



The David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement Award honors the legacy of a passionate bird conservationist whose inspiration and vision helped lead Partners in Flight through its first thirty years.



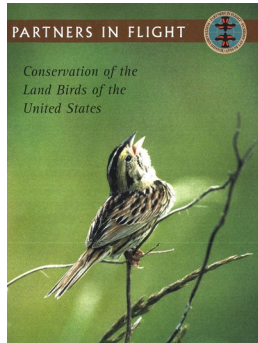
David N. Pashley was born in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, graduated from high school in Santa Monica, California, and received his B.S. in Wildlife Management from Humboldt State University. His Ph.D. from Louisiana State University was on [*A Distributional Analysis of the Warblers of the West Indies*](#). Early in his career, David was with the Science and Stewardship program of The Nature Conservancy in Louisiana. He was instrumental in working with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and U.S. Forest Service to launch the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative, which in 1990 became Partners in Flight (PIF).

In 1992, at a PIF conference on the Status and Management of Neotropical Migratory Birds in Estes Park, Colorado, David presented the PIF species prioritization scheme and talked about the identification of physiographic regions which would become the framework (along with states in the West), for long-term, multi-species planning. These concepts led to the development of the Avian Conservation Assessment Database – the foundation for bird conservation planning in North America.

In 1995, David joined the newly formed American Bird Conservancy (ABC). Following the Cape May PIF conference that October, ABC agreed to support him as the first PIF National Coordinator. He launched the *PIF Flight Plan, a Strategy for Successful Bird Conservation*, which, for the first time, addressed all the landbirds of the U.S. David worked with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to secure seven years of funding to hire Regional Coordinators to implement the PIF plan. This was a critical point in PIF history because it brought serious operational capacity to the partnership. David extended and evolved his geographic concepts through what became the North American Bird Conservation Initiative's (NABCI) Bird Conservation Regions, developed in conjunction with Canada and Mexico. David remained as PIF National Coordinator through 1999, and helped create a permanent position for the PIF National Coordinator within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

David then became more involved in the development of NABCI, officially recognized by the Council of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation in 1999, working to integrate efforts of government

agencies, conservation groups, and others to identify and achieve common bird conservation objectives across the three nations. In 2000 he became the National Coordinator for NABCI United States. He was also very committed to the role of Joint Ventures (JV), and helped evolve JVs from waterfowl to “all bird” conservation.



During his ABC tenure, David coauthored some of the most important guiding documents of PIF, including *Setting Conservation Priorities for Landbirds in the United States: the Partners in Flight Approach* (The Auk, 2000), *Partners in Flight: Conservation of the Land Birds of the United States* (2000), *The Partners in Flight Handbook on Prioritization & Species Assessment* (2001); *Partners in Flight North American Landbird Conservation Plan* (2004), *Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan: 2016 Revision for Canada and Continental United States*, and the first (2009) and subsequent *The State of the Birds* reports. He was awarded a 2016 Partners in Flight Lifetime Achievement Award.



David remained with ABC for 23 years, until he had to step down due to illness. He passed away in October 2018.

Everyone involved in PIF and bird conservation owes a debt of gratitude to David, and feels a responsibility to carry on his legacy and passion. He was always PIF's advocate and champion, and he constantly inspired and challenged us. So much good work occurred as a result, and so many good memories were made. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you, David, and we miss you!

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