

DoD Bird Conservation Focus Area: Partnerships and Cooperation

Bird Conservation on Military Lands



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.

*DoD-funded projects are utilizing partnerships to better understand migratory patterns of Wood Thrush.
Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*



Goal: Partnerships and Cooperation

Promote conservation partnerships.

Background

Many migratory bird species face significant population declines due to habitat loss and alteration, climate change, and other causes. Without intervention and proper management, some of these may become listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened or endangered. No single agency or organization can reverse these declines—this can be achieved only by working through partnerships among federal and state agencies and non-governmental organizations.

DoD engages in cooperative relationships, both formal and informal, at the local, regional, and national levels. For example, by improving jack pine habitat (where Kirtland’s Warbler primarily nests), DoD was instrumental in helping

the Kirtland’s Warbler Recovery Team rebound warbler populations from a low of 167 singing males in 1987 to more than 2,000 pairs, surpassing the recovery goal of 1,000. These habitat improvements were made without any interruption to the military’s training mission. This example demonstrates not only how partnerships can significantly improve the efficacy of conservation actions, but also how DoD can implement priority conservation actions in ways consistent with and supportive of the military primary mission of readiness.



*Kirtland’s Warbler
Photo: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Priorities

DoD developed the following priorities to help achieve its partnerships and cooperation goals:

- Identify migratory bird conservation opportunities through INRMPS and partnerships that support the military mission.
- Participate in bird conservation planning and implementation at local, state, regional, national, and international levels.
- Develop, maintain, and strengthen regional, national, and international partnerships to facilitate migratory bird conservation on DoD lands.
- Provide technical assistance to internal partners (e.g., range personnel, master planners) on appropriate conservation measures.
- Identify where Joint Venture partnerships can improve mission support by collaborating on natural resource projects.
- Engage in existing and new partnerships with state, regional, and national bird conservation groups and initiatives

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Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources
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