



# The Partners in Flight Eastern Working Group is Taking Flight!

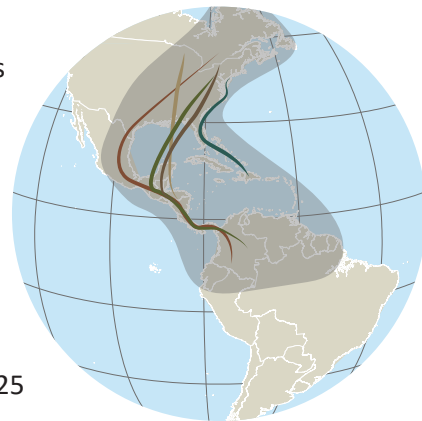
*Join us for the next 30 years of advancing bird conservation in Eastern North America*

In 2020, [Partners in Flight](#) (PIF) is celebrating 30 years of partnerships working to keep common birds common and help species at risk. Coinciding with the 30th Anniversary, PIF is launching a reconfigured regional working group for Eastern North America to help address unmet needs for bird conservation and facilitate broad-scale coordination and collaboration. As the bird conservation community acknowledges losses within our North American avifauna ([#BringBirdsBack](#)), we also recognize that, with strong partnership and strategic efforts, conservation does work to recover declining bird populations ([nawmp.org](#)). The PIF [Eastern Working Group](#) aims to advance bird conservation via structured coordination, communication, and action on key issues. Join us in this vision for bird conservation - see the second page for details on how to get involved in the Eastern Working Group.

The Eastern Working Group merges previously separate regional PIF working groups in the Northeast US and Canada, Southeast US, and Midwest US. The geographic boundaries are open to change depending on interest in participation from partners in other states, provinces, or countries, including the Caribbean and Central and South America. The Eastern Working Group proposes to enhance coordination on collaboratively identified needs in support of biological planning, science-based delivery, monitoring and evaluation, and furtherance of conservation efforts for Eastern North American migratory birds throughout their full annual cycles across the Western Hemisphere.

A meeting to explore the formation of an Eastern Working Group (EWG) was held in Nashville, TN, on 24-25 April 2019. The meeting was attended by 30 people representing 25 different bird conservation organizations, partnerships, and working groups from across Eastern Canada and the U.S. The intention of the meeting was to identify a small number of priorities issues upon which an EWG could focus its initial activities, as well as next steps if participants found value in moving forward with an EWG.

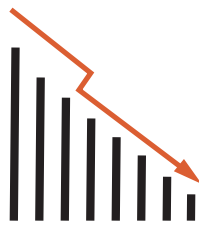
The meeting included a series of short presentations providing information on the current priorities, unaddressed needs, and challenges to implementation from existing bird conservation initiatives and organizations represented at the meeting. Those presentations along with full notes from the meeting are available on the [EWG webpage](#). With knowledge of the current state of bird conservation activities in eastern North America, meeting participants expressed positive support for moving ahead with the formation of the EWG and worked through a process to identify a small number of topics to serve as initial focal points for the EWG. Those three initial focal topics are described on the next page.





### Full Annual Cycle Conservation

This topic includes the development and implementation of conservation investment strategies that promote linkages between breeding, migration, and wintering habitats for Eastern North American birds.



### Data Management

This topic includes identifying and addressing limitations and unmet needs for management of bird data in Eastern North America and providing a forum for outreach around information sharing, translating data for public consumption, and highlighting emerging information themes for conservation action.



### Science Delivery

This topic includes delivering knowledge about best practices to landowners and land managers in a clear, easily understandable way along with solutions for how to implement those practices. Interest was expressed in the development of a clearinghouse for outreach materials that synthesizes and provides context for specific outreach needs.

A core leadership team is responsible for overall operation and coordination, along with three sub-teams to facilitate activities around the three priority topic areas. Each of these teams is developing a framework document to define the specifics of what they will be working on and how they will operate. These frameworks are available on the [EWG webpage](#).

**Additional participation is invited from all interested parties. Contact the leads for each team for more information and to learn how to get involved:**

#### Eastern Working Group Leadership Team

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#### Full Annual Cycle Planning

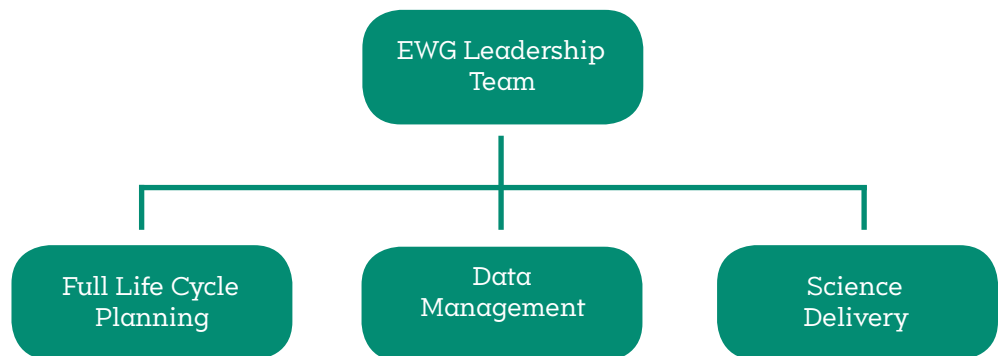
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#### Data Management

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*To stay up-to-date on the latest activities and news from the Eastern Working Group, subscribe to our email news updates through the [EWG webpage](#) or follow us on [Facebook](#)*

#### WHAT IS PARTNERS IN FLIGHT?

PIF is a dynamic and welcoming network of more than 150 partner organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere engaged in all aspects of landbird conservation, from science, research, planning, and policy development, to land management, monitoring, education, and outreach.

*All are dedicated to PIF's simple, proactive mission:*

*Keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships.*



November 2019