

PIF Eastern Working Group

Jan 2020 Full Annual Cycle Conservation Team Framework

Purpose: *(In a few sentences, describe the purpose of this team – what issue(s) it is focused on and what products and results it intends to deliver.)*

Our purpose is to catalyze conservation of migratory landbirds of Eastern North America throughout their full annual cycles across the Western Hemisphere. We intend to engage and collaborate with partners across (Eastern) North America, Central and South America, and the Caribbean, to help plan, support and deliver coordinated, science-based conservation for migratory birds across their full annual cycle. The development and delivery of Bird Conservation Business Plans (see below for complete description) will be the team's primary focus. The role that each partnering agency or organization will play (i.e., in planning, support and implementation) will depend on each organization's mandate/mission, strengths and capacity. Our ultimate goal is to improve land bird population trends, with targets and evaluation informed by various sources such as ACAD.

Team Members: *(list team members and identify the team lead)*

Amber Roth, University of Maine
Andrew Couturier, Birds Canada
Becky Stewart, ECCC, *Team Lead*
Becky Whittam, ECCC
Bill DeLuca, National Audubon Society
Bob Ford, USFWS
Cara Joos, American Bird Conservancy
Deb Reynolds, USFWS
Laura Tranquilla, Birds Canada
Liz Purves, Birds Canada
Randy Dettmers, USFWS
Natalie Savoie, ECCC
Scott Johnston, USFWS
Tania Morais, ECCC

Products and Results: *(List one or more concrete products this team intends to produce [e.g., document, tool, organized event] and list one or more big-picture results that the team is striving to achieve [e.g., functional management of bird data in the East, improved habitat management of eastern forests]). Add brief descriptions as necessary so that everyone will understand what the team's intended products and results will be.*

1. A series of Bird Conservation Business Plans (BCBPs) to enable effective and coordinated landbird conservation across the annual cycle. *Rationale:* The recently developed Conservation Business Plans for shorebirds (the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative and the Pacific Americas Shorebird

Conservation Strategy) have helped set a new standard for developing conservation strategies for birds. Further, agencies and organizations, like the USFWS (Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grant Program) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, are using these strategies to guide their funding decisions. These BCBPs provide a delivery framework for multiple birds and multiple geographies with specific, measurable outcomes and timeframes that can track progress towards population increases and other biological improvements for conservation targets (following template of Atlantic and Pacific Flyway initiatives for shorebirds). Their target audience includes, but is not limited to, funders and conservation practitioners. Plans outline the investments needed to achieve desired outcomes and also recognize and address social and economic challenges. There are several benefits to this approach including that it provides common goals and targets thus allowing all those implementing the Plan to track and evaluate their progress across large geographies.

Associated Products (or indicators):

- 1.1. By 2020, a schedule for BCBP development for Eastern landbirds, based on: shared geographies and habitats identified by the broader PIF Science Annual Cycle Team; already-identified high priority species (e.g., Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Wood Thrush) and habitats (e.g., Central and South American Highlands); and, already-developed planning documents.
- 1.2. By 2022, at least one BCBP finalized (the Central and South American Highlands and Mexico and Central America's Gulf-Caribbean slope) and a second on way to completion.
- 1.3. By 2023, mechanism developed to collaboratively and openly track progress towards targets, results and outcomes identified in plans (e.g., such as the online [dashboard](#) used by partners implementing the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative).
- 1.4. By 2023, funding secured by one or more partners to action the Central and South American Highlands and Gulf-Caribbean Slope plan.
- 1.5. By 2024, second BCBP complete.

Process: *(In a few sentences, describe the process and some of the specific tasks the team will work through to develop its products or achieve its results. As appropriate, describe major challenges the team will need to overcome or key aspects of its tasks that the team will need to remain aware of.)*

Task list:

1. Collate and assess status of current BCBPs (partially developed plans) as well as other documents and planning efforts (e.g., plans for GWWA, CERW, CAWA, WOTH)
2. Develop schedule for BCBP completion over time, along with a cost assessment (e.g., based on plans already developed).
3. Identify key partners to engage in BCBP development (in addition members of the Full Annual Cycle Team) and strategically recruit additional partners and contributors.
4. Increase engagement of Latin American partners, including convening a meeting in Latin America to develop BCBP for the Central and South American Highlands and the Gulf-Caribbean slope.
5. Continue to secure funding for the Central and South American Highlands and Gulf-Caribbean slope.
6. Develop a fundraising plan for the next BCBP.

7. Identify and connect with funders, as well as those likely to be engaged in on-the-ground implementation, for additional input on the BCBP schedule and the desired elements of the BCBP.
8. Engage JVs, species groups and others that may be involved in planning and/or implementation.

Challenges:

- o Need financial and human resources to develop BCBP (voluntary approach has proven difficult given complexity) but funding for international work, particularly planning is limited
- o Need a “proof of concept” to garner additional support from funders for BCBPs for land birds (current BCBPs generally do not follow the same format and approach of the shorebird strategies; land bird plans require some re-alignment to meet the needs of funders and practitioners)
- o Social, economic and political considerations are highly variable as are governments’ priorities
- o Need to increase engagement in Latin America, including organizations with the potential to deliver BCBP and government agencies
- o Large focal geography, multi-species approach, many partners and many priorities
- o Multiple single-species plans in various stages of completion; alignment of goals and targets unknown
- o Need additional scientific information for many species

Timeframes: (Indicate due dates for the different products. If possible, it would also be helpful to indicate the anticipated amount of time team members will need to contribute in order to meet the deadlines.)

Related to tasks 1 – 8

1. April 2020
2. May 2020 (using results of 1 and the cluster analysis from the scientific committee)
3. July 2020
4. Beginning in July 2020 (post-funding announcements); meeting by March 2021
5. Ongoing.
6. September 2020 (in time for the next round of fall funding applications)
7. Begin immediately, more specific opportunities and timelines to be developed
8. Begin immediately, more specific opportunities and timelines to be developed

Supporting Resources: (List important resources the team may rely on to complete their work)

Granting agencies and foundations:

Government of Canada (Nature Fund, Habitat Stewardship Program)

Provincial Governments

CEC – NAPECA

USFWS – NMBCA

Southern Wings

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (US)

Wildlife Habitat Canada

Information resources:

Communication: (Indicate how and how often the team will communicate with the EWG Leadership Team and the Eastern Working Group as a whole. This communication will aid the broader Eastern Working Group with staying informed of the team's activities and progress, and can also be used as an avenue to seek assistance from the broader group or the Leadership Team.)

Team lead to act as primary liaison

Approval: All Team Frameworks require the approval of the Leadership Team of the Eastern Working Group.

Approved by EWG Leadership Team on: _____