



DoD Partners in Flight Program Management And Technical Support

07-1717

Background:

Migratory birds have significant legislative requirements, and are well studied by many groups. The international Partners in Flight initiative provides bird conservation planning guidelines covering all of the United States. DoD is an active participant in this initiative, and this project provides funding to support for installation personnel regarding the conservation and management of migratory birds and their habitats on military lands.

Objective:

The DoD Partners in Flight Program represents DoD in the bird conservation initiatives, and facilitates the exchange of information regarding bird conservation and management within the DoD natural resources community. This project provides support for the major components of that effort, including a full time program manager, information and outreach materials, and support for vital regional and national conservation projects

Summary of Approach:

The DoD Partners in Flight Program Manager and a network of representatives around the country consult with installation personnel on bird habitat management recommendations for inclusion into installation INRMPS. DoD Partners in Flight representatives are engaged in national and regional bird conservation efforts and pass along appropriate information to installations. Support of information and education materials, including for International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD), provide installations with the latest guidance and resources for their own Earth Day, IMBD, or other events. The DoD PIF network annually reviews and ranks all bird related proposals to promote funding bird projects which provide the most benefit to DoD and bird conservation. An annual planning workshop of the DoD PIF network ensures the most urgent conservation objectives are being considered in DoD management plans and implementation.

Benefit:

Because Partners in Flight focuses on partnerships and science to accomplish conservation objectives, installations derive the benefit from the initiative's goals: facilitate cooperative partnerships, determine the current status of migratory birds and causes of population fluctuations, identify and maintain priority habitats for migratory birds. This allows installation natural resources personnel to proactively manage DoD lands to sustain healthy populations and minimize or prevent the future listing of additional species as threatened or endangered.

Accomplishments:

The DoD Partners in Flight Program was actively involved in many partnerships, including migratory connectivity of breeding and wintering grounds, observations of seabirds from Navy ships at sea, movements of the Western Burrowing Owl, Kirtland's Warbler breeding and wintering links, Rusty Blackbirds, Bicknell's Thrush, Henslow's Sparrow, Cerulean Warbler, and prairie and grassland habitats. In addition to hosting a symposium at The Wildlife Society annual conference and technical sessions at the annual National Military Fish and Wildlife Association training workshop, migratory bird sessions were invited at the Sustaining Military Readiness Conference, TWS Western Section meeting, and a State Wildlife Action Plan-INRMP Workshop. DoD PIF is involved in conservation and recovery efforts for priority species, including the first reintroduction of Northern Aplomado Falcons on public lands (White Sands Missile Range), the NM Gray Vireo Recovery Plan, Rusty Blackbird nesting ecology in Alaska, and Burrowing Owl movements and ecology in the Southwest. Guidance on implementing a Final Rule and the MOU for migratory birds was developed and will be released in 2008.



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