the Americas: North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, Version 1*** (2002). This version of the plan addresses only colonial nesters.
- ***"Marshbird" Species Conservations Status Assessment*** (2006). Addresses non-colonially nesting waterbirds.
- ***Standardized North American Marshbird Monitoring Protocols*** (2002). These protocols are currently being used and tested at multiple sites across the country in different habitats. Contact Courtney Conway for details (cconway@ag.arizona.edu)
- ***Notes from the Marshbird Conservation Workshop*** (2001) will serve as a basis for Volume Two of the NAWCP, still under development, addressing non-colonial marshbirds (i.e., loons, grebes, bitterns, cranes, rails, coots). Notes summarize proceedings from a meeting in Denver in August 2001.
- ***Colonial Waterbirds and North American Aquaculture*** (2000)
- ***Environmental Contaminants and Colonial Waterbirds*** (2000)
- ***[Tern] Colony Site Management Techniques*** (2000)
- ***Banding Issues for Colonial Waterbirds in North America*** (2000)
- ***Incidental Catch of Seabirds in Longline Fisheries: Guidelines for Colonial Waterbird Conservation Practitioners*** (2000)
- ***Annotated Bibliography for North American Colonial Waterbird Conservation*** (1999)
- ***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***

**Waterbird Database** – a centralized, web-accessible database for waterbird data retrieval and entry. Currently contains data from Maine to Georgia from coastal surveys that were conducted in the mid-1990's. Plans are to eventually include data nationwide. The database can be found at <http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/cwb/database/>. Contact: Bruce Peterjohn (Bruce\_Peterjohn@usgs.gov), USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD.

**Breeding Season Survey Techniques for Seabirds and Colonial Waterbirds throughout North America.** Draft dated February 13, 2003. Available at: <http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/pubs/PSGManual03.pdf>

## Complementary Efforts

***Proceedings of the Marsh Bird Monitoring Workshop*** (1999) Ribic, Lewis, Melvin, Bart, and Peterjohn, USFWS/USGS, Denver CO. The document gives reports and suggestions about monitoring secretive marsh birds. Additional copies available from David Dolton, USFWS/ MBMO, PO Box 25486 DFC, Denver CO 80225-0486.



## WCA at the Regional/State/Local Levels

See Appendix C for map of WCA Planning Regions.

### Organization and Leadership

**Regional Plans Covering New Mexico.** Three Planning Regions within the WCA intersect New Mexico (please see Appendix C), with the regional plans in varying stages of completion.

- Intermountain West Region (covers BCR 16 in NM) – Information about this region and the Intermountain West Waterbird Conservation Plan are available at [http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/intermountain\\_west.html](http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/intermountain_west.html)
- Central Prairies (BCR 18 in NM) – Information about this region is available at [http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/central\\_prairies.html](http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/central_prairies.html)
- Mexico – Southwest U.S. (BCRs 34 and 35 in NM) – Information about this region and links to the Sonoran Joint Venture Conservation Plan, which included information on waterbirds, are available at [http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/southwest\\_us.html](http://www.waterbirdconservation.org/southwest_us.html)



## North American Bird Conservation Initiative

<http://www.nabci-us.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. NABCI is supported by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC), (created by the North American Free Trade Agreement to deal with environmental issues affecting Mexico, the United States, and Canada).

The vision of NABCI 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. 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.

### NABCI at the International Level

#### Organization and Leadership

- **The Tri-national Committee** leads NABCI, and is composed of several representatives each from Mexico, Canada, and the United States. Information on the composition of the Committee can be found online at <http://www.nabci-us.org/trinational.htm>
- **The U.S. NABCI Committee** is a coalition of government agencies, private organizations, and bird initiatives in the United States working to advance integrated bird conservation based on sound science and cost-effective management that will benefit all birds in all habitats. NABCI participants aim to ensure the long-term health of North America's native bird populations by increasing the effectiveness of their bird conservation initiatives and programs through enhanced coordination and by fostering greater cooperation



among the continent's three national governments and their people. Links to information about the U.S. NABCI Committee, U.S. NABCI Sub-Committees, and the U.S. NABCI Coordinator and other staff is available online at <http://www.nabci-us.org/nabci.html>.

## Plans, Publications, and Products

Various NABCI publications, including the following are available online at <http://www.nabci-us.org/products.htm>

- *NABCI Vision and Work Plan (2005)*
- *NABCI Action Plan Update (2007)*
- *NABCI: Bringing It All Together (2000)*; NABCI's full color outreach document.
- *The All-Bird Bulletin* is a news and information-sharing publication of NABCI.
- *Opportunities for Improving Avian Monitoring* – a U.S. NABCI report written by the Monitoring Subcommittee that presents recommendations on how make bird monitoring more efficient and effective

In addition, a clickable map of NABCI Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) that provides information about each BCR is available online at <http://www.nabci-us.org/map.html>

## 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. To find out more about the national IBA program, see <http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba/index.html> and

<http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/sitebased/iba/index.html>

The American Bird Conservancy has published a book entitled *The 500 Most Important Bird Areas in the United States*; information is available online at

[http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/sitebased/iba/book\\_guide.html](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/sitebased/iba/book_guide.html)

## NABCI at the Regional/State/Local Levels

See Appendix D for a map of NABCI Bird Conservation Regions.



## Organization and Leadership

- **Bird Conservation Regions** – North America is partitioned into 67 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs), of which New Mexico is primarily located in three: Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau (16), Shortgrass Prairie (18), and Chihuahuan Desert (35). A small portion of southwestern New Mexico also lies within the Sierra Madre Occidental BCR (34).
- **BCR Coordinators:** Some BCRs have coordinators, who work with the Joint Ventures and states in implementing regional bird conservation. Information about BCR Coordinators can be found online at the clickable map at <http://www.nabci-us.org/map.html>

## Complementary Efforts

**Important Bird Areas (IBAs)** – New Mexico contains five Global IBAs – Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, Gray Ranch, Lincoln National Forest, and Mescalero Sands. Information about these sites can be found at <http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/domestic/sitebased/iba/index.html>

At the state level, New Mexico Audubon is working to identify all potential sites in the state for evaluation and possible inclusion on a state IBA register. The Important Bird Areas New Mexico website is located at <http://nm.audubon.org/iba/iba.html>

# APPENDIX A



**North American Waterfowl  
Management Plan**  

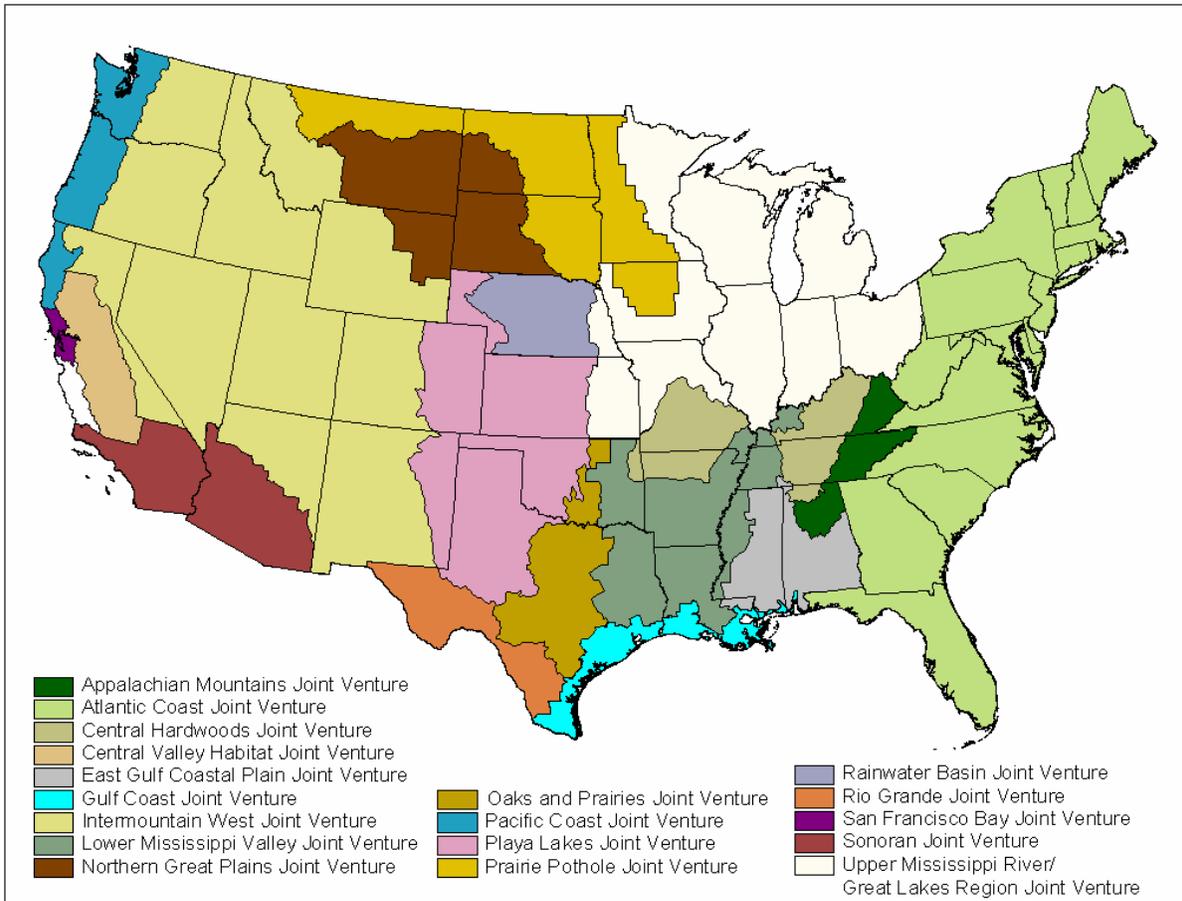

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**Plan nord-américain de  
gestion de la sauvagine**  


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**Plan de Manejo de Aves  
Acuáticas de Norteamérica**

## North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) Habitat Joint Ventures



# APPENDIX B



## U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan Planning Regions

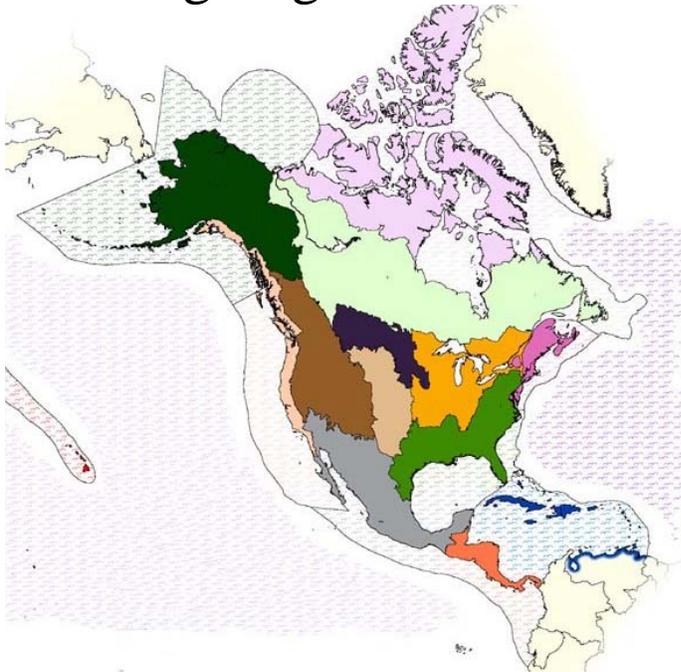
**Shorebird Planning Regions and Bird Conservation Regions**



## APPENDIX C



# North American Waterbird Conservation Plan Planning Regions



### Waterbird Conservation Planning Regions

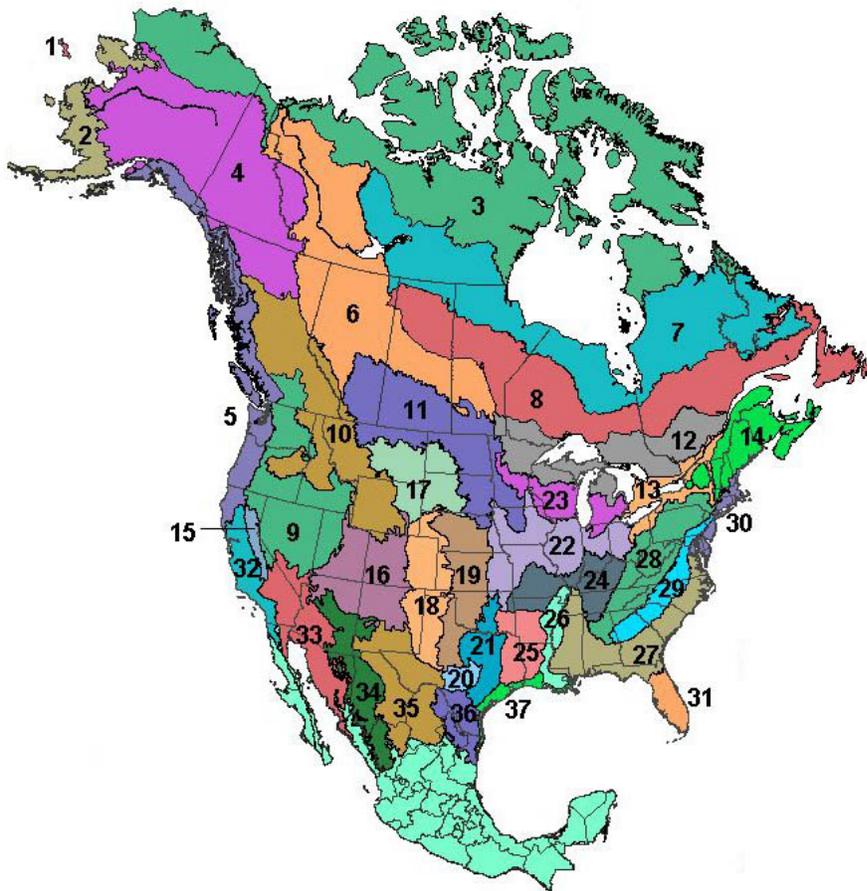
-  Alaska /Bering /Yukon
-  Pacific Coast
-  Upper Mississippi Valley /Great Lakes
-  Mexico- Southwest U.S.
-  Southeast U.S.
-  Intermountain West
-  Mid Atlantic /New England /Maritime
-  Boreal
-  Pacific Islands
-  Arctic Canada
-  Caribbean
-  Central Prairies
-  Northern Prairie and Parkland
-  Central America

Plan area also includes the open waters of the Pacific and Atlantic oceans.

## APPENDIX D



# North American Bird Conservation Initiative Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs)



- |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Aleutian/Bering Sea Islands    | 11. Prairie Potholes                     |
| 2. Western Alaska                 | 12. Boreal Hardwood Transition           |
| 3. Arctic Plains and Mountains    | 13. Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain |
| 4. Northwestern Interior Forest   | 14. Atlantic Northern Forest             |
| 5. Northern Pacific Rainforest    | 15. Sierra Nevada                        |
| 6. Boreal Taiga Plains            | 16. Southern Rockies/Colorado Plateau    |
| 7. Taiga Shield and Hudson Plains | 17. Badlands and Prairies                |
| 8. Boreal Softwood Shield         | 18. Shortgrass Prairie                   |
| 9. Great Basin                    | 19. Central Mixed-grass Prairie          |
| 10. Northern Rockies              | 20. Edwards Plateau                      |

21. Oaks and Prairies
22. Eastern Tallgrass Prairie
23. Prairie Hardwood Transition
24. Central Hardwoods
25. West Gulf Coastal Plain/Ouachitas
26. Mississippi Alluvial Valley
27. Southeastern Coastal Plain
28. Appalachian Mountains
29. Piedmont
30. New England/Mid-Atlantic Coast
31. Peninsular Florida
32. Coastal California
33. Sonoran and Mohave Deserts
34. Sierra Madre Occidental
35. Chihuahuan Desert
36. Tamaulipan Brushlands
37. Gulf Coastal Prairie
38. Islas Mariás
39. Sierras de Baja California
40. Desierto de Baja California
41. Islas del Golfo de California
42. Sierra y Planicies de El Cabo
43. Planicie Costera, Lomeríos y Cañones de Occidente
44. Marismas Nacionales
45. Planicie Costera y Lomeríos del Pacífico Sur
46. Sur del Altiplano Mexicano
47. Eje Neovolcánico Transversal
48. Sierra Madre Oriental
49. Planicie Costera y Lomeríos Secos del Golfo de México
50. Cuenca del Río Balsas
51. Valle de Tehuacán–Cuicatlán
52. Planicie Costera y Lomeríos Húmedos del Golfo de México
53. Sierra Madre del Sur
54. Sierra Norte de Puebla–Oaxaca
55. Planicie Noroccidental de Yucatán
56. Planicie de la Península de Yucatán
57. Isla Cozumel
58. Altos de Chiapas
59. Depresiones Intermontanas
60. Sierra Madre de Chiapas
61. Planicie Costera del Soconusco
62. Archipiélago de Revillagigedo
63. Isla Guadalupe
64. Arrecife Alacranes
65. Los Tuxtlas
66. Pantanos de Centla–Laguna de Términos
67. Hawaii
- Important Bird Area (displayed for Mexico only)