

***DRAFT Results  
for the Survey of Partners in Flight Continental Plan Users  
Qualitative Analysis of Open-Ended Responses***

**Prepared by Ashley Dayer, Klamath Bird Observatory**

**This document includes results from analysis of the open-ended items included in the Partners in Flight Continental Plan User survey. Results to close-ended items will be presented to the Science Committee at the Chamela meeting (July 2008), and copies of the slideshow will be made available thereafter. Survey items and preliminary results can be found at**

**[http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=olnyyDPHowEuatR1jAvP7\\_2bX4jt4dbXf5DqtFZDgZzPM\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=olnyyDPHowEuatR1jAvP7_2bX4jt4dbXf5DqtFZDgZzPM_3d)**

**The survey was administered online using Survey Monkey in May 2008. Over 400 people responded to at least one item on the survey. Nearly 300 respondents completed the survey.**

**Analysis of open-ended items was conducted using coding for emergent themes. Typically, one code was given for each response. However, if two themes were clearly present, a second code was also given. For each item, a summary of themes and frequency of occurrence is given. Following are the themes with each of the statements coded for that theme.**

**Contact Ashley Dayer, [aad@KlamathBird.org](mailto:aad@KlamathBird.org), for further information.**

**Item:**

**Please specify why you have or have not recommended the plan [to others].**

**THEMES for WHY NOT**

- ❖ **They are already familiar – 8**
- ❖ **No need or opportunity - 8**
- ❖ **I don't know well enough - 5**
- ❖ **Scale is wrong – 5**
- ❖ **Poor quality: science-wise, practically, or in style - 5**
- ❖ **Information is available elsewhere - 4**

***Theme: They are already familiar.***

- Peers I deal with already familiar with plan.
- I assume the people with whom I work on bird projects already have it!
- Individuals that I interact with are already familiar with the plan.
- Most people I know and work with are familiar with the plan.
- Most of my colleagues are already familiar with the plan and have used it as well.
- Have not had the need. Most of my appropriate partners are aware of the plan.
- Most of the professionals I work with for which the plan would be appropriate are already aware of it.
- Others have recommended the plan to me. Everyone I have spoken with is already referring to the plan.

***Theme: No need or opportunity.***

- This is just one of many items I work on so I use the plan for reference purposes
- My job has changed so this interest is now personal.
- was the only agency wildlife biologist at a local level working with the plan. other biologists have other technical specialties and were not interested.
- Circumstances and discussion haven't come up at the continental or regional scale to bring PIF Plan to mind
- No opportunity or need to recommend. I would recommend the plan if appropriate.
- Hasn't come up
- No opportunity at this point.
- No need to.

***Theme: I don't know well enough.***

- I haven't had it long enough,
- I just heard about it.
- I did not receive a copy
- I'm not that familiar with the plan as a tool, especially at local level.
- Don't think of it!

***Theme: Scale is wrong.***

- I find the plan measures factors on a scale that is not particularly useful to me as a State biologist. I favor use of the just published California Bird Species of Special Concern book, its methods and results, for determining conservation priorities for birds in my state.
- I recommend people to our regional BCR plan, as it is more locally relevant to their work.
- Most of my contacts are with people doing site-specific work, where a continental plan is too far-reaching to find direct relevance.
- The plan provides good general information for use at large geographic scales but is too general for dealing with conservation issues relevant at smaller scales.
- Local info is more useful.

***Theme: Poor quality science-wise, practically, or in style.***

- The population estimates are simply not reliable
- It is not really a plan, but it is a set of priorities, many of them based on bogus assumptions.
- This plan has no habitat conservation or population mechanism for achieving population targets. For example, how are we going to achieve a 100% increase in olive-sided flycatcher? I am not convinced that the bias toward highway BBS routes is a good indication of population trends for many forest birds. Also, BBS routes tend to be fairly close to population centers and we may lack adequate sampling across the species range.
- Too detailed to read, too technical for general naturalist person
- Too many acronyms

***Theme: Information is available elsewhere.***

- Species info is available in other locations (ie BNA)
- Too many resources to keep track of
- All of the focus for the Wildlife Diversity Program has been on the state Wildlife Action Plan
- It's just one of many publications I receive. They tend to get buried, particularly as time goes by.

**Item:**

**Please specify why you have or have not recommended the plan [to others].**

**THEMES for WHY**

- ❖ **As a tool/source for priorities, planning, etc - 72**
- ❖ **As an overview of bird conservation and/or PIF - 30**
- ❖ **As a model of conservation process or to apply process elsewhere – 8**
- ❖ **Generally high quality - 5**
- ❖ **As a means to convince others of approach/need - 4**

***Theme: As a tool/source for priorities, planning, etc***

- The plan provides good identification of key bird species which could be monitored to indicate the "health" of a particular ecosystem type (e.g. riparian or open ponderosa pine forest etc.).
- As a basis for local planning.
- Recommended as a reference to consultant looking to compete for monitoring contracts with USFS.
- I have recommended this plan to staff and other National Wildlife Refuges because of its usefulness in developing Comprehensive Conservation Plans and potential for use in developing step-down management plans.
- I feel it is a valuable tool for many individuals even those not in conservation as their mission. This information may help them make decisions that could have affects on many bird species.
- As a tool for local partners.
- On a needs basis
- To familize managers with land based plans & priorities.
- I have recommended it as a species information source for other biologist
- I have recommended this plan to others as guidance on stepping down conservation objectives to the regional or local level.
- It appears to have the best information that I have seen on population estimates for N.A. landbirds, and it helps target species to manage for by state.
- It provides a first cut at objectives for landbirds that can be incorporated into JV implementation plans
- Useful information for conservation mgmt. in my community.
- Just passed along as a resouce of potential use fulness
- useful for conservation planning
- This is a basis for conservation action. Although some pop. est. seem inaccurate we can still use them as a starting place and somewhat in comparison between species.
- Good base resource
- I have pointed other bird conservation-minded entities to the plan as a resource.
- Provides insight on conservation issues
- Train teachers in Flying WILD, mention to them as information source
- Instrumental with the development of our Integrated Natural Resources Management Plan (INRMP), per Sikes Act requirements.
- good accumulation of species data in single package
- I recommended the plan as a good source of information for learning about birds of concern.
- Includes lists of priority species
- Best source of population estimates for most landbirds.

## DRAFT Results for the Survey of Partners in Flight Continental Plan Users: Qualitative Analysis

- Useful when developing target species lists for conservation projects or grant applications.
- Assemblage of good baseline information to be used in planning efforts.
- I is a useful tool, even if it is not perfect. It is a useful introduction to bird conservation and helps others understand avian science.
- for conservation priorities
- As a resource for identifying species of concern and regional conservation issues
- other colleagues involved with research as to what issues they may or may not want to focus on
- As a resource for assessing threat levels to different landbird species
- Context for priorities and planning at smaller scales
- compiles much information that land managers don't have time to gather - great reference and supporting information
- AS A REFERENCE DOCUMENT AND FOR RECOMMENDATIONS
- Great tool that has objectively evaluated the threats to species in a comparable format.
- Occasionally I have had the opportunity to refer others to this plan for specific purposes related to management in a given area or continent-wide.
- In order to help grantees answer questions for North Am. Wetlands Conservation Act grant proposal. Observation/opinion: Plan is so general that everybody fits.
- I useful tool for reference and planning.
- I recommend the plan because it is backed by the best data-supported science of any multispecies conservation plan extant and it should serve as a standard through which we can finally integrate bird conservation effort across the entire continent.
- The Continental Plan provides a background for the CalPIF plans. We use the Continental Plan, the CalPIF plans, other regional conservation plans (e.g., Joint Venture Plans, Shorebird Plan, Audubon WatchList, so forth) as elements in developing local and regional bird conservation approaches.
- To encourage them to see the continental perspective regarding which species are priorities
- An important resource to use in Conservation planning.
- Information source for citation in Environmental Assessments, Environmental Impact Statements, and Biological Assessments.
- Have recommended the plan to others in the field of Conservation Planning as a source of information to work from when looking for habitat recommendations for wildlife as well as to private landowners who receive these completed plans.
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist involved in habitat restoration
- I have recommended the plan for the development of the state wildlife action plans and for considering high priority actions at the state and regional level.
- typically for the scores
- Large amount of info in one place
- Helpful information to gamebird managers as well as diversity managers.
- As a reference for others as part of a JV science committee
- The plan lists bird species of continental importance and assists DoD natural resource managers with their conservation programs.
- Utilized in developing a management plan for species on concern that occur on our facility.
- people like to have lists of species, habitats, needs to justify doing agency level bird work. this plan is an easy to use reference for them at a large scale that can also be dropped down to local scales
- The plan is a valuable tool in planning bird conservation and in goal setting.

## DRAFT Results for the Survey of Partners in Flight Continental Plan Users: Qualitative Analysis

- often in response to information requests about landbird priorities and conservation planning
- The plan is a good place to start thinking about bird species across North America, and give a nice first cut at global population estimates.
- Importance for identifying conservation priorities particularly in regards to research needs
- It is a comprehensive synthesis of bird information
- Source of information
- Standardized method for identifying conservation priorities.
- species priority rankings by biome
- hard to find this kind of information
- It is something of an anchor for state and regional planning efforts.
- Good framework for determining objectively goals for conservation, research, and monitoring.
- We encourage partners in eastern Colorado to incorporate (as we do) PIF and all NABCI plans into the regional and local level conservation implementation and planning process. We've made the compiled and region specific information accessible through our Prairie and Wetlands Focus Area Strategic plan in an easy table format
- contains priority lists based on science (and transparent process of arriving at ranking scores)
- It's the best concise source for the kinds of information it contains
- Good summary of bird conservation priorities for species and habitats.
- important for land-use decisions
- Provides context for all or regional work (e.g. regional population estimates)
- It is the best reference for prioritizing bird conservation in NA

### ***Theme: As an overview of bird conservation and/or PIF***

- It provides a holistic view of the land bird issue for North America independent of agency and management mission. Concisely discusses the entire issue of declining land bird populations and the impact of continued habitat deterioration and associated detrimental human and environmental impacts upon birds
- it has much information about birds & bird conservation in it, very applicable to planners and those doing on-ground work (e.g. monitoring)
- If you work in bird conservation, you need the PIF plan. It's that simple.
- Recommended to colleagues to help explain regional bird conservation
- yes, for general context and approach
- Concise summary of conservation assessment and needs for landbirds
- Provides a great continental overview of what PIF is about in US and Canada and provides continental scale guidance on priority species and conservation issues.
- Easy to understand; extremely useful tables; consolidates goals of PIF
- PIF Plan is strategic foundation for NA landbird conservation
- Introduction to the status of bird spp across the US. Intro to PIF and BBS.
- summarizes what we know re bird conservation in a succinct document
- Nice round outline for bird conservation in my area of interest
- So unformed people can begin to understand why PIF exists and why song birds are so important.
- We all need to understand the big picture regarding avian conservation.
- to support bird issues to people that are unfamiliar with the issues but have background in conservation issues and local government
- Good overview of bird species of highest conservation concern and general discussion of conservation needs for these species

## DRAFT Results for the Survey of Partners in Flight Continental Plan Users: Qualitative Analysis

- Useful resource on avian species conservation
- The Plan establishes a continental approach to landbird conservation (both philosophical and methodological) that provides context for conservation efforts in Canada.
- Learn about PIF and species of continental importance
- An excellent reference on bird conservation information, especially for bird species at risk.
- Because of its content in bird conservation
- Provides a context for local scale conservation action.
- I have recommended it to others who were unfamiliar with it and its contents. I believe the plan should be as accessible as possible to as many birders as possible.
- This is a good start, and a good reference for continuing study and conservation.
- great source on info on birds and bird conservation for users of various levels of knowledge and expertise
- I find it a very useful summary of basic information on conservation status assessment.
- Background for co-workers and new employees.
- I use it in my grad level courses for students interested in avian conservation
- The document boils down complex information about bird conservation needs and species vulnerability while captivating the readers with beautiful images, informative maps, and easy-to-understand messages
- Best available resource related to avian species conservation.

### ***Theme: As a model of conservation process or to apply process elsewhere***

- good model of continental approach to conservation
- For examination of model for assembling plan for other species groups.
- recommended as a starting point for regulatory biologists working on ferc re-licensing, recommended as a model for other conservation planning efforts
- Have recommended it as a good example of how, even with limited data, one can create a framework for conservation that includes quantitative measures of success.
- I've recommended it as a reference to students so that they could evaluate species priorities for conservation and research proposals.
- I used as an example of something that we should produce for Mexico, but the feeling is that 1) is almost imposible to replicate because we do not have enough data 2) the data is not accurate 3) do not have an analysis of wintering grounds.
- Percentage based population goals for individual species is a useful way to set conservation goals
- I teach a banding program for beginners and refer them to it so they can see where the research gets applied.

***Theme: Generally high quality***

- This plan is well-written and useful.
- good solid reflection and summary of our state of the knowledge
- for its systematic and consistent approach to identifying conservation needs and priorities
- We have to recognized that the PIF has many partners and allies, been on that way there are more experiences shared and data compilet to arrived to this plan. Working as a team helps much better to arrived to a better conclusions
- I liked the rationalistic, science-based approach to bird conservation used. I am concerned about how the categorizations used mask very general patterns with huge conservation consequences (my main example is the large number of western songbird species that rely on Southwestern habitats and the Mexican Monsoon for molting; another more important example is the varied impacts of climate change)

***Theme: As a means to convince others of approach/need***

- In the past, local concern over one habitat or species dominates the habitat work. The Plan convinces decision makers to think about the problem over larger scales, and how to implement actions that can improve wildlife over continental scales.
- People cannot do anything about solving a problem until they recognize that a problem exists. Public awareness is important.
- To convince others which species to focus upon
- Encouraging co-workers to understand more.

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? –Overall**

**THEMES for overall**

- ❖ **Science rigor, including population estimates - 18**
- ❖ **Over style/user friendliness - 14**
- ❖ **Consider application/implementation/linkages – 13**
- ❖ **Update information, data - 11**
- ❖ **Include wintering and migratory grounds, Mexico, Caribbean, etc - 10**
- ❖ **More on background, definitions, threats – 9**
- ❖ **Appropriate for less technical audience - 6**
- ❖ **I like plan overall – 6**
- ❖ **Include climate change -4**
- ❖ **Extend to all birds - 2**

***Theme: Science rigor, including population estimates***

- more scientific data and comparisons of models. Specifics on case studies.
- More emphasis on independent assessment of population estimates (or lack thereof)
- improved population estimates.
- improving continental and regional estimates
- better explain the pros and cons of using BBS data
- More justification for separating watch list and stewardship species of low population size; more justification for accuracy/precision ratings for species given known biases of BBS data.
- Ensure web assessment (RMBO) methods and criteria are in sync with the plan.
- In Part II, link general discussions of regional issues to specific sources of additional and more specific information on the broad issue discussions
- Seems a little light on information on the bird size - could take the audubon approach of highlighting issues specific issues with some birds in each biome.
- Make an explicit effort to identify demographic constraints on populations
- Additional technical review, not a plan but an assessment
- somehow link to work at the BCR level in terms of prioritization
- Increase accuracy of population estimates
- Progress indicators for individual species, so progress can be tracked as newer versions are made
- Drop the idea of expanding this sort of assessment to non-U.S. areas. Either get in the trenches and dig out reliable population data or drop the whole idea.
- There has been (1) relatively little consideration of wintering ground problems/management/priorities, especially regarding the Neotropics; (2) very little discussion of the critical role demographic monitoring can play in identifying causes of and solutions to population declines; and (3) no discussion of climate change and its current and future effects on landbird populations. These three need to be addressed in the revision.
- From a continental perspective, it would be useful to prioritize aspects of life history (ie, breeding vs migration vs wintering) - for some species, conservation on the breeding ground is irrelevant in the face of decline in wintering habitat
- lives on-line, less static. Biomes are the wrong scale -- everything should be at BCR level.

***Theme: Over all style, approach, user friendliness***

- as a landmanager with multiple agendas, easy to read and reference is always better from my perspective
- The plan has great pictures and the tables have a lot of data.
- Better map than inside the back cover to figure out where a particular piece of ground is situated in relation to the biomes/BCRs
- no need for photos of birds in plan
- general summaries of each section
- Make it into two distinct sections or volumns. One section would not be very technical and one section is technical. The non-technical section will be used to "sell" the program to the public, politicians and organization administration and the technical sectuib for actually administering the program.
- quick tabs for user friendliness
- more tables and maps that are also directly accessible by web to incorporate directly into funding proposals, etc.
- expansion of goals; case studies
- tabularize it and easier-to-read format
- Shorter is better
- Emphasize ecosystems priority birds are tied to.
- expand coverage geographically; increase clarity with symbols replacing "Mo1" and other abbreviations
- Improve the design, give more specific examples, include wintering grounds analysis, include contact information for all JVs

***Theme: Consider application/implementation/linkages***

- education is a critical component of improving the bird-conservation ethic in the general public
- an explicit discussion of how the numbers in the plans could be used at teh state and regional levels. Given that some objectives and population estimates were seen as unrealistic or inaccurate it would be good to provide some examples of how they are being used successfully. This may simply be a link to the rosenberg state level papers or users guide but it may need to be something in the plan
- Strengthen linkages to regional and state avian planning
- How does this plan merge / complement with other continental initiatives?
- I think there needs to be more publicity for PIF and the Plan. Especially targeted at environmental consultants who are dealing with large and small scale developments and industries.
- Push for more consistency among organizational listings of species of concern as with latest Audubon WatchList.
- more indication of how the targets will be achieved
- by adding a listing of contact information for people/organizations by state/country
- more up front synthesis of issues (threats) and required responses to them
- more details on threats and what specifically needs to be changed to mitigate or curtail these threats
- Add specifics by species as to what needs to be done, action needed, specific steps to be taken to improve the situation.
- provide more details on threats, and specific approaches to how to mitigate/curtail threats
- Improve the design, give more specific examples, include wintering grounds analysis, include contact information for all JVs

***Theme: Update information, data***

- keep updating information using new info
- Updating information by including more recent studies...this applies to most of the sections below.
- updated with the latest USGS breeding bird survey analysis
- keep it up to date
- I don't have much to add; update pop. estimates, trends and literature. Same applies to all sections (bring up-to-date)
- focus on providing up to date online resources
- more recent data
- update especially population numbers
- more frequent updates in future online versions
- Provide a specific timeframe for the new plan and focus the plan on what may be possible/realistic to accomplish within that timeframe.
- lives on-line, less static. Biomes are the wrong scale -- everything should be at BCR level.

***Theme: Include wintering and migratory grounds, Mexico, Caribbean, etc***

- Adding information from Mexico will help the perspective of this Plan
- include more on migration and wintering (within NA) priorities/actions
- very exciting that this will now be a complete N American with the inclusion of Mexico
- include Mexico as proposed and most of Central America if possible
- Include Mexico in the plan
- Working in the Bahamas the plan focuses on the breeding grounds as discussed at the last PIF meeting little is know about the wintering grounds.
- There has been (1) relatively little consideration of wintering ground problems/management/priorities, especially regarding the Neotropics; (2) very little discussion of the critical role demographic monitoring can plan in identifying causes of and solutions to population declines; and (3) no discussion of climate change and its current and future effects on landbird populations. These three need to be addressed in the revision.
- From a continental perspective, it would be useful to prioritize aspects of life history (ie, breeding vs migration vs wintering) - for some species, conservation on the breeding ground is irrelevant in the face of decline in wintering habitat
- expand coverage geographically; increase clarity with symbols replacing "Mo1" and other abbreviations
- Improve the design, give more specific examples, include wintering grounds analysis, include contact information for all JVs

***Theme: More on background, definitions, threats***

- Expand Biome sections
- more details on threats
- Needs a definition of 'landbird' in the exec summary - I've searched and can't find it.
- more specifics and contacts on major threats to bird populations (towers, cats, pesticides, etc.)
- more up front synthesis of issues (threats) and required responses to them
- more details on threats and what specifically needs to be changed to mitigate or curtail these threats
- Add specifics by species as to what needs to be done, action needed, specific steps to be taken to improve the situation.
- provide more details on threats, and specific approaches to how to mitigate/curtail threats
- Improve the design, give more specific examples, include wintering grounds analysis, include

***Theme: Appropriate for less technical audience***

- more general info for the lay person--to reach beyond the professional field
- Needs to be less technical and easier to determine the overall species ranks
- Simplify species prioritization to the extent possible
- It does not need to be less technical but needs a section which can have the layperson using it or a person that has no birding background using it with success
- Although technical level is appropriate for most users, could be simplified for better public use/interest
- less technical for general public reading

***Theme: I like plan overall.***

- Found it very useful no comments
- Overall very good. All parts are useful and necessary for the complete picture. Well done.
- Beautifully done; overall excellent
- The basic organization is excellent.
- the plan is a very good introduction to a large and complex topic
- very good

***Theme: Include climate change***

- Narrow targeted conservation issues to land use and climate change
- Include more about global warming
- become realistic about future goals, including global climate change
- There has been (1) relatively little consideration of wintering ground problems/management/priorities, especially regarding the Neotropics; (2) very little discussion of the critical role demographic monitoring can plan in identifying causes of and solutions to population declines; and (3) no discussion of climate change and its current and future effects on landbird populations. These three need to be addressed in the revision.

***Theme: Extend to all birds***

- All bird conservation Plan, tied to all bird implementation, with new funding for all-bird priorities
- extend to all birds, not just landbirds

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? –for background information**

**THEMES for background information**

- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a -16**
- ❖ **Add/change specific components of background – 9**
- ❖ **Style of background - 4**

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- Adequate as is
- fine
- fine as is
- Keep It Up (KIU)
- n/a
- no change
- no recommendation
- not needed
- not really that kind of document
- ok
- ok as is
- Overall very good.
- very good
- very important
- Presently don't know
- Provides good background information

***Theme: Add/change specific components to background***

- Incorporating biological relevant life-history constraints on populations would make this effort more realistic and less feeling like an exercise in maintaining widget production.
- Include wintering grounds, examples
- update to include current jargon (SHC) and a "field guide" to conservation initiatives
- I'd like more information regarding species habitat requirements, perhaps by family of birds. I know species specific information would be too much.
- emphasize knowledge gaps
- more info on why bird conservation is important for humans, and the urgency of the situation
- Plan 1 can be used to provide background for Plan 2 - may not need to be duplicated, especially methods
- link directly with Conservation Wildlife Strategies (CWS) for each state
- give background info on new techniques and research so that both sides of issues are addressed as alot of the new research seems bias in favour of their methods with no counter balance of the other side or the side of the bird
- Comparison with other prioritization schemes; not species-by-species, but why is TNC/Audubon list different?
- value of birds for humans, society, and culture

***Theme: Style of background***

- bullets
- don't use "big" words that you know in your field, public doesn't understand
- I would like to see the background go to links online, only mention the highlights.
- keep it short background info available in other places

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – for identifying priorities for funding, education, or research**

**THEMES for identifying priorities for funding, education, or research**

- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a -10**
- ❖ **More specificity – 8**
- ❖ **Prioritize the greatest needs – 8**
- ❖ **Include funding opportunities –8**
- ❖ **More updated - 6**
- ❖ **Not the role of the plan – 5**
- ❖ **Geographic prioritization needed – 4**
- ❖ **Identify education needs - 3**
- ❖ **More linkages to other conservation work – 3**
- ❖ **Other -3**
- ❖ **Suggested research needs - 2**
- ❖ **Style of presentation - 2**

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- this is important
- The original plan has identified priorities well.
- Exactly
- KIU
- no comment - not really my area
- Presently don't know
- fine as is
- good as is
- Expand
- very good

***Theme: More specificity***

- more specific
- more specificity.
- more specific
- Biome-specific priorities
- increase information
- be more specific
- Most issues id'ed at biome level are way to general, maybe even at BCR, strength of plan is sorting out spp. priorities, current pop levels, and desired pop levels

***Theme: Prioritize the greatest needs***

- prioritize the recommended actions, or at least highlight a few key actions that could provide the greatest benefit from funding/research
- based on the best information available, identify whether breeding, migration, or wintering habitat quantity and/or quality is driving population trend.
- research - provide more specific guidance for research like this one did for monitoring needs
- Tie research priorities to species or habitats better. The current plan just has a laundry list of "needed research".
- If more emphasis was placed on testing current hypotheses of causes of population declines and the critical need to obtain further information regarding causes of population declines, this would go a long way toward identifying the most useful priorities for research and management and, thus, for securing funding and directing education efforts.
- specific education programs that can be coordinated/implemented nationally and regionally to address major bird conservation issues that require education; also we need to provide estimates of what it will cost to protect birds and their habitats in sufficient numbers to get the job done; identify highest priority research needs
- identify specific regional/national issues that are best addressed through education, identify top research priorities; also need to lay out the full costs of what it will take to achieve our mission, as well as the economic benefits that will accompany bird conservation, and the avoidance of costs that will be incurred as a result of failing to conserve birds
- Identify the most important priorities that should be the focus of immediate activities rather than a large shopping list of all possible needs.

***Theme: Include funding opportunities***

- Provide an accurate listing of securable funding sources for each of these priorities by region.
- list web address for current funding opportunities
- Enlarge/expand funding needs information, and include more facts re: current vs. needed funding
- more on funding if it does not detract from rest of plan
- listing of funding sources or recommendations; networking with organizations like Audubon
- update and perhaps info on possible funding sources
- Funding needs to be identified for research on wintering grounds of neotrops in the Caribbean
- Need to identify education needs (developed by bird education group). Priorities for different types of funding need to be identified; Implementation

***Theme: More updated***

- source list and updates
- keep up to date online
- There is very little description on that and it is lost in the document it has to be more clear, and create a mechanism online to facilitate update of those issues linked with the data (by the way the web page is not nice neither)
- broader input, less bias to BBS recorded birds needed
- Hard for this product to be very timely or very specific.
- update and perhaps info on possible funding sources

***Theme: Not the role of the plan***

- make some recommendations but this is not the final list, make the partners to take what they need from the report
- These will change over time, will necessarily be very general in a continental plan.
- these are country specific - not sure they can be presented at a continental level
- I think of this as the science base and less of a recommendations document
- probably not needed, as list would be so long as to be beyond the scope of this document

***Theme: Geographic prioritization needed***

- It might be useful to prioritize BCRs for conservation activity, elevating some over others
- Emphasize systems that can affect the most priority species.
- if there is recommendations they should also recognize local populations along with overall populations
- more participation on the countries of Suramerica,

***Theme: Identify education needs***

- specific education programs that can be coordinated/implemented nationally and regionally to address major bird conservation issues that require education; also we need to provide estimates of what it will cost to protect birds and their habitats in sufficient numbers to get the job done; identify highest priority research needs
- identify specific regional/national issues that are best addressed through education, identify top research priorities; also need to lay out the full costs of what it will take to achieve our mission, as well as the economic benefits that will accompany bird conservation, and the avoidance of costs that will be incurred as a result of failing to conserve birds
- Need to identify education needs (developed by bird education group). Priorities for different types of funding need to be identified; Implementation--need more \$\$ for NMBCA, NABCI Tri-National projects, Joint Ventures, states, NGOs. Education funding should be tied to upcoming strategic plan.

***Theme: More linkages to other conservation work***

- how can states apply this to CWS in a meaningful way
- better link to state wildlife action plans, species of greatest conservation need, and SWG funds
- % of population in each BCR is valuable information; coordinated monitoring strategies should be mentioned

***Theme: Other***

- population objectives unrealistic and untested (i.e. accuracy of populations/objectives not tested or substantiated)
- survey & find what people's priorities are
- This is one of the important aspects

***Theme: Suggested research needs***

- Research should focus on identifying the tolerance limits of populations and their behavioral and evolutionary plasticity in the face of habitat and climate change. We don't know if mitigation sites, for example, provide demographically sustainable alternatives to the lost habitats. Further, assumptions are often made about the value of riparian restoration here and there, but too often local biological factors (like cowbird densities) may modulate the importance of a feature in one area undermining equivalency calculations.
- emphasize knowledge gaps

***Theme: Style of presentation***

- use of easier to follow tables that are easy to follow
- Bullets

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – for making use of estimates, scores, and trends**

**THEMES for making use of estimates, scores, and trends**

- ❖ **Style of presentation – 15**
- ❖ **More rigor, precision, accuracy, etc– 14**
- ❖ **Incorporate more data sources – 7**
- ❖ **More updated - 7**
- ❖ **Add other scales – 5**
- ❖ **Focus on implementation/application - 5**
- ❖ **Make relevant to non-science community – 3**
- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a -3**
- ❖ **Include declining trends/show in historic context-2**

***Theme: Style of presentation***

- better identification of bird guilds in decline (grasslands, aerial foraging insectivores, etc.)
- Breeding scores on the website by BCR, but where are the winter scores?
- distinguish clearly between values-based population goals whether continental or stepped-down and population projections based on counts and extrapolated up. The first represents conservation goals (values), the other represents scientifically sound estimates of real-life values which may be extrapolated up. They are completely different entities, yet I have heard too many people speak about conflicts between the continental "stepped-down" and regional "stepped-up" calculations of population projections without establishing whether they are talking about goals or projections in making the comparison.
- do less of
- I have always felt that goals of increasing populations sizes by 50%, 100%, etc. were unrealistic because they were based on very inexact population estimates and that goals of reversing or population declines or enhancing population increases were more useful because trends could be estimated more accurately.
- identify areas where declines have been most severe -- visual display of trends could be compelling;
- keep up to date online, clearly state limitations and confidence intervals
- less on species richness and more on true regional priorities
- like the trend information maybe more ways of displaying this data to appeal to different levels of knowledge
- maybe data can be presented on website as background for conclusions; update should highlight any significant changes from Plan 1
- more clearly presenting the basis for many pop estimates or not presenting them at all if we really have no idea.
- more information about the assumptions (e.g., arbitrary detection distances) used and the effects on the population estimates
- Provide better opportunities for immediate feedback on population estimates, from website for example. Provide a mechanism for who to contact if responder cannot take time to research the information.
- Provide some case studies in next round of how it was used.
- Show this information for all species
- simpler table
- use trends and abundance to identify areas where declines have been most severe, and where best opportunities exist for conserving birds -- spatial expression of these data will be compelling

***Theme: More rigor, precision, accuracy, etc***

- adequate off-highway BBS monitoring needs to be conducted across the species range
- Assessment scores need more rigor (see below)
- assessment of estimates/recommendation of research to improve
- better estimates may be needed
- continued improvement and refinement of estimates/objectives - difficult without feedback from others, which I know is being solicited; this plan will continue to improve with time
- Estimates should be thoroughly assessed (i.e., independently validated) before this document is re-released
- Improve precision
- include exploration of sensitivity of rank (total score) on errors in estimates used; better examination of assumptions
- Increase accuracy
- Methods for estimating population sizes are faulty and potentially misleading. Should be revised.
- population estimates are grossly inaccurate in many cases - especially for many migratory raptors for which we have good minimum estimates via migration counts and the population estimates in the plan do not come close to matching even those minimums. We now also have much better population trend estimates for most migratory raptors from migration counts (see rpi-project.org) and those need to be better integrated into the assessments
- See above. The concept of taking index data (e.g., BBS data) and converting them to actual population estimates is intellectually flawed.
- see above; incomplete sampling of habitats and biases of BBS makes estimates/trends unreliable for some species.
- some reality to conservation goals is necessary; recommending a doubling simply to get back to mid-60s levels is fanciful and doesn't recognize the overwhelming threats posed by an expected doubling of human population size in North America by the end of the century

***Theme: Incorporate more data sources***

- are there opportunities to use additional sources of data in conjunction with BBS? E.g., USFS point counts. Suggest presenting population estimates generated using other methods.
- Endemism was weighted in your scoring system, was it not? Recommend that endemism remains a factor but Threats, Population Trend, and Range Trend should be weighted instead. Range Trend does not appear to be a factor you measured.
- incorporate local level, "bottom-up" modifications to population estimates instead of relying solely on BBS
- need to broaden the input into scores and estimates to other sources
- Need to predict habitat changes that are taking place that will put species in trouble. Don't wait until 10 years of research indicate the birds are declining at an alarming rate.
- Plan should account for more historical (pre-BBS) population, distribution, habitat information for making scores and subsequent prioritizations.
- updated with USGS BBS analysis

***Theme: More updated***

- decide on a system to incorporate new data periodically
- Need to figure out how to adjust population estimates based on more recently available information
- population estimates need to be continually evaluated and population goals need to be realistic
- review this part
- update and bring in new info as needed
- Update using advances since publication
- utilize any new information

***Theme: Add other scales***

- if local trends and scores can be placed in this
- Improved population estimates by BCR will help JV and other regional planning effort.
- more detailed locations
- Most states think by local area and not by applying range wide
- BCR basis; examples of use and misuse of scores

***Theme: Focus on implementation/application***

- access to raw data, more info on unpacking numbers for translating to site level conservation work
- give up the numbers and think about the real future
- How to implement the information on the ground is where the most work is needed.
- I guess if we want methods to be consistent then more guidance on the process of setting population and habitat objectives at the regional level.
- BCR basis; examples of use and misuse of scores

***Theme: Make relevant to non-science community***

- Keep the interpretation of these useful to non-scientists. However, document the underlying science in a journal paper, etc.
- Provide better context for the reader that does not want to read the methods.
- the estimates, scores, etc. are difficult to comprehend quickly and should be less technical, if possible.

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- good info
- no change; this should be fairly intuitive
- very good

***Theme: Include declining trends/show in historic context***

- could provide more specific info on magnitude of declines for spp and putative causes, perhaps by guilds???
- would like to see % decline for population trend from some arbitrary time frame (past 40 or 50 years)

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – for convincing others**

**THEMES for convincing others**

- ❖ **Style of presentation - 8**
- ❖ **Less technical, consider education application - 6**
- ❖ **Suggested conservation actions – 6**
- ❖ **Present trends, forecasts – 4**
- ❖ **More science rigor -4**
- ❖ **Not the role of the plan – 4**
- ❖ **Other – 4**
- ❖ **More linkages - 4**
- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a - 2**
- ❖ **Emphasize value of birds - 2**

***Theme: Style of presentation***

- Bullets
- Case studies, frame and clear tables for priority species (separate tables for priority species)
- perhaps more on the overall results when this information is considered in decisions (case studies)
- use of examples in sidebars
- examples on conservation success stories
- More connections to internet/online resources
- perhaps examples of how pop. est. can be adjusted at the state level.
- lots of area maps, list of endangered species, how general public can help conserve habitats

***Theme: Less technical, consider education & other application***

- Create less technical document puts education strategies into play
- have maps and tables in simple format to down load/print/copy for education
- more needs to be done to educate the public as I am sure that few know of the plan
- We need to have models set up that will quickly translate for the public what the effect of public policy will be on birds. This isn't part of the plan, but should be a companion to it.
- Making the priorities in a way that can be used local groups along with larger groups
- partnership and leadership development information

***Theme: Suggested conservation actions***

- more on philosophical approach to from planning to action
- Provide some targetted guidance to some of our most important potential allies - examples for private landowners, or community planners, or ....?
- specially to the locals to manage much better their lands.
- This is everyone's problem and everyone needs to know how they can help.
- lots of area maps, list of endangered species, how general public can help conserve habitats
- emphasize that this is a continental movement

***Theme: Present trends, forecasts***

- for conservation purposes, presenting global population estimates from the 1960s in App A can help others to visualize the population trends. This seems to have the greatest impact on laypersons and policy makers.
- more discussion of appropriate baseline for setting conservation objectives (1960s level not always good baseline)
- The things I use to convince others are the BBS trend data and the projected declines if negative trends remain the same.
- could have some estimates of major changes in habitat (i.e., broad classes) over time (centuries)

***Theme: More science rigor***

- very good, some do question use of BBS data on some of the species
- estimated error around estimates instead of codes and subcodes
- More peer review from experts (nonlandbird crowd) who do not attend PIF meetings
- Needs endorsement and commitment to funding from the governments involved. Needs more thought on population objectives to make them more realistic / accepted - one size doesn't fit all

***Theme: Not the role of the plan***

- not sure about this one. I think that it is the role of the plan to provide the best possible information and support the information it contains. I don't know if it should attempt to convince anyone of anything. The PIF partners should use the plan to do some convincing.
- not sure if this should be our goal -- most folks that get this plan already know importance!
- The paper document is not a good instrument for this, I think an online continuous status report is better.
- Depends on whom you are trying to convince to do what! This is a general document with a broad audience.

***Theme: Other***

- As above - decision makers in the Caribbean need to understand that migratory birds depend on Habitat in the Caribbean
- Not just increase distribution but get them to read it. Also get JV's to pay more than lipservice to all bird
- Probably still need to use sexy species to win folks over.
- Respond to user comments

***Theme: More linkages***

- How does this plan merge / complement with other continental initiatives?
- More links between game and non-game species as well as between other taxa.
- Strengthen linkages to regional and state avian planning
- tying the plans to funding opportunities will be essential

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- fine as is
- good as is

***Theme: Emphasize value of birds***

- value of birds for humans, society, and culture
- value of birds for humans, society, economy and culture

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – for adding a new component, section**

**THEMES for adding a new component, section**

- ❖ **Inform implementation, management, education, application, etc. - 26**
- ❖ **Include Mexico, Caribbean, or wintering grounds – 9**
- ❖ **Information about threats, GCC -7**
- ❖ **Make linkages with other plans - 5**
- ❖ **Change aspects of the science - 4**
- ❖ **Incorporate another scale - 3**
- ❖ **Add specific resources - 2**
- ❖ **Include trends comparison - 1**

**Theme: *Inform implementation, management, education, application, etc.***

- Could highlight a few regional or local plans that are based on this concept and are working
- Present some case studies showing how conservation planning & action has led to higher populations for selected species.
- Add a section on actions that need to be taken to solve the problem by species. What can be done? Broad generalities are nice for plans and planners, but does not solve the problem.
- add regional habitat management techniques
- Add the Big Picture - what is state of birds in North America, why and what should we do - like NAWMP
- follow up on recommendations and goals
- How do you stop the decline? How long will it take to get there? What funding is needed to get there?
- How to implement large geographic coordinated monitoring, especially as it applies to Mex., C.A., and S.A.
- Identify focus areas, sites of continental importance for birds
- Include some case study examples for work at the BCR level
- it might be useful to articulate example step-down exercises that have occurred
- local use section on how the smaller groups can make use of the book and what type of activities they can do to help.
- management options; funding for bird conservation
- more info on management recommendations, who is doing what, is there a need to a fed-Prov accord on landbirds?
- needs to give e.g. of how to move from plan to action. Perhaps identifying useful conservation planning tools
- perhaps more individual bird history/ biology/range maps to use for education
- priorities for education are good but "how to" is better
- Probably more could be done on the education front.
- Provide specific examples of positive conservation actions that occurred as a result of the first plan including a summary of the benefits that have occurred to date.
- Put a higher emphasis on implementation strategies on the regional, state, and local levels. Or develop a companion document or section on the website.
- summary of ongoing work
- Taking action section could be expanded to include examples/case studies to be used as models elsewhere; need more detailed info on "How" to achieve these actions on the ground

- use JVs for detail on management action, skip generalities that appear in the pIF plan
- using estimates etc at the local, state and regional level. a couple case studies
- could use more specific management actions
- Additional habitat-tied appendices like the wetland list. Where I am, grasslands, early successional forest, and closed canopy forest are all habitat types where trends are causing concern. It would be good to have a list of species that can be used in pushing for conservation, funding, and monitoring.
- (1) Add a major section on demographic monitoring -- methods and existing programs (e.g., MAPS) are currently available "off-the-shelf"; they just need better implementation. (2) Add a major section on problems faced by birds on their wintering grounds, especially in the Neotropics, and appropriate management actions to benefit wintering populations. Many of these results already come from demographic monitoring which indicates that habitat and weather conditions on the wintering grounds are a major cause, if not THE major cause, of population declines in many Nearctic-Neotropical migrant landbird species. (3) Add a major section on climate change and its potential effect on landbird populations -- that's the elephant in the room right now concerning any Bird Conservation Plan that purports to have relevance to the future.

***Theme: Include Mexico, Caribbean, or wintering grounds***

- Adding Mexico, Hawaii regions to plan; including all birds, not just landbirds
- Is this version going to include Mexico?
- migratory connections for priority species in breeding, stopover, and wintering grounds -- link need for action in all areas to conserve populations
- migratory connections linking different priority species through shared breeding, stopover, and wintering grounds
- More on species at risk/ vulnerable who winter in central america , mexico and the caribbean
- more thorough coverage of Caribbean
- Need assessment information on Caribbean.
- well, the intent is to add the Mexican component and they are going to do that anyway
- (1) Add a major section on demographic monitoring -- methods and existing programs (e.g., MAPS) are currently available "off-the-shelf"; they just need better implementation. (2) Add a major section on problems faced by birds on their wintering grounds, especially in the Neotropics, and appropriate management actions to benefit wintering populations. Many of these results already come from demographic monitoring which indicates that habitat and weather conditions on the wintering grounds are a major cause, if not THE major cause, of population declines in many Nearctic-Neotropical migrant landbird species. (3) Add a major section on climate change and its potential effect on landbird populations -- that's the elephant in the room right now concerning any Bird Conservation Plan that purports to have relevance to the future.

***Theme: Information on threats, GCC***

- Climate change, Farm bill/Habitat, energy specific sections
- elaborate on threats especially global warming. also wind, biofuels, other development
- global warming as a threat to bird populations must be evaluated and planned for. Add a section to cover this topic.
- Need more information on limiting factors for highly ranked species
- potential impacts of climate change and data needs to address this
- Relating to climate change and future planning
- (1) Add a major section on demographic monitoring -- methods and existing programs (e.g., MAPS) are currently available "off-the-shelf"; they just need better implementation. (2) Add a major section on problems faced by birds on their wintering grounds, especially in the Neotropics, and appropriate management actions to benefit wintering populations. Many of these results already come from demographic monitoring which indicates that habitat and weather conditions on the wintering grounds are a major cause, if not THE major cause, of population declines in many Nearctic-Neotropical migrant landbird species. (3) Add a major section on climate change and its potential effect on landbird populations -- that's the elephant in the room right now concerning any Bird Conservation Plan that purports to have relevance to the future.

***Theme: Make linkages with other plans***

- By adding a section that includes overlap or differences with other national bird plans (particularly new ones)
- consider adding a section on how this plan integrates with others also in place (e.g., How do all the pieces fit together?) Is there overlap, duplication, complementarity?
- How does this plan merge / complement with other continental initiatives?
- link to CWS
- Make stronger links to biomes/BCRs and associated regional plans.

***Theme: Change aspects of the science***

- more analyses/interpretation of assessment/trends
- more in-depth consideration of accuracy of estimates, perhaps in an appendix; many individuals look at the estimates of population size, without estimates of variability or precision such as confidence intervals, and take these estimates at face value despite the fact that the limitations of BBS data make these values unreliable for some species.
- On line resource for reviewing and changing assessment scores (See below)
- Rethinking approach to setting population objectives.

***Theme: Incorporate another scale***

- break down biomes into smaller areas
- Have a breakdown by BCR
- Make stronger links to biomes/BCRs and associated regional plans.

***Theme: Add specific resources***

- more internet resources (organizations, projects, Knowledge Database, eBird, etc.)
- Additional habitat-tied appendices like the wetland list. Where I am, grasslands, early successional forest, and closed canopy forest are all habitat types where trends are causing concern. It would be good to have a list of species that can be used in pushing for conservation, funding, and monitoring.

***Theme: Include trends comparisons***

- Include comparisons...historical, recent and current. (Perhaps using the maps to visually compare population trends in the this way.)

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – related to the images, graphs, tables**

**THEMES related to the images, graphs, tables**

- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a - 16**
- ❖ **Changes related to maps -7**
- ❖ **Changes related to tables - 3**
- ❖ **Change online, interactivity - 3**
- ❖ **Update science - 2**
- ❖ **Link to application -2**

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- fine as is
- good as is
- I think these are mostly fine
- images, graphs and tables are great as they are
- keep the graphs and tables coming
- KIU
- ok as is
- the more the better!
- The tables, photos and captions are mostly very good!
- they are really fantastic - great layout, very readable.
- very good
- Beautiful pictures and a lot of useful data in tables.
- excellent the way it is; VERY understandable and beautiful photography
- Gorgeous images! They really sold the book for you!
- very attractive, but much of this is totally unrealistic
- Nice graphics showing regional patterns in vulnerability, monitoring need, etc. Update & keep these.

***Theme: Changes related to maps***

- better blanchard maps, perhaps some link to states and breeding species for states LAC involvement
- Can maps be more large scale and larger in size?
- Maps are very small and difficult to read - colors blend together (suggest larger maps - the extra pages required in the report would be worth it
- Maps in PDF are not very clear; could be rendered better.
- Species density maps don't specify focus areas or habitat types needed. The number of species also doesn't say if those are common species or species in decline. A weighted map of species in decline may be more appropriate.
- use spatial analysis in addition to tables
- figures 2 to 8 don't need to be presented again

***Theme: Changes related to tables***

- easier to read tables. maps good
- Improve color coding (i.e. spp highlighting), seem counterintuitive
- In the hard-copy version, I find the tables unwieldy. Even though I use the Plan frequently I am constantly back-checking to remember what the short-form column titles are, and how the rating schemes work, what they mean etc. I realize it's a complicated process and not sure how you could get around this but nevertheless find it awkward. Perhaps more use of intuitive word descriptors or short forms? e.g. instead of "Mo1" use NA (i.e. "not available"), instead of "\*\*\*" use "good" etc. However, this may make the tables too large. The web version, with its pop-up boxes is much more user friendly.
- It would be easier to find species listings in the tables if they were ordered, either following AOU evolutionary order or even alphabetical. The current breakdown of Table 1 by threat level makes it more likely you will miss a species when looking for Species of Continental Importance.
- Maps are helpful, photos are very nice, tables are very useful. Within tables, continental population objectives are unrealistic and not very useful (see below).
- put the tables in one section so that you don't need to check all sections of the book
- rolled-up' information is useful - species grouped by category, summarized data in tables and graphs
- some could be simplified a bit or broken down into a quick version in addition to larger tables
- tables of species of same guilds and how habitat can be improved for the groups. People need to know what not to do as well as know what to do.
- The tables in the past show the problem, are there tables that show habitat improvement and pop. gains?

***Theme: Change to online, interactivity***

- Excellent maps. Need an on-line tool where maps layers can be interfaced with google maps and controlled by the user. Another job for AKN
- Online
- The photos need to be made "web friendly" to reduce size of the document, the files are too big.

***Theme: Update science***

- some pop estimates and assessments need updating and correcting for Canadian BCR's
- eventually - will be nice to have more accurate population estimates for a larger number of species

***Theme: Link to messages***

- lots of these, tied to key messages
- maps are very compelling and interesting; images and tables should be used to highlight main issues and actions

**Item:**

**How could the plan be improved? – other**

**THEMES related improving other**

- ❖ **Application, evaluation – 6**
- ❖ **Make linkages -3**
- ❖ **Style of presentation -2**
- ❖ **Science, technical – 1**
- ❖ **Additional message -1**
- ❖ **Additional material -1**
- ❖ **No change, like as is, n/a – 1**

***Theme: Application, evaluation***

- additional guidance to ngos on bird monitoring techniques and methods
- how do we track whether goals have been set? is it simply a reversal of BBS trends? if we see abandonment of a portion of a species range in the face of climate change (ie, a heavy decline) and an increase in a novel portion of the continent, are we calling it a wash? my point is this, do we expect reversals of trend everywhere, or might we be satisfied if populations rebound in some areas and not others?
- If the problems are so serious, why are we so slow to figure out ways to address them?
- More info on conservation actions needed for each biome and habitat group; also it would be nice to have a list of resources for funding, outreach, organizations, etc. that are potential partners and/or sources of information or assistance
- PIF members and academic professionals are not going to solve the problem by them selves. Every citizen and landowner will have to be involved and know how to be involved and what to do.
- See first coment above about etimates, scores. This is a pervasive problem because some habitat conservation efforts are a bit contrarian by modern perceptions but may actually be more effective than "working against the grain of natural communities". Example: continuing to score and emphasize Ring-necked Pheasant in forested eastern states where it takes a lot of resources to maintain artificial habitat (trend data very short term).

***Theme: Make linkages***

- (for popular audiences) describing how it fits in with other species ranking systems (IUCN, Audubon watchlists etc)
- Integrate (relate) to state/regional plans whenever possible. (e.g. Mention the concept of focal species)
- Make a clear tie back to the WAPs

***Theme: Style of presentation***

- Shorter, more thematic so people with different interests can readily find the sections they need without searching through long text
- some way to make the whole thing appear and function in a more integrated way, esp. for new users

***Theme: Science/technical***

- Need to provide the technical details of how the estimates, scores, and trends were calculated, perhaps in a separate technical document.

***Theme: Additional message***

- is there some way of highlighting the continental level message of cumulative effect?

***Theme: Additional material***

- more info directly related to desert inhabiting species (not sage or riparian species) would be helpful

***Theme: No change, like as is, n/a***

- i like it pretty much as it is

**Item:**

**Additional comments on the plan or revisions**

**THEMES related to additional comments**

- ❖ **No change, like plan - 13**
- ❖ **Application, implementation, actions – 12**
- ❖ **Other – specific concerns or suggestions – 7**
- ❖ **Scale – 7**
- ❖ **Science – 6**
- ❖ **Make linkages -4**
- ❖ **Threats – 3**
- ❖ **Add more updates -2**

***Theme: No change, like plan***

- Exceptional plan - this is just the right complement to go along with more specific BCR and state level, or even agency reports and plans. The national plan also provides a consistent protocol and format that makes the transfer of technical data easier when one rolls up the efforts of various partners. It also helps one understand the regional plans if those plans follow the conventions explained and presented in the national plan.
- Existing plan has great tables and graphics.
- Good job!
- Good sound document that provides an excellent foundation for development of more detailed regional and local plans
- I don't have any specific suggestions. Overall I think the plan is well done.
- I think the plan is excellent as is, and any efforts to revise it should adhere to the existing format.
- looking forward to the next version
- Overall this is a well organized and attractive document--excellent job the first time around!
- The Plan is a treasure-trove of information in a compact and attractive format, useful for communication with land managers.
- I actually think that the plan is fine and does good things. What's always missing is a way to make sure that the plan is used!
- It is an excellent tool. Well thought out and presented. I believe we need to get it out to more people and continue to stress the importance as we educate others.
- I applaud efforts to create such a broad plan; it's obviously much easier to create more regional plans. It may be useful to include a table or reference to the more regional/habitat-based PIF plans so people can use the landbird conservation plan as a starting point.
- great large scale plan that i can relate to my state plan and also regional PIF plans. it lkook impressive and is professionally done. people take it seriously. some question the accuracy of using BBS data fo all species and i work through that with people that ask me about it. we have to start somewhere though and then adjust conservation strategies as needed for various projects on case by case basis

***Theme: Application, implementation, actions***

- 1. my involvement in PIF is peripheral. 2. I see little technical information that managers in the field can actually use in their site specific management, that is not to say it has to be site specific
- Add concrete on the ground practices that land managers (including transportation) can employ to advance (or limit hindrance) to landbird conservation.
- not easy to use for layperson wildlife biologist with no bird skills. make it more user friendly.
- Overall, I see too much mixing of research and monitoring objectives with conservation objectives. There should be a clear separation between actions needed to gather information and actions taken to achieve conservation on the ground. By mixing them, it gives rise to the perception that research and monitoring activities are conservation objectives, when the reality is that these activities yield information which supports conservation actions.
- The list of conservation issues and recommended actions for biomes are well reasoned, thorough and accurate. Creating plans and lists are fine, but actually finding ways to implement the actions is the tough part. I think it would be helpful to include realistic ways to implement the actions. Though I suspect this is outside the scope of the plan. I've been in the government too long and seen too many plans and not enough action.
- The plan seems to be designed for recognizing regional needs to hemispheric needs appropriate for project planners and policy makers at high levels of administration. It was distributed to all levels within participating agencies, and is not helpful to land managers other than as a reference to support the benefits of actions. I believe by perspective on this plan is not at all helpful to this survey as I have found it to not be useful at my level, which may be what was intended.
- This has been a great background and reference material for use in my work with a Water-use Plan for the Columbia River in Canada. I would suggest a section for the person that is not involved with birds could easily use this book with the proper info, they get alot of info thrown at them regarding what is new in research and how to achieve certain info without the background or the limitations of the techniques or the fact the info can be obtain in other manners that may be kinder to the bird.
- I find this plan is truly not a conservation plan because of a lack of management recommendations to achieve population targets. I would also like to specifics on how the population targets will be achieved, whether through legislative changes, working with land managers, etc. For example, how will you increase blue grouse by 100% and how will you know when you get there. Generally, I feel the the current BBS routes do not include sufficient off highway sampling to determine trends of many forest birds. I feel that the current monitoring strategy needs to be revisited. Much of the BBS is run by volunteers presently. Where significant gaps are present in the dataset, professional consulting firms can be hired, especially in remote locations, if funds are provided.
- My impression is that the plan (and most PIF activities) follows a top-down approach from a fairly small clique of people with little input from field or people outside that group. I think the plan could be substantially improved with more input from the field, which would also increase receptance of the plan. Finally, recommendations in the plan are heavy on things that "should" be done but way light on how to actually achieve any of the recommendations.
- Plan needs to contain quality information on bird status and trends as well as population size. Most importantly the plan needs to be actionable.
- I actually think that the plan is fine and does good things. What's always missing is a way to make sure that the plan is used!

- It is an excellent tool. Well thought out and presented. I believe we need to get it out to more people and continue to stress the importance as we educate others.

***Theme: Other-specific concerns***

- Comment on Bald Eagle, Table 4 on pg 48. Primary Habitat is indicated as "wetland". Not sure if categorized appropriately. I know in western Oregon, coniferous mature/old growth forests are used all year by eagles for nesting and wintering- over along main river corridors/ water bodies. Other than foraging, spend most of their time in the forest habitat.
- I don't think that I am the target audience. I use it mainly as a reference for species information and conservation needs, but my work as a Caltrans biologist is limited to assessing project impacts.
- I found the differences between watch list species and the other conservation designations a bit confusing. I'm not a professional conservationist/ornithologist, so take that into consideration
- One of the big changes in private and corporate Forest management is that products are being chipped for paper and composites and not grown for long rotations. Bird species that used mature forest will lose this habitat. Many millions of acres will be managed for short rotation and trees will be in pole and immature sawtimber types which is of less value for all species.
- Perhaps address landbird management as related to the hot topic of timber harvest treatments -- should we be "managing" for species richness OR should we be "managing" for old growth species? And can MAPS stations (used by many, many PIF'ers to determine effect of timber management on landbirds) actually be used to compare timber harvests when the nets only sample 8.5 feet up?
- This is a great plan. But I feel that it is not quite representative of the more northern regions like Alaska.
- To the extent that the Internet can move the Plan objectives and status information from paper and meetings to the public, we need to take every opportunity.

***Theme: Scale***

- I find the State-level PIF Bird Conservation Plan of more value in my work.
- I have mostly used the PIF plan to understand the process and then to rank birds using the global scores. I have used the individual plans by BCR much more extensively than the overall plan.
- While the background information and general recommendations for monitoring and conservation are relevant and necessary, I feel that most conservation prioritization and action is going to take place at regional to local levels. Thus the most important aspect of the plan is the identification of highest priority species and translation of these large-scale priorities to regional scales. The plan should not go too far in suggesting specific direction for local actions.
- I find this plan is truly not a conservation plan because of a lack of management recommendations to achieve population targets. I would also like to specifics on how the population targets will be achieved, whether through legislative changes, working with land managers, etc. For example, how will you increase blue grouse by 100% and how will you know when you get there. Generally, I feel the the current BBS routes do not include sufficient off highway sampling to determine trends of many forest birds. I feel that the current monitoring strategy needs to be revisited. Much of the BBS is run by volunteers presently. Where significant gaps are present in the dataset, professional consulting firms can be hired, especially in remote locations, if funds are provided.
- My impression is that the plan (and most PIF activities) follows a top-down approach

from a fairly small clique of people with little input from field or people outside that group. I think the plan could be substantially improved with more input from the field, which would also increase acceptance of the plan. Finally, recommendations in the plan are heavy on things that "should" be done but way light on how to actually achieve any of the recommendations.

- Plan needs to contain quality information on bird status and trends as well as population size. Most importantly the plan needs to be actionable.
- great large scale plan that i can relate to my state plan and also regional PIF plans. it lkook impressive and is professionally done. people take it seriously. some question the accuracy of using BBS data fo all species and i work through that with people that ask me about it. we have to start somewhere though and then adjust conservation strategies as needed for various projects on case by case basis

***Theme: Improve science***

- I think revisions will continue to reflect the advancement of science occurring at the Joint Venture level. As JVs and partners continue to tackle refining objectives and linking them to habitat objectives, the plan will continue to be come more and more useful. I hope that ultimately the plan can incorporate habitat objectives as they become available.
- In the absecnce of adequate BBS data for many species, I and many others are concerned about the confidence and reliabilty of assessment scores. Thus better documentation and peer review of theses (espically when scoring species south of the border and in many westren states where BBS data is minimal). Ideally there needs to be an on line resource where anyone can 1) See the individual score for each category 2) See references as to why that score is what it is (If it is expert opinion than that persons who's opinion it is needs to be documneted 3) A mechanism where theses scores can be petitioned for change based on new or data or contray expert opinon. Many do not trust the assessment scores without this transparency, peer review and a mechanism to update. I would encourage the PIF community to work with the AKN closley to develop an on line resources that allowed scores to be seen, challenged and updated. Thanks for asking (doing a survey)
- More thought needs to be given to determining continental population objectives. Some seem quite unrealistic and not necessarily grounded in theory of population dynamics. Goals seem to be set relative to a "static" framework and it might be better to have a more dynamic approach as habitats and communities change through time. Our primary goals should be to have all of these species functioning at population levels that are self-sustaining rather than to have a set "population size" for each species (predicated on what it was at some past, static point in time). But this original plan has taken a very good first step in getting work started on all fronts--especially monitoring, research, and conservation actions (less so for education).
- See the in press paper on U.S. raptor population estimates by Farmer et al. (originating at Hawk Mountain) and compare them to the PIF estimates to see the wide discrepancies between the latter and the actual situation on the ground.
- Some of the continental population objectives seem unrealistically difficult (e.g. increase 100%), and perhaps these bold goals or their generation could be explained further.
- The National PIF program must be better integrated with the State efforts in terms of determining species of concern. Please incorporated the California Bird Species of Special concern (avail. Allen Press) methodology into your process. We differentiated between species of concern and sub- species for which the State is wholly responsible (our Responsibility List). Thus we were able to draw attention to endemics but we weren't obligated to put them on our "Concern" list unless they scored high on the

other categories too (threats, trend, etc.) Oak Titmouse is NOT a species for which the State of California should spend conservation dollars. I would suggest, neither is Island Scrub Jay! By focusing attention on these taxa, you have diluted the State's efforts to conserve taxa which are indeed declining and are under threat.

***Theme: Make linkages***

- Add links to BCR Plans.
- It may well be impossible, but a question keeps coming up about why there are so many sets of "priority species" which are not the same, and perhaps the Continental Plan could include some discussion of the various priority rankings.
- Update and tie more to states use for CWS
- I applaud efforts to create such a broad plan; it's obviously much easier to create more regional plans. It may be useful to include a table or reference to the more regional/habitat-based PIF plans so people can use the landbird conservation plan as a starting point.

***Theme: Threats***

- Climate change is the 'elephant in the room' not at all addressed by the current plan - should make some effort to address in new plan
- I think an added emphasis on habitat conservation, especially in migratory corridors, could enhance the recommended actions. I also would suggest look ahead to address prospective or "increased" conservation issues, such a wind energy, that could rapidly become a forefront issue in 10-20 years ("head them off at the pass").
- I would like you to consider how the effects of the pine beetle - dead trees, more extensive logging than was planned, etc. on bird populations. The pine beetle has greatly changed the forests here. Have you ever considered monitoring programs that do more banding on breeding grounds, but ones that are not as frequent as MAPS so there would be less disturbance of the birds and the potential would be there to sample more areas.

***Theme: Add more updates***

- Also, step-down plan for our state by K. Rosenberg is very useful but could use more specifics. Approach is good but needs updating and refinement.
- We needs more updates with all the last distribution reports from the overseas partners.