

# DoD Bird Conservation Focus Area: Monitoring

## *Bird Conservation on Military Lands*

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### Mission

*To conserve migratory and resident birds and their habitats on Department of Defense lands.*

### DoD Bird Conservation — “Partners in Flight”

The Department of Defense (DoD) engages in a wide array of bird and habitat conservation activities. Collectively, these activities are known as Partners in Flight, to mirror related activities being implemented at the national and international levels. Through these efforts, DoD identifies strategies, goals, and priorities for key areas that support and enhance the military mission: stewardship, partnerships/cooperation, communication and education, habitat and species management, bird/animal aircraft strike hazard, **monitoring**, research, encroachment minimization, and quality of life. These goals and priorities outline DoD’s vision for developing and implementing conservation actions that support the mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and their habitats. These key focus areas enable DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs.

### Goal: Monitoring

Support bird monitoring efforts that meet regulatory requirements.

### Background

Successful conservation of both listed and common species requires complete, accurate, and current information about the species, its population, habitat, and life-cycle. Understanding the status of bird populations on DoD installations is important from both regulatory and ecological perspectives. Bird population data is of much greater value when assessed at the appropriate temporal and spatial scales, and collected to assess the impacts of both military readiness and non-readiness activities. Appropriate monitoring helps managers gauge long-term responses to biological changes, such as vegetation succession or climate change. In most cases, learning about the overall status of bird populations, including size and trend, requires working at regional and national scales.

[Coordinated Bird Monitoring: Technical Recommendations for Military Lands](#), prepared specifically for DoD by the U.S. Geological Survey, provides guidance to DoD natural resources managers on migratory bird monitoring programs. The recommendations provide a thorough set of guidelines

for designing bird monitoring surveys on DoD lands (exactly when, where, and how to monitor), and for sample monitoring programs that are designed for specific purposes or installations. The document also describes how to monitor species of concern on DoD lands, and provides recommendations for DoD’s role in continental bird monitoring programs. A coordinated bird monitoring (CBM) database is also available and can be used in combination with Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s eBird program and the Avian Knowledge Network to ensure inventory and monitoring datasets are collected and permanently preserved for future use.

### Priorities

DoD developed the following priorities to help achieve its monitoring goals:

- Provide technical assistance to installation biologists so monitoring programs support both the mission and migratory bird management.
- Promote use of the CBM Technical Recommendations, including standardized protocols and methodologies for bird monitoring, proper data entry, and archiving.
- Provide technical assistance to installation biologists so DoD monitoring efforts provide pertinent data for INRMPs and NEPA documents.
- Identify and resolve questions relevant to avian monitoring on military installations.
- Participate in the CBM Program, and provide monitoring information to the CBM database and other regional and national databases.



*A multi-year DoD project monitored Pinyon Jays on three installations to provide natural resources managers recommendations on how to better manage this species while continuing military training activities.*

*Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

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