

# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

Tools, Resources, and  
Professional Communities  
for State Bird Conservation

Jocelynn Marriott  
Technical Coordinator  
PIF Steering Committee



*Barn Swallow  
©Mason  
Maron; Cornell  
Lab of  
Ornithology  
Macaulay  
Library*



Bird Conservation Committee I

| 91<sup>st</sup> North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference

| Columbus, OH

| 30 March 2026

# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

what we do



**MONITORING**



**SCIENCE**



**POLICY**



**PLANNING**



**EDUCATION**



**MANAGEMENT**



**OUTREACH**



**RESEARCH**





# PIF Steering Committee

## PIF Executive Committee

Awards

Communications

Engagement

Budget

Terms of Reference

Nominations

### Western Working Group

Executive

Western Motus Network

Conservation without Borders

Western Forests

### Eastern Working Group

Leadership Team

Full Annual Cycle Conservation Team

Science Delivery  
*(Forests, Eastern Grasslands)*

Data Management

### International Science Committee

CAN and US co-chairs

ACAD

Population Estimates

Migration Ecology

Full life-cycle Analyses

### Boreal PIF

Executive

Alaska Raptor Group

BCR Coordinators

Outreach Group

### Department of War (formerly Defense)

BASH

Resilience & Adaptation

Eagles

Education & Outreach

Energy & Infrastructure

Mission-sensitive Species

Research & Monitoring

### Industry

TBD

# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

## Working Group and Committee Action Brief



US Coordinator

Past Chair

Technical  
Coordinator



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# PIF STEERING COMMITTEE

Illustrations by David Quinn



## Terms of Reference

- Decision-making
- Attracting Partners
- Nominations Subcommittee

## Budget Subcommittee

- PIF Costs
- Funding Strategies



## Communications & Engagement Subcommittees

- Intentional Communication
- Attracting Partners across the Western Hemisphere

VERSION 15

Accepted - February 4, 2026  
Updated - February 5, 2026

### Partners in Flight Executive and Steering Committees

Terms of Reference

#### Introduction

The Partners in Flight (PIF) Steering Committee (SC) guides and manages PIF, to enable and support partners to advance the PIF mission of keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships. The SC is a broader group, generally made up of [PIF members](#) in leadership/management positions, as well as others that actively support PIF goals and objectives at regional, national, and/or international levels. The PIF SC is striving to become fully international in scope with a commitment to understanding and conserving the full annual cycle of birds across breeding, migration, and wintering grounds. The Executive Committee (EC) is made up of SC members who fill specialized roles, as described in this document.

This working document describes the purpose of the [EC](#) and [SC](#), member roles and elections, member participation, meeting structures, and decision-making.

Category	Line Item
[-] Awards	Artist Coordination Miscellaneous Shipping Translator
Awards Total	
[-] Simultaneous Translation	Meeting Translation
Simultaneous Translation Total	
[-] Website and Web Content	Custom Website Translation Domain Hosting Fees Webpage Redesign Website Content, Basic Maintenance, and Support Website Technical Maintenance and Consultation
Website and Web Content Total	

## Partners in Flight

Working with States, Provinces, and Territories for Landbird Conservation

*Allen's Hummingbird.*  
Aaron Maizlish

#### What is Partners in Flight?

Partners in Flight (PIF) is a dynamic and welcoming network of 150+ organizations dedicated to landbird conservation across the Western Hemisphere, including federal, provincial, and state agencies, non-government organizations, researchers, and industry.

...all aspects of landbird conservation from science, research, planning, and monitoring, education, and outreach. We are all dedicated to PIF's simple mission of keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary

*Nelson's Sparrow*  
© Shailesh Pinto,  
Battelle Darby Creek  
Metro Park, Franklin,  
Ohio; Cornell Lab of  
Ornithology  
Macaulay Library



# PIF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE

## Resources for States



## PIF Special Feature in Avian Conservation and Ecology

9 Peer-reviewed Articles

- **History and Future of PIF Science**
- ACAD Methods and Results
- Gaps in Full Annual Cycle Studies
- Trend Analysis of Populations since the 2016 - 2026 PIF Landbird Plan
- Empowering Voices in Neotropical Ornithology

*Baltimore Oriole*

© Stella Tea, Mosquito Lake, Lakeview Recreation Area, Trumbull, Ohio; Cornell Lab of Ornithology Macaulay Library

Avian Conservation & Ecology

Current Issue

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## Partners in Flight International Science Committee: Migratory Bird Conservation Tools and Applications

Feature-in-Progress

Guest Editors: Alaine Camfield, Camila Gómez, Scott Wilson

Partners in Flight (PIF) is a dynamic and welcoming network of more than 150 partner organizations distributed throughout the Western Hemisphere. PIF is engaged in all aspects of landbird conservation from science, research, planning, and policy development, to land management, monitoring, education, and outreach. The mission of PIF is keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships. The PIF International Science Committee is an open forum of scientists dedicated to advancing scientific concepts and

approaches for landbird conservation at range-wide and regional scales. The focus of this special issue is to provide perspectives on successful collaborative approaches undertaken under the PIF umbrella, feature analyses to target bird conservation efforts, and to describe the methods and conservation applications of PIF Science's flagship tools: the Avian Conservation Assessment Database and Population Estimates Database.









VOLUME 21, ISSUE 1, ARTICLE 4

Kendrick, S. W., A. F. Camfield, K. V. Rosenberg, J. D. Alexander, W. E. Easton, T. Will, R. A. Keller, A. O. Panjabi, and R. P. Ford. 2026. Now more than ever: the need for collaborative applied science for bird conservation. *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 21(1):4. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-03021-210104>

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Essay, part of a Special Feature on Partners in Flight International Science Committee: Migratory Bird Conservation Tools and Applications

## Now more than ever: the need for collaborative applied science for bird conservation

Sarah W. Kendrick<sup>1</sup> , Alaine F. Camfield<sup>2</sup>, Kenneth V. Rosenberg<sup>3</sup> , John D. Alexander<sup>4</sup> , Wendy E. Easton<sup>2</sup> , Tom Will<sup>5</sup> , Rebecca A. Keller<sup>6,7</sup>, Arvind O. Panjabi<sup>8</sup> , and Robert P. Ford<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, <sup>2</sup>Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment and Climate Change Canada, <sup>3</sup>Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, NY, <sup>4</sup>Klamath Bird Observatory, <sup>5</sup>R2R: Saving Our Shared Birds, <sup>6</sup>Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture, <sup>7</sup>American Bird Conservancy, <sup>8</sup>Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Fort Collins, CO, <sup>9</sup>Hatchie River Conservancy

**ABSTRACT.** Since 1990, Partners in Flight (PIF) has catalyzed a paradigm shift from exclusive focus on hunted and endangered bird species toward a collaborative, hemispheric, science-based approach for reversing declines of nongame migratory birds. Setting standards for species vulnerability assessment, population size estimation, and landscape-scale conservation design, PIF Science's databases, continental and regional plans, and other decision-support tools are the go-to resources promoting coordinated bird conservation across spatial scales, political jurisdictions, and organizational purviews. Realization that billions of birds continue to be lost from the North American avifauna necessitates a more targeted approach to recovering bird populations and redoubled efforts to protect and restore healthy ecosystems. We present a vision for collaborative applied science aimed at improving alignment among agencies and conservation organizations, filling critical knowledge gaps by integrating social and biological science, giving greater voice to Global South and Indigenous knowledge and priorities, and empowering the next generation of conservation leaders.



# PIF INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COMMITTEE

## Resources for States

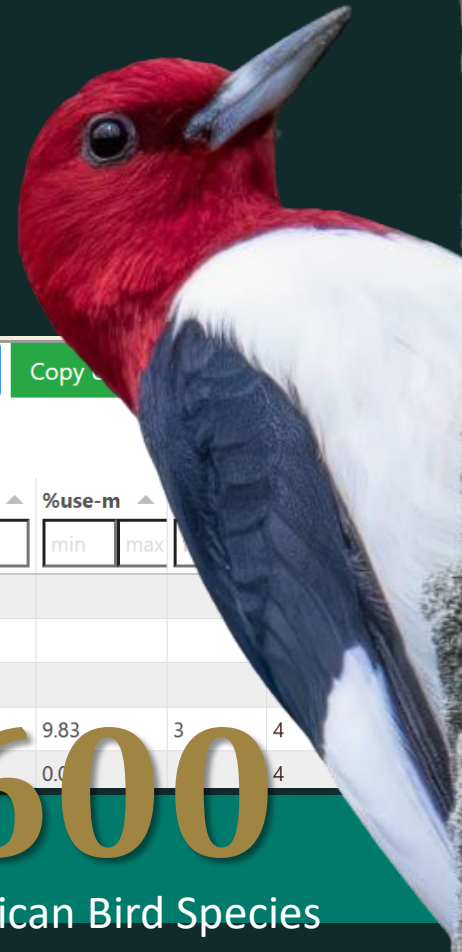


### Avian Conservation Assessment Database (ACAD)

- Distills complex data from large-scale surveys/analyses into a simple score
- Informs SWAP revisions and SGCN lists, supports decision-making
- **Outreach Tools for Understanding and Using ACAD**



*Red-headed Woodpecker © Tammy Anderson, Maumee Bay SP, Lucas, Ohio; Cornell Lab of Ornithology Macaulay Library*



Region	BCR	Sort	Common Name	Group	%pop-b	AI-b	%pop-w	AI-w	%use-m
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie	22	129	Greater Prairie-Chicken	landbird	4.77	3	4.77	3	
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie	22	469	Piping Plover	shorebird	8.50	3	0.00		
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie	22	1846	Field Sparrow	landbird	25.63	5	1.88	2	
Eastern Tallgrass Prairie	22	1876	Henslow's Sparrow	landbird	69.37	5	0.00		9.83 3 4
Tallgrass Prairie	22	248	Eastern Whip-poor-will	landbird	4.80	3			0.00 4

# 1,600

North American Bird Species



# PIF WESTERN WORKING GROUP

Conservation  
without  
Borders



Summer Tanager  
© Mandy Roberts,  
Huron, Ohio; Cornell  
Lab of Ornithology  
Macaulay Library



**CECAM 2025**  
PIF Symposium

- Forging a Career in Bird Research and Conservation
- Joint Ventures Working Internationally
- PIF Tools

**CECAM 2026**  
PIF Symposium

- CIPAMEX Hosting the International Ornithological Congress



Western Working  
Group Spring Meeting  
Registration:



**Spring Meeting**

- Salt Lake City, Utah
- April 20-24, 2026
- Road to Recovery (R2R) Tipping Point Species Workshop



# PIF WESTERN WORKING GROUP

Illustration by Ian Lewington



## Desert Thrasher Working Group

- Integrating Protocols into AKN
- Studying Movements of Thrashers in AZ and NV

## Pinyon Jay Working Groups

- Standardized Protocols and Integration into AKN
- Rangewide Conservation Agreement Strategy (CAS)



Illustration by Brian Small

Thursday, April 2nd

DoW Joint Bird Session, From Boots to Big Data: A Collaborative Bird Conservation Framework for the DoW

NMFWA

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Burkhart A (Lower Lvl, T401)

**AVIAN**  
KNOWLEDGE NETWORK

Survey Protocol and Habitat Evaluation for  
LeConte's (*Toxostoma lecontei*) and  
Bendire's (*Toxostoma bendirei*) Thrasher:  
Project Manager Version



Prepared by: The Desert Thrasher Working Group

Pinyon Jay Survey Protocol for  
Landscape Applications

Version 2.1 (Final)

Pinyon Jay Working Group



Photo: Carlos González Sanchez



# PIF EASTERN WORKING GROUP

## Science Delivery Team

Illustration by David Quinn



### Conservation Strategy Database

- In Development
- Standardized Information on Management Guidelines
- Grassland, Forest, and Wetland Birds

### Eastern Grassland Bird Conservation Business Plan Framework

- Habitat Objectives
- Threats and Conservation Strategies
- Refining Focal Areas
- Outreach Plan for Northeast Region



*Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

© Nadine Bluemel, Cleveland Lakefront Nature Preserve,  
Cuyahoga Ohio; Cornell Lab of Ornithology Macaulay Library



# PIF EASTERN WORKING GROUP



*Bobolink ©  
Sheila and Ed  
Bremer,  
Perry, Ohio;  
Cornell Lab of  
Ornithology  
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## R2R - EWG Workshop

- Road to Recovery (R2R) Tipping Point Species Workshop
- April 14-15, 2026
- Georgetown University, Washington, DC

## EWG Annual Meeting

- August 3, 2026
- In conjunction with AOS Conference
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA
- PIF Symposium:  
Now more than ever: the need for collaborative applied science for bird conservation

Eastern  
Working  
Group  
Meeting  
Topics



Full Annual Cycle Conservation | Science Delivery Projects | Reducing Bird Collisions w/ Buildings and Towers



# PIF INDUSTRY WORKING GROUP

American Dipper  
© Brad Imhoff,  
Multnomah,  
Oregon; Cornell Lab  
of Ornithology  
Macaulay Library



Illustration by Ian Willis



## Revitalizing the Working Group

- Finding additional interested participants
- Meeting quarterly, virtual
- Meeting Topics:
  - eDNA Research
  - Wildlife Conservation Initiative (WCI) & the Energy Wildlife Conservation Initiative (EWCI)

## Interested?

Contact:

**Angie Larsen-Gray, PhD**  
Senior Research Scientist,  
Forest Wildlife Ecologist  
NCASI  
[Alarsen-gray@ncasi.org](mailto:Alarsen-gray@ncasi.org)

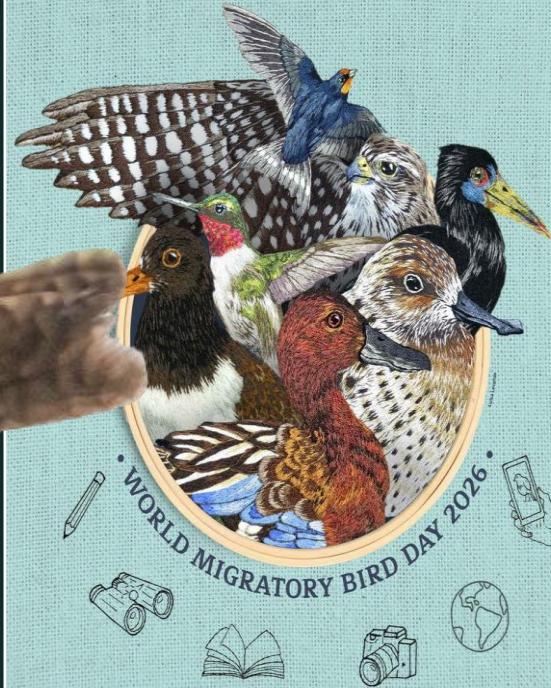


Northern House Wren  
© Nadine Bluemel, Cleveland  
Lakefront Nature Preserve,  
Cuyahoga, Ohio; Cornell Lab of  
Ornithology Macaulay Library

# WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY



Every Bird Counts  
YOUR OBSERVATIONS MATTER!



**Theme: Every Bird Counts –  
Your Observations Matter!**

- PIF's flagship awareness-raising program
- In its 33rd year
- Celebrated across Flyways in the U.S., Canada, Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America
- Educational and promotional materials (digital and print) available in multiple languages

[www.migratorybirdday.org](http://www.migratorybirdday.org)



# PIF AWARDS COMMITTEE



TATIANA SANTANDER GARCÍA  
Leadership Award 2024  
Project Coordinator  
Aves y Conservación  
BirdLife in Ecuador

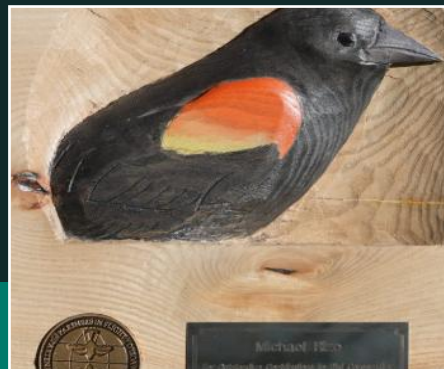


## Recognition

- Recognizing exceptional group and individual contributions to landbird conservation in the Americas since 1996
- Award categories: Leadership, Investigations, Public Awareness, Stewardship, and the David N. Pashley Lifetime Achievement Award

## Suspension

- Loss of funding
- PIF Awards Program suspended for 2025 awards cycle
- If funded in 2026, will have annual call for nominations in November 2026



## Past Awardees

[partnersinflight.org/award-winners](https://partnersinflight.org/award-winners)



# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PROVIDES:



## Work Within and Across Multiple 'Resolutions'

- Spatial
- Jurisdictional
- Partnerships
- Species
- Areas of Study

## Active Groups

- Regular meetings
- Enhanced Communication = Enhanced Conservation



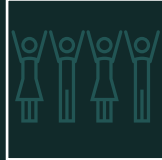
*Hawaii Creeper*  
© Barbara Taylor, Hakalau  
Forest NWR, Hawaii, Hawaii;  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
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# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT PRIORITY BUDGET ITEMS

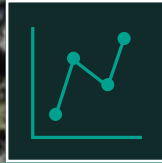


*Pinyon Jay*  
© Jan Hansen,  
Union, NM; Cornell  
Lab of Ornithology  
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Relationships

Resources



Tools

## AWARDS

You are worth celebrating.  
Recognize a colleague!

\$3,000 - 8,000

## TRANSLATION

Small hurdle, huge gains:  
language is no barrier!

\$4,000 - 6,500

## PIF WEBSITE

Apparently they don't run  
themselves... and we're in need  
of a rebuild.

\$30,000



# PARTNERS IN FLIGHT

## Working Group and Committee Action Brief



US Coordinator

Past Chair

Technical  
Coordinator



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