



DoD Partners in Flight Program Management and Technical Support

Project # 08-1717

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. The Department of Defense (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 Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (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, movements of the Western Burrowing Owl, Kirtland's Warbler breeding and wintering links, Rusty Blackbirds, American Redstart, Henslow's Sparrow, Cerulean Warbler, and prairie and grassland habitats. Technical sessions were held at the annual National Military Fish and Wildlife Association training workshop and presentations given at the annual conference of The Wildlife Society. 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 New Mexico Gray Vireo Recovery Plan, Rusty Blackbird nesting ecology in Alaska, Kirtland's Warbler Recovery Team, and Burrowing Owl movements and ecology in the Southwest. Development of updated goals and objectives for the Program was completed at the annual planning meeting. These will form the basis for bird conservation priorities in the upcoming 3rd edition of the Strategic Plan.

Contact Information:

Chris Eberly
Program Manager
DoD Partners in Flight
540-349-9662
ceberly@dodpif.org
www.dodpif.org

