

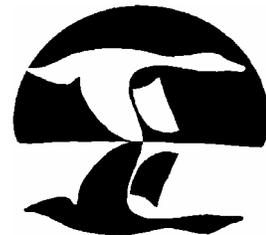
How the Pieces Fit – Navigating the World of U.S. Bird Conservation.

A Guide for Habitat Managers



**Division of
Bird Habitat Conservation,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

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To view “The Bird Conservation Infrastructure” PowerPoint Presentation
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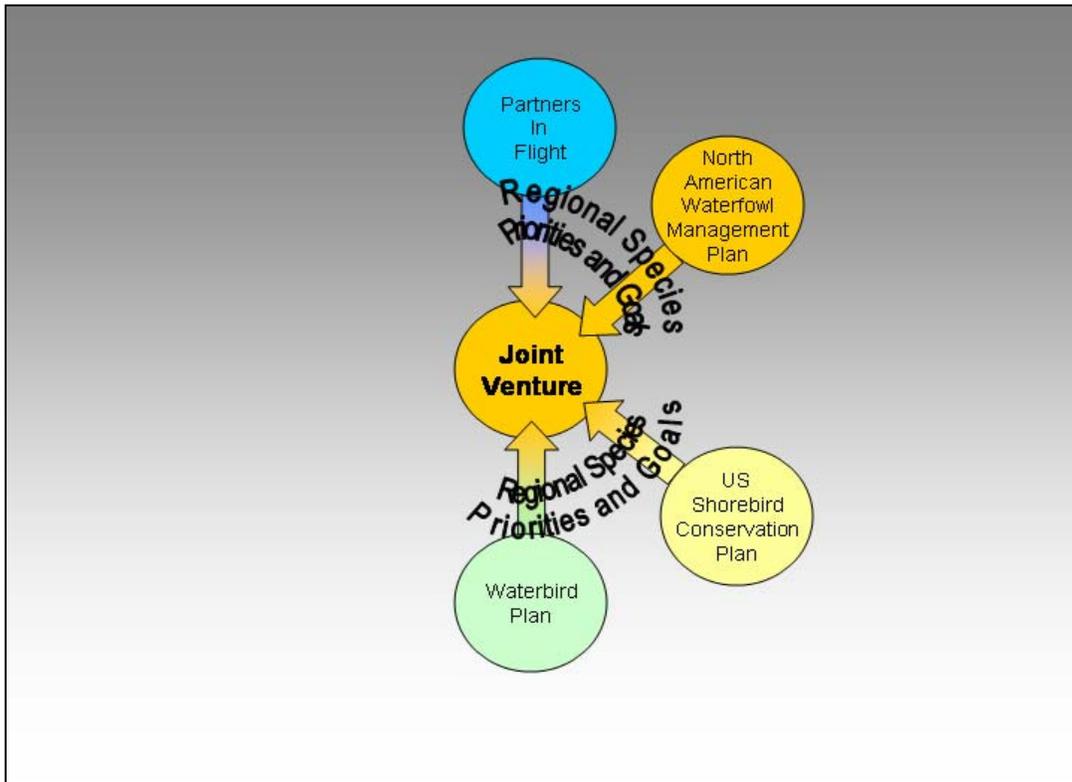
A Guide for Habitat Managers

All conservation, like all politics, is local. The conservation of bird populations at continental scales is founded on the notion that the cumulative effects of many local-scale actions by individuals like you, protecting, restoring, and managing habitat, will result in a nation-wide mosaic of landscapes capable of sustaining bird populations at desired levels.

Since the idea of continental-scale, partnership-driven bird conservation was first advanced in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) in 1986, a growing infrastructure of governmental and non-governmental partners has evolved to address the conservation needs of all birds.

You may not be aware of many elements of this infrastructure or understand how all of the pieces fit together. The purpose of this document is to clarify the current bird conservation infrastructure and to give you a sense of what each element does, or should do, to enable you to more effectively manage bird populations and the habitats they depend on. We hope that by providing you with this information, you will be able to interact more effectively with program managers and administrators that comprise this infrastructure. It is their job to help meet your conservation funding and information needs. Your active participation is crucial –as a habitat manager, you are at the cutting edge of conservation.

Migratory Bird Conservation Initiatives – The Big 4

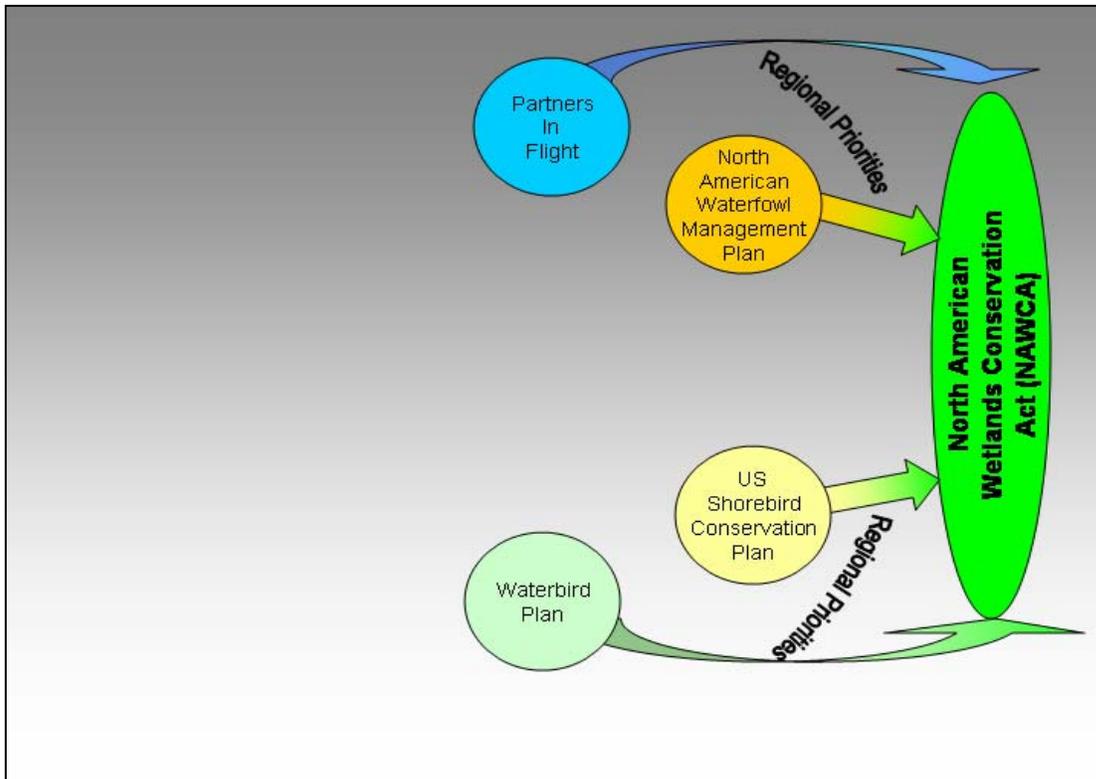


The NAWMP, U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and Partners in Flight are the major North American migratory bird conservation initiatives. The role of these initiatives is to facilitate coordination among joint ventures on technical and administrative issues, including cooperating on national-scale budget initiatives, maintain the visibility of bird conservation with national elected officials, and to convey to joint ventures a set of regional species priorities and population targets developed in a continental context.

Similarly, the major bird initiatives also advise NAWCA council and others about regional species priorities and continental-scale conservation priority areas to enable conservation funders to make more informed decisions about which proposed projects are likely to make the greatest contribution to North American bird conservation.

You may wish to learn more about continental migratory bird initiatives by downloading their continental plans. Each is available online at

<http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWMP/plans.htm>

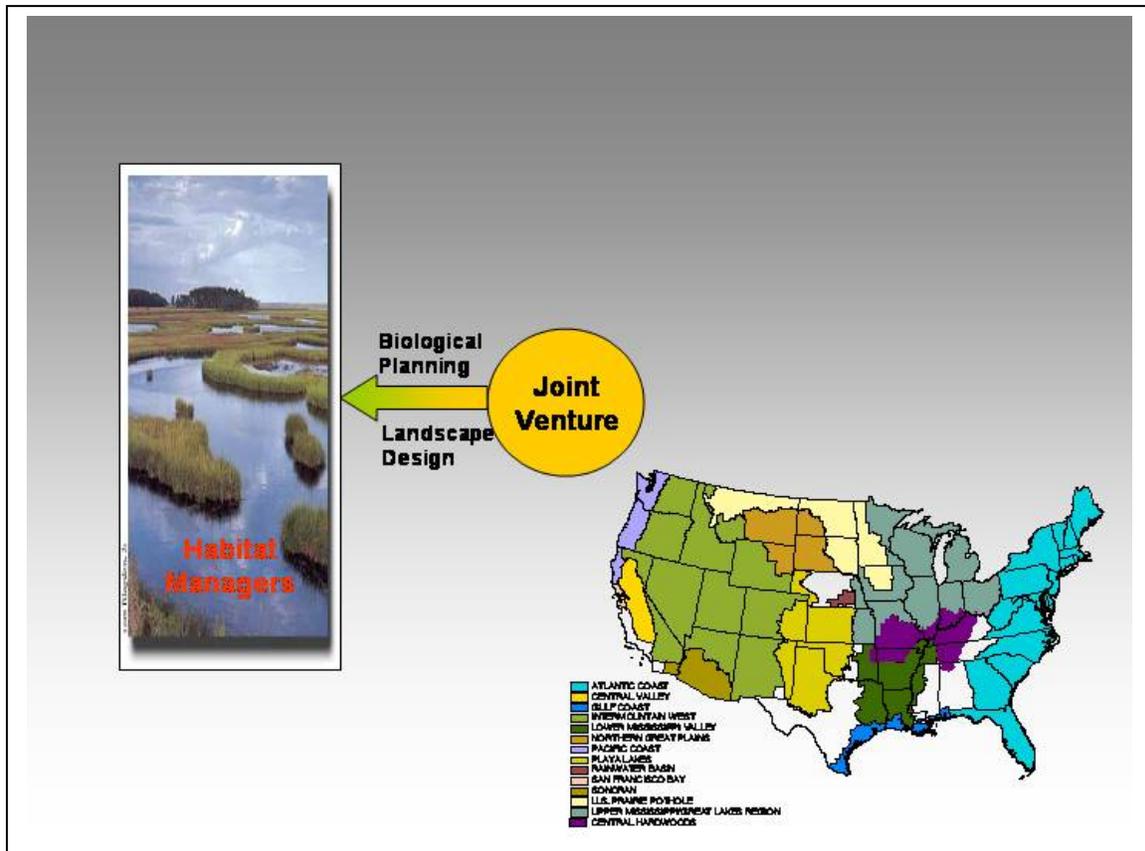


Joint Ventures

Joint ventures were originally organized under the banner of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Today, joint ventures are often described as the “delivery arm” of the 4 major migratory bird initiatives. The major initiatives depend on joint ventures to develop the biological foundation for management at regional scales, and to facilitate local habitat conservation to attain continental population goals.

As a habitat manager, a joint venture is your gateway to the regional, national, and continental bird conservation arena. Joint ventures are self-directed regional partnerships of federal, state, and tribal agencies, non-governmental organizations, and corporations that share a common vision and set of goals for bird conservation. Joint ventures are often described as the “delivery arm” of the continental bird initiatives.

Every joint venture has a coordinator and a management board. The Coordinator is usually, but not always, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee. The management board is comprised of administrators representing each partner agency and organization that makes up the joint venture. Your agency probably has a management board representative. It is their function on the management board to represent your needs.

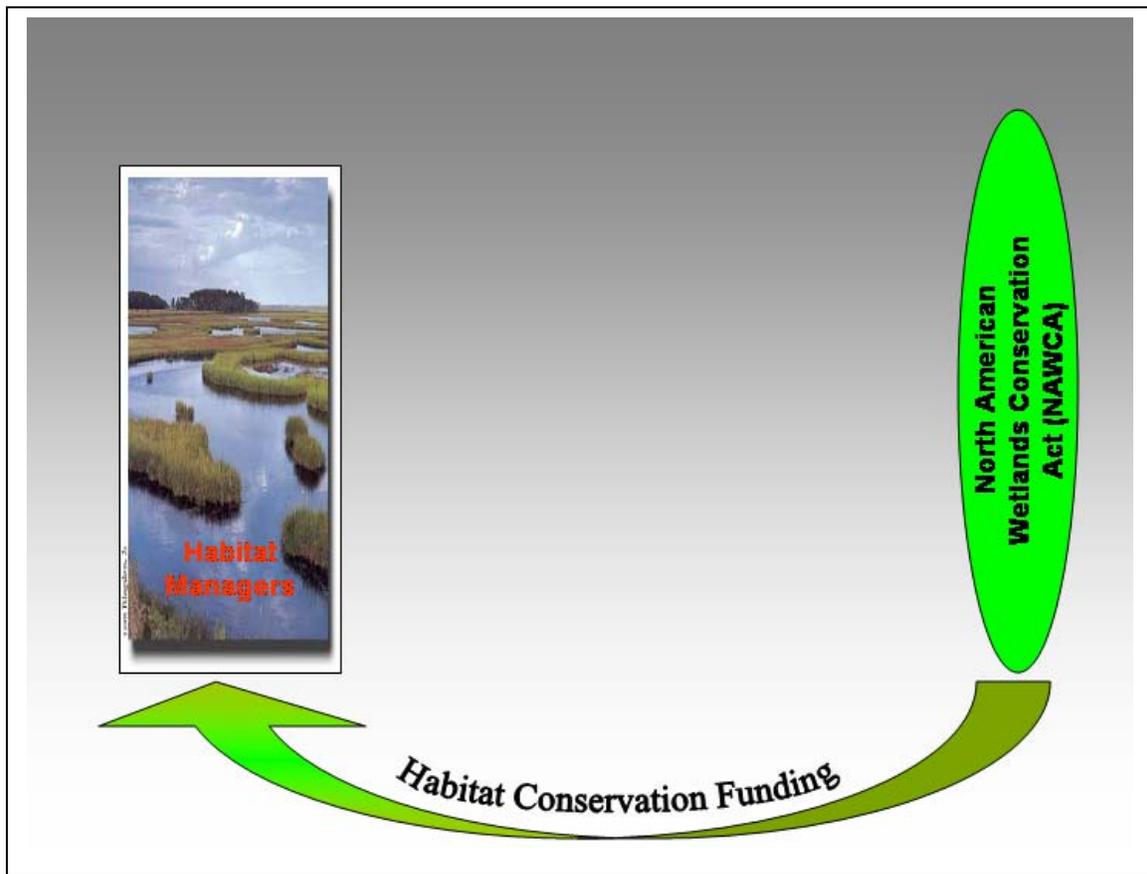


Most joint ventures also have a technical committee or science team. These may be dedicated joint venture employees or staff from multiple agencies who are authorized to use a part of their time to support the joint venture. The job of the technical committee is to develop a science-based conservation strategy for the joint venture, including priority management areas and habitat objectives. You should receive the elements of conservation strategy (priorities, objectives, and maps and other tools) since habitat managers like you are the ones implementing it.

The management board and the technical committee have two different but complementary functions. The technical committee engages a broad array of scientists and technical experts to develop the joint venture conservation strategy. Management board members use their influence within and outside their agencies to insure that all of the parties that affect bird habitats within the joint venture are aware of and, ideally, are assisting with plan delivery. This arrangement makes joint ventures a powerful nexus for conservation.

The job of your joint venture is to funnel resources and information to you to make you a more effective and successful manager. A list of joint venture coordinators is provided at the end of this document. If you haven't already done so, you may wish to contact them for additional information about your joint venture, and to initiate a dialog about how you can help your joint venture attain its habitat objective, and about how your joint venture can assist you more effectively.

The North American Wetland Conservation Act

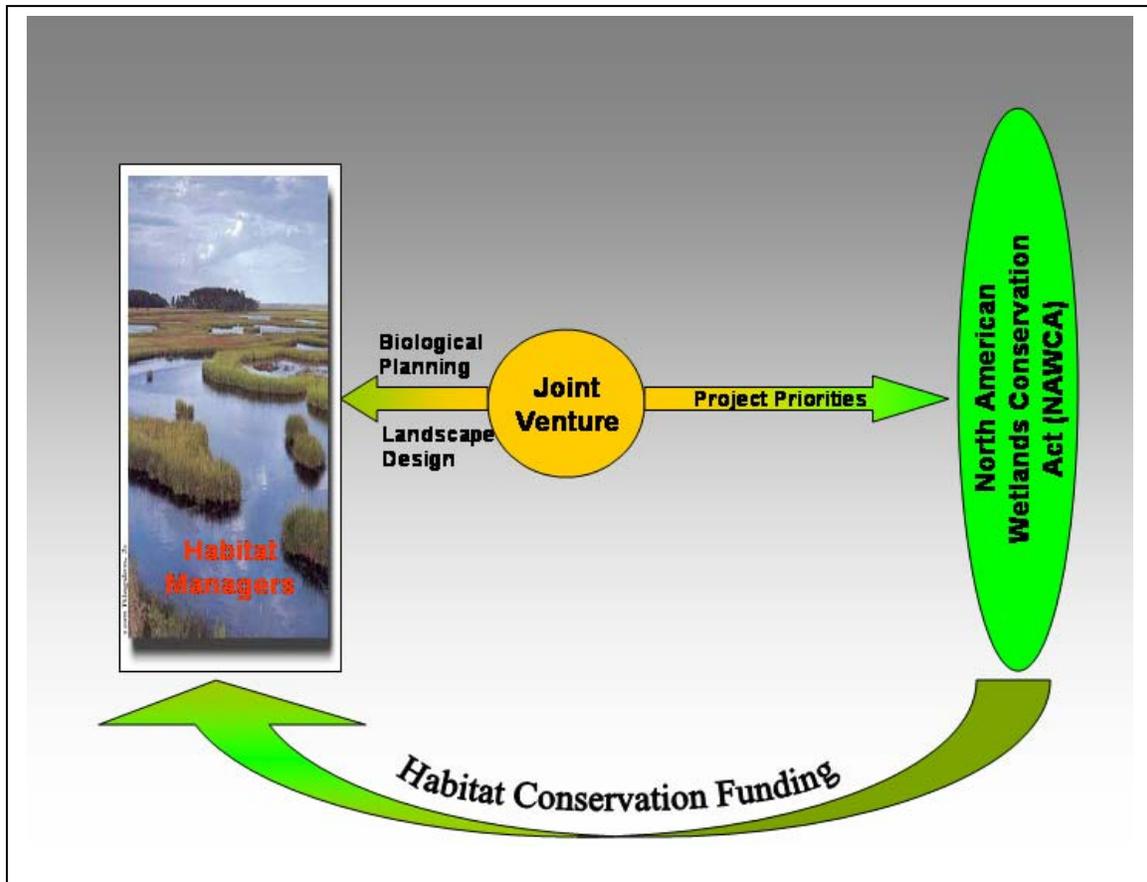


As a habitat manager, you may have participated in developing or implementing a NAWCA grant. NAWCA was authorized in 1989 to protect, restore, and enhance wetland and associated upland habitat in support of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and other migratory bird initiatives. NAWCA is currently authorized at \$55 million/year and has approached this funding level in recent years. NAWCA grants require a 1:1 non-federal match, with excess match common in successful grant applications.

NAWCA is overseen by a council of state and federal agency and NGO representatives. The Council is assisted in ranking applications by Council Staff. Council and their staff meet twice each year and grants are approved at those times.

In recognition of the importance of Canadian breeding areas to waterfowl, 50% of the total annual NAWCA appropriation is allocated for projects in Canada. Mexico receives 5%, and the remaining 45% is retained in the U.S. for domestic habitat conservation.

NAWCA grant application instructions are available on line at <http://birdhabitat.fws.gov/NAWCA/grants.htm>

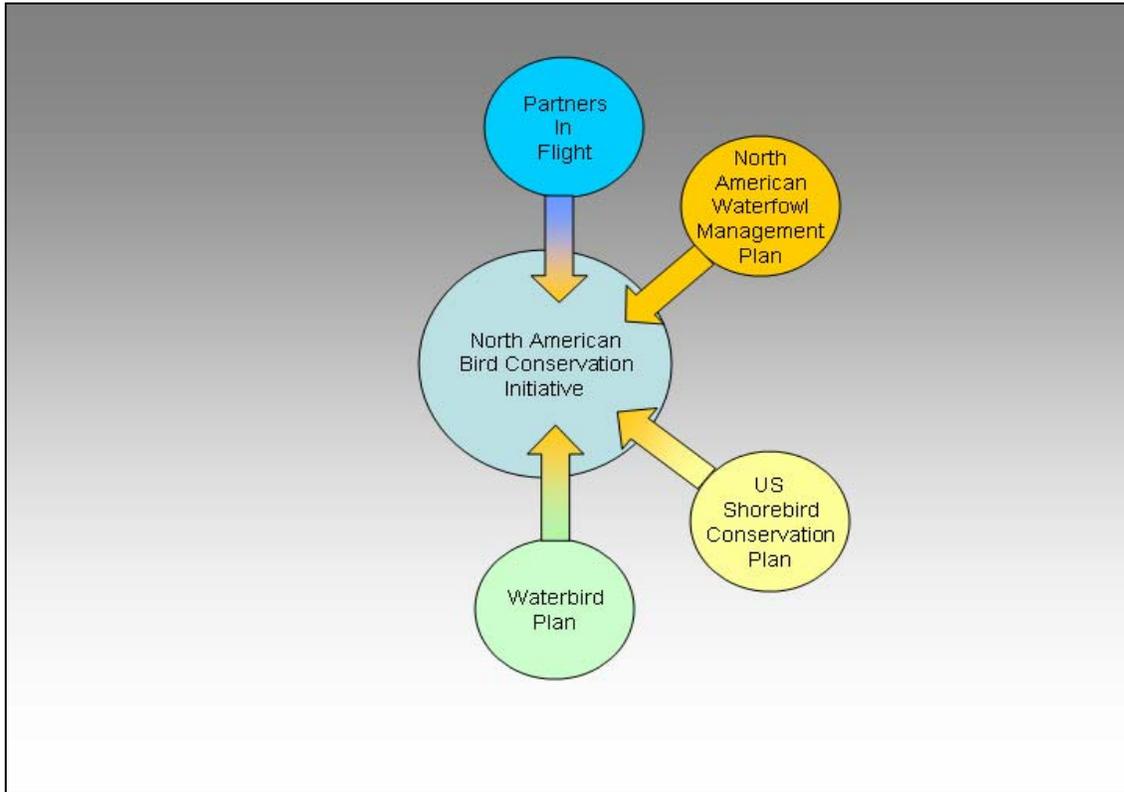


Joint ventures play an important role in implementing NAWCA. Joint Venture coordinators typically assist with development of NAWCA standard grant applications, and commonly play some role in administering grants. Furthermore, joint venture management boards routinely rank NAWCA proposals from within their joint venture, and forward their funding recommendations to NAWCA Council Staff. It is common for the highest ranked one or two proposals from within a joint venture to be funded during each NAWCA grant cycle.

Thus, joint ventures provide two critical functions in the bird conservation infrastructure. They provide science-based recommendations to habitat managers on where and how to manage bird habitats to maximize population impacts, and they provide recommendations to funding sources about which projects are most critical to bird conservation at regional and national scales.

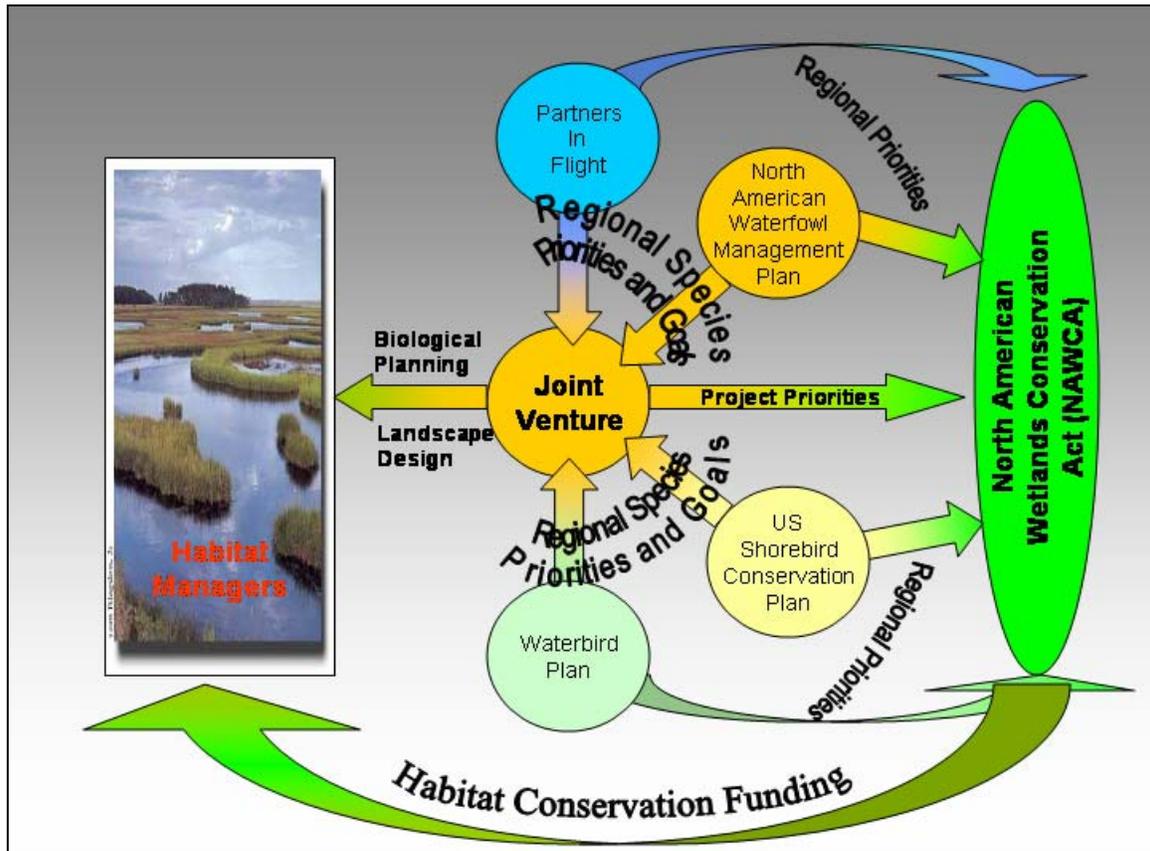
Your joint venture is your bridge to NAWCA. If you are considering applying for a NAWCA grant, contact your joint venture coordinator as a first step.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI)



As the non-game bird initiatives began to mature, the potential benefits of coordination among all those interested in bird conservation became apparent. In 1998, the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) was launched. NABCI provides a forum for coordination on issues of common concern to the bird initiatives. It is not an umbrella organization, and exercises no authority over the individual bird initiatives or joint ventures.

Putting the Pieces Together

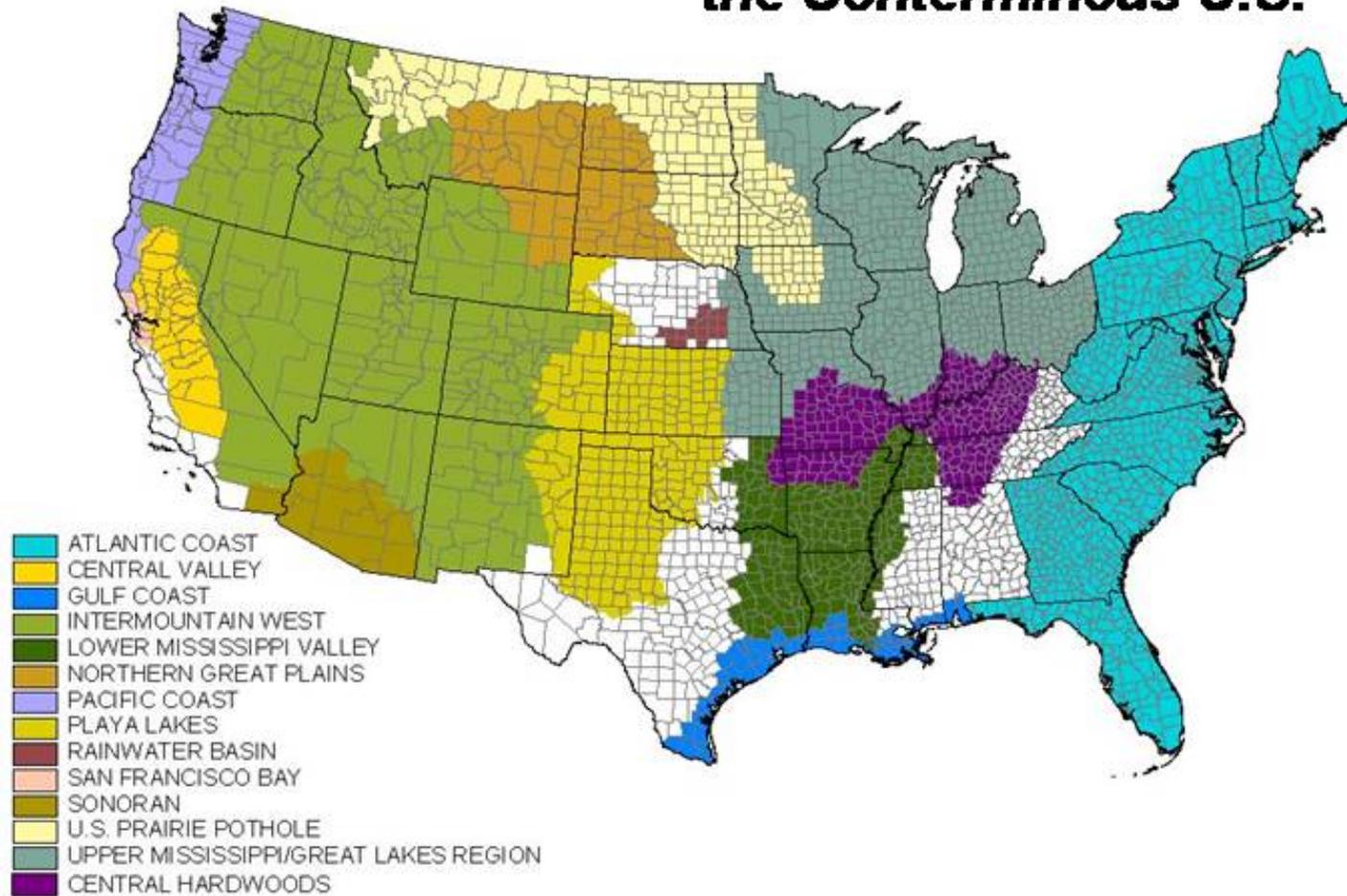


We have described the major the pieces of the bird conservation infrastructure. The entirety of the infrastructure is designed to be a bridge between habitat managers working in the field and sources of funding like NAWCA. Its overarching goal is two fold:

1. Provide the best possible information to the proper decision makers to enable them to make more informed, reliable decisions about policy, and where and how to expend funding for bird conservation, to insure that continental populations are efficiently conserved; and

2. To insure that adequate resources reach the field to enable you and managers like you, regardless of agency affiliation, to do what needs to be done to secure the future of birds for today's and future generations of North Americans.

Joint Ventures of the Conterminous U.S.



Joint Venture Contacts

Joint Venture	Coordinator	Telephone/Email
Atlantic Coast	Andrew Milliken	413-253-8269 andrew_milliken@fws.gov
Central Hardwoods	Jane Fitzgerald	314-918-8505 jfitzgerald@abcbirds.org
Central Valley Habitat	Bob Shaffer	916-414-6459 robert_shaffer@fws.gov
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Upper Mississippi River/ Great Lakes	Barbra Pardo	612-713-5433 barbara_pardo@fws.gov
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