

# Bird Conservation

## ON DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE LANDS

**M**igratory bird populations are declining throughout the Western Hemisphere. Many of these birds depend on military lands for feeding and resting during their migrations, and for nesting and breeding during the summer months. Because birds do not recognize geopolitical boundaries, it is up to land managers to work cooperatively to stem declines in bird populations. The Department of Defense (DoD) works in partnership with over 300 federal and state agencies and nongovernmental organizations for the conservation of Neotropical migratory and resident birds and their habitats. Through this partnership, DoD actively manages its natural resources to support mission needs and flight safety goals, while pursuing a sound conservation ethic that strives to benefit bird species throughout the Americas.

### Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712) is the domestic law that affirms, or implements, the United States' commitment to four international conventions (with Canada, Japan, Mexico, and Russia) for the protection of a shared migratory bird resource. Each of the conventions protects selected species of birds that are common to both countries (i.e., they occur in both countries at some point during their annual life cycle). The Migratory Bird Treaty Act decreed that all migratory birds and their parts (including eggs, nests, and feathers) were fully protected.

### Executive Order 13186

Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds. Signed by the President on January 10, 2001, the Executive Order directs Federal agencies to minimize their negative impacts on migratory birds, promote conservation of migratory bird populations, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and carry out certain actions to implement the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and related U.S. Treaty commitments. The Executive Order also calls on Federal agencies to take reasonable steps to restore and enhance habitat, incorporate migratory bird conservation into planning processes, promote research and information exchange, provide training and visitor education, and develop partnerships beyond agency boundaries.

### Migratory Bird Rule (50 CFR Part 21)

Section 315 of the 2003 National Defense Authorization Act provides that the Secretary of Interior shall prescribe the regulations to exempt the Armed Forces for the incidental taking of migratory birds during military readiness activities. Previous regulations authorized permits for the take of migratory birds for activities such as scientific research, education, and degradation control (for instance, to remove a bird-aircraft strike risk).

### Birds of Conservation Concern 2002 (BCC 2002)

BCC 2002 is the most recent FWS effort to accurately identify the migratory and non-migratory bird species (beyond those already designated as Federally threatened or endangered) that represent our highest conservation priorities and draw attention to species in need of conservation action. A total of 276 species are included in BCC 2002. The National list contains 131 species, and each BCR list contains from 8 to 48 species. BCC 2002 is primarily derived from assessment scores from three major bird conservation plans: Partners in Flight, the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas.



American Redstart *Setophaga ruticilla*



Bohemian Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*



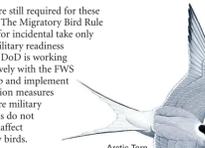
Lazuli Bunting *Passerina amoena*



Blue-winged Teal *Anas discors*



Arctic Tern *Sterna parasitica*



Ruddy Turnstone *Arenaria interpres*



Bristle-thighed Curlew *Numenius tahitiensis*



Yellow Wagtail *Motacilla flava*

### What is a Bird Conservation Region (BCR)?

Bird conservationists have identified 34 Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental U.S. where landscape-level bird conservation can be delivered. These are indicated by the tinted polygons on the map. These BCRs encompass landscapes having similar bird communities, habitats, and natural resources issues. They are the fundamental biological units through which landscape-level bird conservation including planning, implementation, and evaluation will be delivered.

Conservation of birds through the BCR model will require collaboration between public and private land managers, and is being coordinated by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), a powerful coalition for conservation. NABCI is an unprecedented effort to change the way people think

about land management towards an "all birds and all habitats" approach. This large coalition of governmental agencies, non-governmental and private organizations, and academic institutions includes Canada, the U.S., and Mexico. NABCI draws together major bird initiatives already operating in North America including Partners in Flight, which focuses

primarily on non-game landbirds, as well as national planning initiatives for waterfowl, shorebirds, upland gamebirds, and waterbirds. DoD is an active participant in these national bird conservation initiatives.

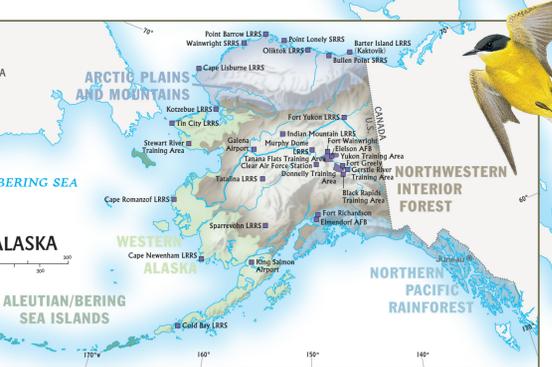
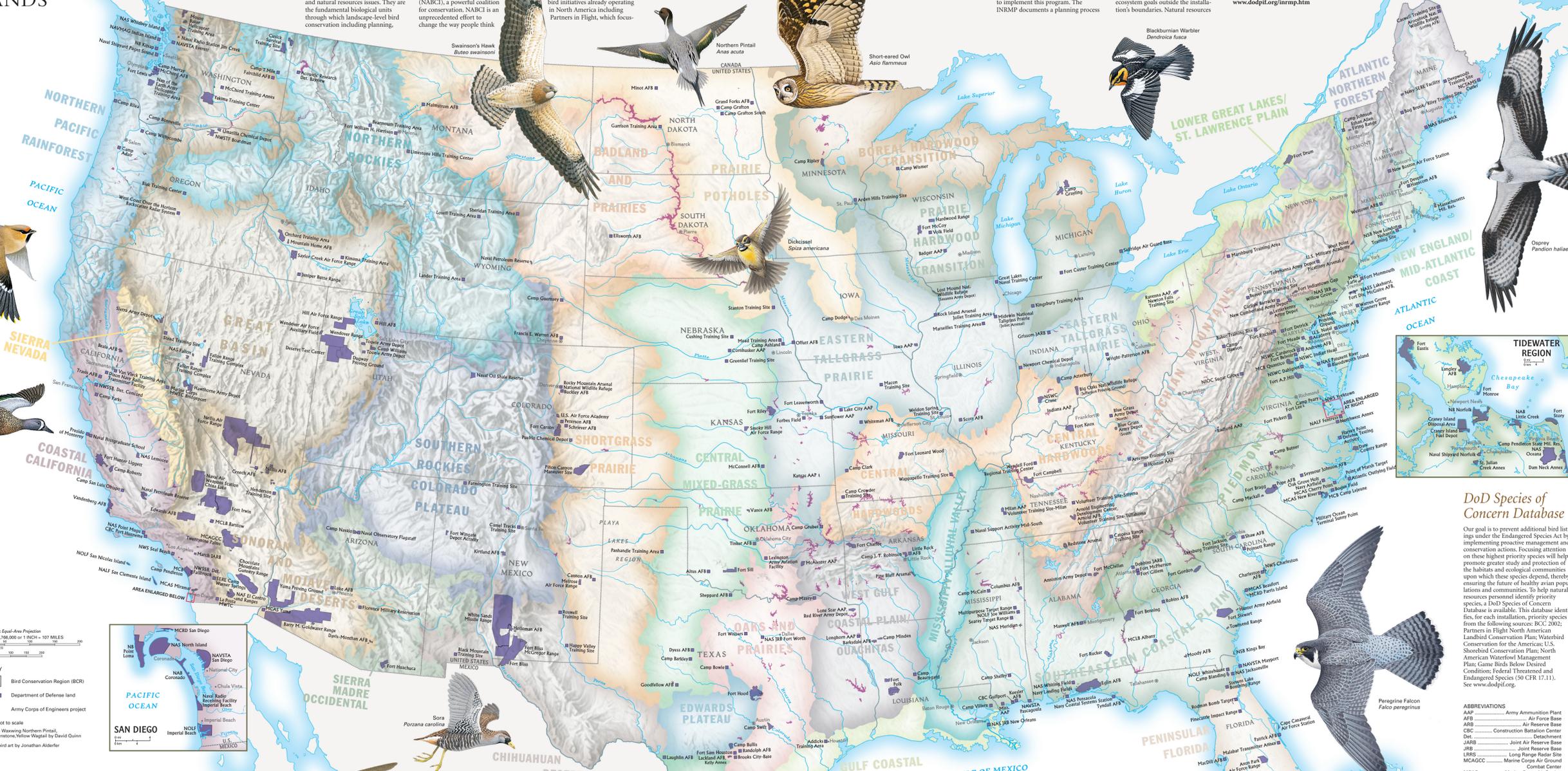
### Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans

The Sikes Act Improvement Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 670) requires the Secretary of Defense to carry out a program to provide for the conservation and rehabilitation of natural resources on lands used for military mission activities. Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) are used to implement this program. The INRMP documents a planning process

that draws from many disciplines and sources. Its first goal is to support and sustain the military mission while managing, protecting, and enhancing the biological integrity of DoD lands and waters. DoD's use of these resources must comply with legal mandates and should be integrated with large-scale ecosystem goals outside the installation's boundaries. Natural resources

planning and management reflect unique attributes of each installation's mission and ecological circumstances. INRMPs must be continually monitored, reviewed annually, and updated where necessary. For INRMP resources and guidelines on integrating bird conservation plans into INRMPs, see [www.dodpif.org/inrmp.htm](http://www.dodpif.org/inrmp.htm)

This map shows sites that require an INRMP. Plus former sites now in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Installations shown were verified to the best possible extent, but names or status may change at any time due to Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) or other actions.



### Partners in Flight

Partners in Flight (PIF), launched in 1990 in response to concerns about declines in the populations of many landbirds, is a cooperative partnership among public and private groups and individuals. The central premise of PIF is that the resources of public and private organizations in the Western Hemisphere must be combined, coordinated, and increased in order to achieve the greatest success in conserving bird populations throughout the hemisphere.

- Partners in Flight Mission:
    - Helping Species at Risk
    - Keeping Common Birds Common
    - Voluntary Partnerships for Birds, Habitats and People
- The Department of Defense Partners in Flight program works with DoD natural resources personnel to help integrate high priority habitat conservation measures into installation management planning.



### Coordinated Bird Monitoring

Ecosystem complexity makes it very difficult, if not impossible, to predict the impact of management actions. Resource managers are continually required to make management decisions under conditions of uncertainty and risk. Proper monitoring allows the resource manager to assess and improve management decisions. When decisions are made with poor or inaccurate data, management actions are more likely to fail and to be questioned by stakeholders or the public. "Coordinated Bird Monitoring" (CBM) is an effort by Federal and State agencies and the bird initiatives to consolidate the numerous bird monitoring programs and develop guidelines for setting survey goals and objectives, selecting field methods,

managing the data, and reporting results. A coordinated DoD monitoring strategy will improve the utility and efficiency of bird monitoring programs on DoD lands and allow DoD to integrate bird monitoring activities and data across the continental landscape. In addition to helping assess INRMP effectiveness, CBM can help DoD fulfill obligations under Executive Order 13186 and the Migratory Bird Rule. The CBM guidelines will identify the management issues bird monitoring can help address, review existing monitoring programs conducted throughout DoD, identify gaps in coverage and needed improvements in program execution, and describe action items of highest priority for the next 2-4 years.



Yellow-billed Cuckoo *Coccyus americanus*



Black-throated Blue Warbler *Dendroica caerulescens*



Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

### DoD Species of Concern Database

Our goal is to present additional bird lists under the Endangered Species Act by implementing proactive management and conservation actions. Focusing attention on these highest priority species will help promote greater study and protection of the habitats and ecological communities upon which these species depend, thereby ensuring the future of healthy avian populations and ecosystems. This database identifies, for each installation, priority species from the following sources: BCC 2002; Shorebird Conservation Plan; North American Waterfowl Management Plan; Game Birds Below Designated Conditions; Federal Threatened and Endangered Species (50 CFR 17.11). See [www.dodpif.org](http://www.dodpif.org).

ABBREVIATIONS

AAFP	Army Ammunition Plant
AFB	Air Force Base
ARB	Army Reserve Base
CBC	Construction Battalion Center
Det	Detachment
JARB	Joint Air Reserve Base
JRB	Joint Reserve Base
LRRS	Long Range Radar Site
MCAGCC	Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center
MCAS	Marine Corps Air Station
MCEB	Marine Corps Logistics Base
MCRD	Marine Corps Recruit Depot
MWTC	Mountain Warfare Training Center
NAB	Naval Amphibious Base
NAES	Naval Air Engineering Station
NAF	Naval Air Facility
NALF	Naval Auxiliary Landing Field
NAS	Naval Air Station
NAM/AMAG	Naval Magazine
NASB	Naval Station
NB	Naval Base
NCTAMS	Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Mission Station
NIOC	Naval Information Operations Command
NOLF	Naval Outlying Landing Field
NOR	Naval Ordnance
NSWC	Naval Surface Warfare Center
NWS	Naval Weapons Station
NWSSB	Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach
NWSTF	Naval Weapons Station Training Facility
SERE	Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Evasion
SRRS	Short Range Radar Site