The State of North America’s Birds 2016

Bird Conservation Alliance
August 16, 2016
Washington, D.C.

Ken Rosenberg, Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Charles Francis, Envt. and Climate Change CA
Humberto Berlanga, CONABIO, Mexico
Judith Scarl, U.S. NABCI Coordinator

North American Bird Conservation Initiative
The State of North America’s Birds 2016

- Centennial Migratory Bird Convention
- 80th anniversary treaty w Mexico
- 50+ organizations, agencies, and industry represented on NABCI Committees in all 3 countries
Birds as Indicators of Environmental Health

Premier “canaries in the coal mine”

Abundant and widespread
Integral part of ecosystems
Sensitive to environmental change and degradation
Respond quickly to conservation actions
Healthy bird habitat equals economic well being
Long history of monitoring

American Dipper

[Image of American Dipper]
The State of North America’s Birds 2016

**Birds Connect the Continent!**

- 350 truly tri-national species
- Major habitats connected by spectacular migrations of billions of birds annually
- Depend on Internationally coordinated conservation for survival
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Connections

Full Life-Cycle bird monitoring using Citizen Science

- Boreal nursery connected to tropical forests of eastern Mexico
- 15X more concentrated in winter than in breeding range
- Migrants and residents depend on same tropical habitats

Magnolia Warbler

Gray-breasted Chat

eBird, Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Pete Blancher, Environment Canada; Andrew Couturier, Bird Studies Canada
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Report Card

First ever assessment of all bird species in Mexico, U.S., and Canada

One-third of all North American bird species need urgent conservation action.

- 14% Low Concern
- 49% Moderate Concern
- 37% High Concern

432 species on the Watch List are most at risk of extinction without significant action.
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Report Card

CONSERVATION CONCERN ACROSS HABITATS

- OCEANS: 57% (54 species)
- TROPICAL & SUBTROPICAL FORESTS: 56% (478 species)
- COASTS: 37% (164 species)
- ARIDLANDS: 28% (64 species)
- GRASSLANDS: 27% (45 species)
- TEMPERATE FORESTS: 22% (144 species)
- TUNDRA: 20% (78 species)
- WETLANDS: 19% (171 species)
- BOREAL FOREST: 19% (73 species)
- GENERALISTS: 1% (65 species)

Watch List threshold

In Crisis
Steep Declines
Moderate Concern
Faring Well

CONCERN
- Low
- Moderate
- High
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Oceans

- Oceanic birds globally threatened by invasive predators on nesting islands, accidental by-catch, overfishing, pollution, and climate change
- Stronger international cooperation needed to restore marine ecosystems

Laysan Albatross

Concern: Low  Moderate  High

| Island landbirds | 100% |
| Seabirds        | 49%  |

All island landbirds and half of North American seabirds are on the Watch List.
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Tropical Forests

- 61% of all Watch List species dependent on Mexico’s Tropical Forests
- More than 70% of Mexico’s forests lost since 1970
- Migrants and residents depend on same forest habitats
Coastal shorebirds depend on a coordinated network of sites (WHSRN)
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Grasslands

Grassland birds in steep decline

Eastern Meadowlark

McCown’s Longspur
Temperate forest birds connect East and West

Fire is key to management of western forests from Canada to Mexico

Need to manage a mosaic of forest age classes and structure
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Wetlands

Waterfowl responded positively to wetland conservation in all 3 countries.

Gains can be erased if we don’t stop continued wetland loss — accelerated by 140% since 2004.

Prairie Pothole region
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: Key Policy Priorities

- North American Wetlands Conservation Act
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act
- Migratory Bird Joint Ventures
- State and Tribal Wildlife Grants
- U.S. Farm Bill
- Blue Ribbon Panel Recommendations

“by working together, we can advance a solution for funding a 21st century model of conservation.”
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: BCA Challenge

- New Sense of Urgency
  - “half-life” less than 40 years for 22 species
- Major Continental Threats to Birds
  - Urbanization
  - Changing Forest Conditions
  - Tropical Deforestation
  - Agricultural Conversion
  - Climate Change
- Disparity in Wildlife Resources
  - 90% of species rely on < 10% of $$$
- Divestiture of Public Lands?
The State of North America’s Birds 2016: The Next 100 Years

- Need to renew our continental commitment for all birds
- Build on the success of wetland and waterfowl conservation

52 million birdwatchers in US, Canada and Mexico spend $14 billion annually

Conservation Works!