



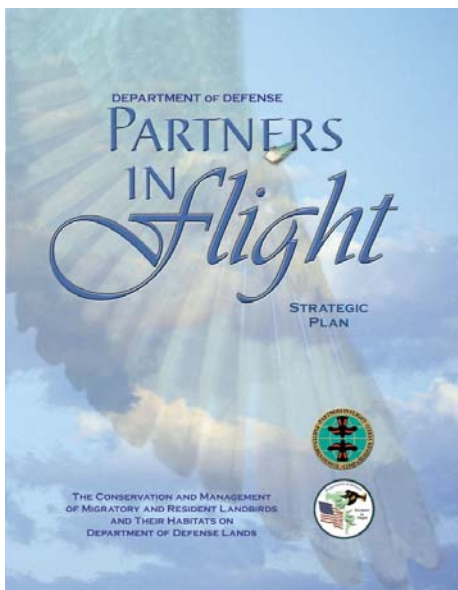
Department of Defense
Partners in Flight

Fact Sheet #6
December 2004

Department of Defense Partners in Flight Program

Mission

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



The Strategic Plan can be found at www.dodpif.org, or through the contact information on the next page.

Bird Conservation Database

Web-based Access to Bird Research and Management Information on DoD Lands

Conserving Birds and Habitat

Neotropical (long distance) migratory birds nest in the temperate regions of the United States and Canada, and migrate south to the tropical regions of Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean during the non-breeding season. Temperate (short distance) migrants migrate to the southern temperate regions of the United States, but share the same nesting areas as neotropical migrants. Conservation of migratory birds is a complex challenge, because these birds occupy every habitat in North America, and don't recognize political boundaries. Over half of all bird species nesting in the United States are neotropical migrants, and many others are temperate migrants. Populations of many bird species are declining, mostly due to destruction or fragmentation of habitat on breeding grounds, wintering areas, and migratory stopover sites.

What is Partners in Flight?

Partners in Flight is an umbrella network of which the Department of Defense bird conservation program is a vital part. Partners in Flight was launched in 1990 in response to growing concerns about declines in the populations of many landbirds, and to address the conservation of birds not covered by existing conservation initiatives. The initial focus was on neotropical migrants, but the focus has spread to include all landbirds breeding in the continental United States and Canada. Strengthened linkages with other conservation efforts is leading to comprehensive conservation efforts for the entire avifauna.

Partners in Flight is a cooperative partnership among federal, state and local government agencies, philanthropic foundations, professional organizations, conservation groups, industry, the academic community, and private individuals. Partners in Flight focuses resources on the improvement of

monitoring and inventory, research, management, and education programs involving birds and their habitats. The central premise of Partners in Flight has been that the resources of public and private organizations throughout the Western Hemisphere must be coordinated and increased in order to achieve the greatest success in conserving bird populations in this hemisphere. The power of Partners in Flight lies in the synergy that builds when diverse, committed groups who care about birds work together for a common goal.



Oriole Warbler (Photo: Chris Eberly)

The DoD Partners in Flight Program

Managing about 25 million acres of land on hundreds of installations, the Department of Defense (DoD) plays a key role in bird conservation. Department of Defense lands represent a critical network of habitats for migratory birds, offering these birds migration stopover areas for resting and feeding, and suitable sites for nesting and rearing their young.

The DoD is proud of its policy to promote and support our partnership role in the protection and conservation of resident and migratory birds and their habitats by protecting vital habitat, enhancing biodiversity, and maintaining healthy and productive natural systems on our lands consistent with the military mission.

Bird Conservation and DoD

Many migratory bird populations depend on military lands for feeding and resting during their migrations, and for nesting and breeding during the summer months. Because birds do not recognize geopolitical boundaries, it is up to land managers to work cooperatively to stem declines in bird populations.

The Department of Defense has an established network of biologists and land managers to represent DoD in the various regional and technical working groups and committees of Partners in Flight. The role of these DoD Partners in Flight representatives has been as basic as ensuring that installations in their area receive copies of newsletters, brochures, and other applicable publications. The DoD Partners in Flight representatives also cultivate and maintain a positive working relationship with our various partners to develop cooperative agreements to implement bird conservation programs and projects on DoD installations. This partnership concept promotes implementation of local and regional conservation objectives, while facilitating communication and coordination across geographical and organizational boundaries to ensure continent-wide success of bird conservation efforts involving both resident and migratory bird species.

Through our participation in Partners in Flight, DoD actively manages its natural resources to support mission needs and flight safety goals, while pursuing a sound conservation ethic that strives to benefit bird species throughout the Americas.



Roseate Spoonbill (Photo: Gary Crossley)

DoD Bird Conservation Database

There is a vast body of conservation work accomplished on military lands, but much of this work has been relatively unavailable to others in the conservation community. The DoD Bird Conservation Database (hereafter, Database) was created to document, consolidate, and disseminate bird conservation efforts on or involving military lands and civil works projects and make that information available as a resource for planners, land managers and other professionals involved in bird conservation. The Database brings together information on bird conservation that would otherwise be unknown, unused or forgotten. It is imperative that this valuable body of conservation work be identified and made accessible for the benefit of birds and wildlife conservation. By entering information into the Database, the value of this information will be magnified many fold.

Using the Bird Conservation Database

The DoD Bird Conservation Database is a user-sustained web based resource available to anyone involved or interested in bird conservation on military lands.

Entering data into the Database involves only two basic steps. Users wishing to enter research or conservation data are asked to register their name, affiliation, and contact information. Once done, the user can log in to add or modify their project data. The next step involves entering basic conservation project data.

Since the Database is reference-limited, only basic project or study information need be entered. Examples of data fields include: Point-of-Contact information, installation(s) involved in the study, project abstract, habitats and bird species involved, and where the entire project report can be accessed. A contributor can enter as many studies or reports as they wish. After information has been entered, it is reviewed by the DoD Partners in Flight program for accuracy and consistency and then posted, making it available to others via the Database search functions.

Information in the Database is accessed via two search tools. A graphics-driven search uses a "clickable" map to locate information housed in the Database. This method provides a simple, straightforward tool to search by geographic areas. The second

search function uses text-based parameters to select information. Since the search fields duplicate many of the data entry field, the user is provided with a more focused search process.



Great Horned Owls (Photo: Tim Burr)

For information on the DoD Bird Conservation Database, contact:

Gary Crossley
Program Assistant
DoD Partners in Flight
556 Allenview Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-697-7174
gcrossley@paonline.com

To access the database, visit:
<http://www.dodpif.org/projects/>



For more information on the DoD Partners in Flight Program:

Chris Eberly
Dept. of Defense Partners in Flight
PO Box 54
The Plains VA 20198
540-253-5675
<http://www.dodpif.org>
ceberly@dodpif.org