

# DoD Bird Conservation Focus Area: Habitat and Species Management

## *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.

### Goal: Habitat and Species Management

Support and enhance coordinated planning efforts that implement habitat and species management.

### Background

Birds serve as indicators for the health of the environments that provide us with clean air and water, fertile soils, abundant wildlife, and the natural resources upon which we depend. Human activities can influence birds significantly, often in a negative way. Major challenges affecting bird populations include residential and commercial development and disturbance, agriculture, energy production, invasive species, pollution, and climate change.

Migratory birds use habitats on military installations for breeding, as migratory stopover sites, and as wintering grounds. Using trained biologists and strong, science-based programs, DoD manages habitats in ways that help sustain both the military mission and continuing recovery programs for threatened and endangered species, and other species of concern. DoD also works to reduce invasive species impacts through appropriate habitat and species management. Developing and implementing optimal habitat and species management practices helps DoD meet mission requirements while supporting conservation goals and objectives.

### Priorities

DoD developed the following priorities to help achieve its habitat and species management goals:

- Provide technical assistance to military installation personnel about migratory bird habitat and species management in INRMP project planning and implementation.
- Help identify management actions to control invasive species (including feral animals) that negatively affect native habitats important to birds and other native wildlife.
- Facilitate the identification, development, and dissemination of conservation measures, lessons learned, and best management practices.
- Help installation resource managers find accurate and current information about habitat and species important for migratory bird management, as well as species of interest lists (threatened/endangered, species at risk, state listed, invasive, etc.).
- Encourage proactive management to avoid and prevent bird species from becoming listed.
- Utilize DoD and, when appropriate, other agency resources to help installation resource managers identify bird species and habitats on DoD lands that may need special attention or protection.
- Help identify relevant conservation actions identified in regional bird conservation plans, including Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), Joint Ventures, and Bird Conservation Regions.
- Facilitate the identification, development, and dissemination of conservation measures, lessons learned, and best management practices.



*DoD funded several multi-year projects to manage Piping Plovers and their habitats on military installations. Photo: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

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December 2016



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Department of Defense Natural Resources Program