

The Department of Defense (DoD) Celebrates Migratory Birds!

The annual International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) is the second Saturday of May. The event highlights the importance of migratory bird and bird habitat conservation and restoration. IMBD is a great opportunity to focus attention on the nearly 350 bird species that migrate between nesting habitats in North America and wintering grounds in the Caribbean, Mexico, Latin America, and South America.

From 2004 to 2014, DoD invested \$282M to manage listed bird species. IMBD offers an excellent opportunity to describe both the benefit and importance of military lands to bird conservation. DoD's national network of natural resources managers use proactive, habitat-based strategies to sustain and enhance military testing, training, and safety by implementing actions that maintain healthy landscapes and training lands.

Through DoD's Partners in Flight (PIF) (www.DoDPIF.org) network, DoD continuously assesses the current status of bird populations, manages to prevent the listing of additional birds as threatened or endangered, and conducts comprehensive bird and habitat monitoring and management on DoD lands.

DoD participates in IMBD by coordinating and implementing migratory bird conservation efforts through its Natural Resources Program (www.dodnaturalresources.net).