

Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Biological Priorities

Summer 2015

This document summarizes the current focus of Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (**ACJV**) staff in terms of work activities and the priority species and habitats we focus on most. This document will be distributed and reviewed annually by our Game and Nongame Technical Committees, Management Board, and selected experts with whom we work regularly, representing all major inter/national bird conservation partnerships. After including their feedback, this document will serve as the basis for an ACJV Workplan, that details proportionate staff efforts and deliverables for a two-year time period. The workplan will be revisited and approved annually by the ACJV Management Board, at which time we will consider new/emerging issues and adjust levels of effort/emphasis for the priorities listed.

The ACJV is an “all bird” joint venture; our vision is a partnership working to conserve all native bird species. Our mission is to coordinate habitat delivery that accomplishes the goals of the four major bird initiatives: the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan (USSCP), Waterbirds for the Americas, and Partners In Flight (PIF). The ACJV also assists in accomplishing goals of other single-species initiatives or Joint Ventures, such as the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative and Black Duck and Sea Duck Joint Ventures. The size and diversity of our joint venture area and our relatively limited budget and staff require us to focus our efforts on the highest-priority bird species and habitats. To be realistic and practical, we must align our work priorities with the resources and capacity currently available to ACJV staff. For example, USFWS national habitat grant programs—at the center of habitat delivery efforts by ACJV staff—are focused primarily on wetland habitats, which is a main reason that wetland habitat(s) is our highest priority.

We discuss ACJV staff activities in two broad categories: science (i.e., developing information to guide conservation efforts and evaluate/improve effectiveness) and habitat delivery (i.e., protection, restoration, and/or enhancement). The ACJV currently has two full-time staff focused on our science program and two full-time staff focused on habitat delivery. Some of our activities involve all staff, e.g., Bird Conservation Region (**BCR**) planning and coordinated bird monitoring efforts. Currently, most of our science efforts involve conservation design at large geographic scales (e.g., BCR or flyway-scale) and multiple habitats. Most of our habitat delivery efforts, on the other hand, focus on a particular landscape or habitat type.

I. Primary Priorities –Wetland & Coastal Habitats

The highest-priority habitats for Atlantic Coast Joint Venture staff are **wetlands and coastal habitats, including:**

- Saltmarsh
- Estuary
- Barrier beach
- Freshwater wetlands (emergent marsh, scrub-shrub, bottomland hardwoods, etc.)
- Near-shore waters of the Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes
- Islands in the Atlantic Ocean and Great Lakes

Two major reasons we focus on this set of habitats are 1) they are critical for almost all bird species in **three of the four** inter/national bird conservation partnerships (i.e., waterfowl, shorebirds, and waterbirds), and 2) the USFWS national habitat grants in which ACJV staff are most directly involved focus on wetland habitats. Wetland and coastal habitats are used almost exclusively by the vast majority of highest-priority species of waterfowl (e.g., American Black Duck, Common Eider, Atlantic Brant), shorebirds (e.g., Red Knot, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher), waterbirds (e.g., Black Rail, Roseate Tern, Whooping Crane), and several highest-priority landbird species (e.g., Saltmarsh, Nelson's and Seaside Sparrows) in the Atlantic Flyway (Table 1). Coastal landscapes are disproportionately important for hundreds of landbird species that migrate through Atlantic Flyway states. Many suites of bird species (e.g., gulls, terns, and other seabirds) are either reliant on marine or coastal ecosystems, or reach their highest abundance there. Also, coastal areas face particularly difficult conservation challenges due to historical, current and projected future human development pressure, habitat degradation, economic and recreational activities, and climate change/sea-level rise. Our focus on coastal and wetland habitats is consistent with our historic focus on waterfowl (particularly American Black Duck), and other wetland-dependent birds. Currently, most of our work remains similar to what we were doing over most of the last 25 years.

Shorebirds are an important avian component of wetland and coastal habitats, and shorebird species have very small global populations relative to most other avian taxa. Many of these species are rapidly declining, and it is unclear which aspects of their annual life-cycle may represent limiting factors. Concerted efforts are currently underway to improve conservation measures for the Atlantic Flyway, through the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Business Strategy, which hopes to secure major new funding to address limiting factors for shorebird populations. Given their population sizes and trends, and coordinated partner efforts underway, shorebirds merit *increased attention* by ACJV staff. That does not mean shorebirds will get more attention overall than other taxa (e.g., waterfowl or waterbirds), it refers to spending somewhat more time on shorebirds than we have in recent years. We hope that we can focus some of our discretionary staff time (e.g., 5-10% of time, for two or three staff) on activities that provide benefits to shorebirds, and emphasize shorebirds more than we used to as we carry out our regular work (e.g., establish one or more NAWCA projects per year in an area important for shorebirds). The relatively small proportion of individual staff time that is focused on shorebirds in the coming years will equal time spent on other work that has been discontinued (e.g., marine bird work). We intend to continue to spend roughly the same amount of staff time on high-priority waterfowl, waterbird, and wetland-associated landbird species. We hope to support the above-mentioned shorebird business strategy by playing a major role in habitat delivery efforts via our North American Wetlands Conservation Act (**NAWCA**) and coastal grant work (see below), and by helping to coordinate partner actions in key focus areas. By conserving habitats for focal shorebird species, habitats for high-priority species of waterfowl, waterbirds, and landbirds in the ACJV should also be conserved, contributing to the overall goals of the ACJV and our BCR plans.

II. Secondary Priorities – Upland Habitats

ACJV staff capacity for upland habitat delivery is low, relative to wetland and coastal habitats. Only one of the major continental bird conservation partnerships (i.e., Partners in Flight) focuses most on upland habitats, as opposed to (or in addition to) wetlands. Therefore, upland habitat types represent a secondary priority for ACJV staff, in terms of habitat delivery. Upland habitats do support highest-priority bird species in every BCR (Table 1) in the ACJV area. Fortunately, a great deal of important upland habitat conservation work in the ACJV is done

each year by our partners. ACJV staff may participate in projects focused on upland habitats as time allows, but are most likely to engage in such efforts when that work is considered strategic, due to its high potential to increase partner capacity in terms of science (i.e., information that guides conservation efforts and improves effectiveness) or conservation implementation (i.e., habitat delivery). ACJV staff participation will be further guided by the following criteria:

- a) a strong partnership is forming around a high-priority focus area, species, or issue
- b) the bird conservation community is poorly represented in efforts underway, and ACJV staff add value by helping to ensure benefits for priority bird species
- c) major funding becomes available to target a habitat or species identified as a high priority in BCR plans

Currently some high-priority activities of ACJV staff take into account upland and wetland habitats equally (e.g. conservation design efforts and BCR planning). The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (**GLRI**) exemplifies how ACJV staff use new funding opportunities to benefit priority habitats identified in a BCR plan, whether they are wetland or upland habitat types. GLRI has provided funds to the ACJV for bird conservation priorities in BCR 13 (Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain) from FY10 - FY13. Through a competitive RFP, we have awarded grants to projects making the greatest contribution to priority bird species in the three highest-priority landscapes identified in the BCR 13 conservation plan. Those awards have benefitted freshwater wetland, grassland, and shrubland habitats, including undeveloped areas along the Great Lakes shoreline.

III. Staff Activities

Habitat Delivery

The main goals for habitat delivery and conservation planning by ACJV staff will be to:

1. Coordinate and facilitate partnerships to take advantage of federal habitat conservation grants focused on conserving wetland and coastal habitats for priority species of the major bird initiatives (NAWMP, USSCP, Waterbirds for the Americas, PIF), and other species initiatives.
2. Support the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Business Strategy; integrate habitat conservation priorities in the Strategy with ACJV and BCR implementation efforts
3. Facilitate partner engagement and use of planning products from the “Designing Sustainable Landscapes” (**DSL**) project to improve the efficacy of conservation efforts in the Southeast Coastal Plain (i.e., South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative area)
4. Complete bird conservation for BCR 31 (Peninsular Florida); update existing BCR plans to reflect new information and DSL products coming online in 2015 and 2016
5. Develop, facilitate, and coordinate partnerships, or support existing initiatives (e.g., Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, America’s Longleaf Initiative, New England Cottontail Initiative) to conserve high-priority habitats in each BCR in the ACJV

The most significant habitat delivery projects involving ACJV staff are those funded by the NAWCA grant program and the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program. We initiate, support, and encourage partnerships to compete for these grants, especially within priority focus areas identified in BCR plans. Because these federal grant programs are competitive and projects typically involve \$1-2 million in partner contributions,

we cannot direct or control where grant projects happen. We generally assist all partners that contact us, and support any viable project in the ACJV. However, our most successful NAWCA partnerships (and >90% of all acres conserved through NAWCA in the ACJV) have been in ACJV focus areas, because of their high resource values and our attempts to prioritize such areas through staff efforts and our ACJV NAWCA Ranking Committee. ACJV staff work with National Wildlife Refuge staff in USFWS Regions 4 & 5 to support their land conservation efforts through the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund (i.e., Duck Stamp program), NAWCA, etc.

The ACJV will participate in the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Business Strategy by integrating the specific geographic areas, habitats, and management actions identified in the strategy with ACJV grant coordination and other delivery activities. Typically, ACJV staff develops or leads one or two new partnerships per year and we anticipate that the next ones we initiate likely will be those of high value to the Shorebird strategy.

The ACJV strives to follow an adaptive resource management approach to conservation planning and implementation, described by the USFWS as “Strategic Habitat Conservation.” This approach reduces uncertainty over time and increases the effectiveness of conservation delivery. We have worked to develop “conservation design” tools (e.g., GIS map layers, species-habitat models, and decision support tools) to help our partners plan for—and assess tradeoffs among—multiple priority species and habitats, at regional scales, considering predicted future changes in land-cover due to urban growth, climate, and different management and succession scenarios. One example of this is the Designing Sustainable Landscapes (**DSL**) project in the ACJV portion of BCR 27, the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) planning region. The DSL is a comprehensive conservation design project, an approach subsequently embraced by the Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCCs), with whom we now work closely on DSL efforts in both the Southeast and Northeast Regions. DSL efforts in the ACJV consider all major habitat types (i.e., wetlands and uplands). Because the DSL efforts consider landscape stressors and influences at larger spatial and temporal scales than our partners were accustomed to working, the project is a critical “proof of concept” for how landscape models can improve conservation outcomes by targeting work on areas most critical for sustaining populations of birds and other wildlife. Continued support of DSL work in the Southeast is a high-priority activity for ACJV staff, but our Technical Committee has not considered it to be as high a priority for ACJV staff time as other efforts underway. We are seeking external funds to finalize and make available the products developed by the SAMBI DSL project.

Since becoming an all-bird joint venture, the ACJV’s goal has been to complete bird conservation region (BCR) plans for each BCR in the ACJV (Figure 1). BCR plans provide a single source of information that integrates the priorities of all the continental bird conservation partnerships, including national and regional step-down plans. Our BCR plans include expert consensus on the most important focus areas for each bird group in each ecoregion. BCR plans have been completed for BCRs 13, 14, 27, 29, 30, plus BCR 69 (Puerto Rico/USVI). We are working with partners in Florida to develop a bird conservation plan for BCR 31 (Peninsular Florida). We need to revisit and update existing BCR plans in the next year or two, to consider new information recently provided by the major continental bird conservation partnerships, and integrate new data and models from the North Atlantic and South Atlantic LCCs and other projects (e.g., SAMBI DSL) into BCR focus area maps.

A continuing priority for ACJV staff is to seek funding opportunities to increase our partners’ collective capacity to conserve habitats for priority bird species in each BCR. One way we do this is to improve synergies among federal agencies, to make existing conservation programs as effective as possible at addressing bird

conservation priorities. Examples include the US Department of Agriculture’s Farm Bill (Conservation Title) and Forest Legacy programs and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Many more federal programs could provide greater benefits to priority bird species; we will continue to seek opportunities through the National Park Service, Department of Defense, NOAA, etc. ACJV staff participate in many different conservation efforts to benefit bird habitats, particularly in their early stages, to determine mutual goals and benefits and ensure that priority bird species’ needs are fully considered. Examples include the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, America’s Longleaf Initiative, and the “Young Forest” initiatives for New England Cottontail and American Woodcock. As such efforts mature into strong, self-sustaining partnerships with clear benefits to priority bird species, ACJV staff participation often decreases.

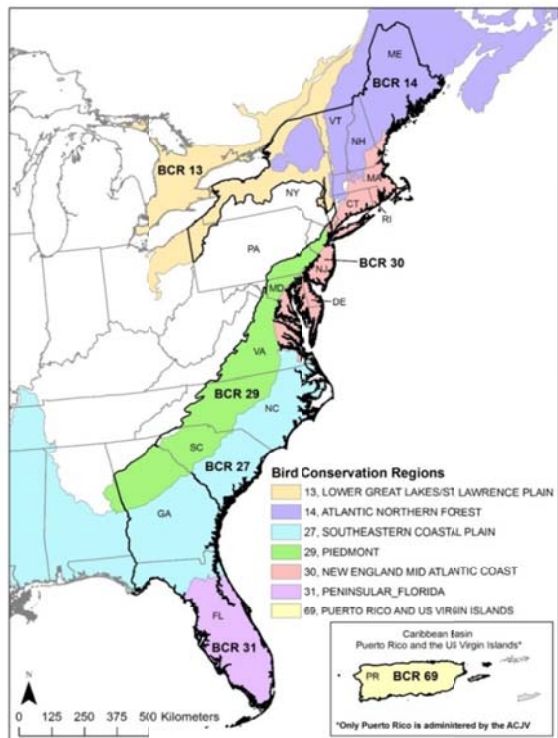


Figure 1. Map of Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture area.

Our habitat delivery work is generally centered on a set of priority habitats within ACJV Focus Areas, identified through BCR planning efforts. On a strategic basis, staff efforts may be invested outside of our Focus Areas in order to take advantage of major opportunities that affect priority habitats. For example, the NAWCA program received nearly \$15M in criminal fines from several oil spills over the last eight years. Those funds were directed to specific geographic areas, including areas within and outside of ACJV Focus Areas. That funding helped us deliver considerable acreage of high-priority habitat in BCR 30, including coastal wetlands and contiguous forested areas in fragmented landscapes. Such funding provides a strong return on staff investment. More recently, \$100 M in fines from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill were put into the NAWCA fund, for states and bird species affected by that spill. Some of these funds may be directed to areas in the ACJV that were not directly affected by the spill, because they are critical to the affected species for part of their annual life-cycle. Other BP settlement funds likely will become available in the future, for conservation work in the Gulf region.

In the ACJV, partners in Florida will likely be the main recipient of these funds, which could provide an enormous opportunity to implement long-term conservation priorities in the southeastern US.

Science Coordination

The goal of the ACJV science program is to provide information and tools to help partners improve the effectiveness of conservation implementation and habitat delivery. ACJV science activities, in order of importance, are to:

1. Coordinate Technical Committee(s) input into ACJV science activities (e.g., Priority Science Needs)
2. Lead, develop, and implement the Integrated Waterbird Management & Monitoring (IWMM) project
3. Develop population and habitat objectives for the full annual life-cycle needs of representative species in all ACJV BCRs, across taxa, and further refine our BCR planning products
4. Develop final products (e.g., maps and decision support tools) for American Black Duck wintering habitat

The ACJV Science Coordinator facilitates the ACJV Game and Nongame Technical Committee meetings twice per year, so that our core partners can provide input into ACJV activities. These committees jointly develop a ranked list of Priority Science Needs for the ACJV, so that we can ensure that our partners' priorities are clearly communicated and addressed through the work of the ACJV, LCCs, bird species joint ventures, USFWS programs, and other programs and initiatives with which we are involved. Our priority science needs guide the science program of the ACJV, in terms of our efforts to seek new funding and prioritize support for existing efforts.

The main focus of the ACJV Science Coordinator currently is the Integrated Wetlands Management and Monitoring (**IWMM**) project in the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways. The IWMM project combines management objectives, standardized monitoring protocols, databases, and decision-support models at flyway, regional, and local scales to guide management decisions about where to focus time and other resources for habitat management and restoration. The overall goal is to provide specific information required for better management decisions to support wetland bird populations.

One responsibility of the ACJV is to "step-down" to a regional (flyway or BCR) scale the population objectives in the continental or national bird conservation plans. Developing population objectives is an important first-step in the process of developing habitat objectives, to identify how much habitat is needed to provide for the full annual life-cycle of native bird species. Our conservation design and decision support tools are designed to determine what work should be initiated, and where, to most effectively meet those goals. Given the size and diversity of species in our joint venture, we are still in the early stages of this process. At this point, we have determined winter population objectives for most waterfowl species in the ACJV. For most other species, we rely on the objectives provided by the continental bird conservation partnerships, which have provided preliminary population objectives for certain species; however, these often are limited to the breeding season (i.e., but not stopover or winter habitat). In some cases, the initial population estimates provided are considered grossly inaccurate by ACJV staff and partners. Our long-term goal is to derive ACJV-specific population objectives for all priority species, throughout their annual life-cycle. We are initiating this process by comparing different approaches among the various taxa, life-cycle stages (i.e., breeding, wintering, and migration periods), and BCRs. We will continue to refine our methods until we have objectives for a set of surrogate species that represent all priority habitat types in our BCR plans.

Table 1. Highest and high priority species¹, by Bird Conservation Region (BCR), for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and the broad habitat types with which they are associated.

SPECIES	Bird Conservation Region (BCR) ²							Habitat Type	
	13	14	30	27	29	31	69	Wetland ³	Upland ⁴
Adelaide's Warbler							H		FO, SS
American Avocet			M	H		H		EW, SH	
American Bittern	H	M	M	H	M	H		EW	
American Black Duck	HH	HH	HH	HH	H			EW, FW, OW, SH, SW	AG
American Coot				HH	M			EW, OW	
American Golden Plover	H	H	H	H		H		SH	AG
American Kestrel				H					AG, FO
American Kestrel (Southeast)						HH	H		AG, FO, SS
American Oystercatcher		M	HH	H		HH	H	EW, OW, SH	
American Redstart		H							FO
American White Pelican				H		M		EW, OW	
American Wigeon			M	H				EW, OW	
American Woodcock	H	HH	HH	HH	H	H		FW, SW	AG, FO, SS
Anhinga						H		EW, FW	
Antillean Mango							HH		AG, SS
Antillean Nighthawk						H	HH		AG, FO, SS, US
Arctic Tern		H						OW, SH	
Atlantic Brant		M	HH	HH				EW, OW	
Audubon's Shearwater			H	HH		HH	HH	OW	
Bachman's Sparrow			M	H	H	H			AG, FO, SS
Bachman's Warbler				HH		HH		FW	
Baltimore Oriole	M		H		M			FW	FO, SS, US
Band-rumped Storm-Petrel				H				OW	
Barrows Goldeneye	H	HH						OW	
Bay-breasted Warbler	M	HH	H						FO
Bermuda Petrel				HH				OW	
Bewick's Wren					H				SS
Bicknell's Thrush		HH	H	H		H		SW	FO
Black Guillemot		H						OW, SH	
Black Rail			HH	H	M	H	HH	EW	
Black Scoter		H	H	HH				OW	
Black Skimmer			M	H		HH		SH	
Black Swift							H		FO
Black Tern	M			H		H		EW	
Black-and-white Warbler			H						FO
Black-bellied Plover	M	H	H	M		M	H	EW, SH	AG
Black-billed Cuckoo	H	M							FO
Black-capped Petrel				H		H		OW	
Black-crowned Night Heron	M	H	M	H				EW, FW	
Black-throated Blue Warbler	M	H		M		M	H	SW	FO
Black-throated Green Warbler		M		HH				FW	FO
Black-whiskered Vireo						H		FW	FO
Blue-winged Teal	M			H				EW, SH	
Blue-winged Warbler	H	H	HH		M			SW	SS
Bobolink	M	H		M		M			AG
Boreal Chickadee		H							FO
Bridled Quail-dove									FO
Bridled Tern			H	H			H	OW	
Broad-winged Hawk			H				HH		FO
Brown Booby						H	HH	OW	
Brown Noddy						M	H	OW	
Brown Pelican				H		H	HH	EW, OW, SH	
Brown Thrasher	H		H	H	M				FO, SS, US
Brown-headed Nuthatch			M	H	HH	HH		FW	FO, US

Table 1 (continued). Highest and high priority species¹, by Bird Conservation Region (BCR), for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and the habitat types with which they are associated.

Species	13	14	30	27	29	31	69	Wetland	Upland
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	H		H	HH	H	HH		EW, SH	AG
Bufflehead			H					OW	
Burrowing Owl				M		H			AG
Canada Goose, (Atlantic Pop.)	HH	H	HH	HH	H			EW, OW	AG
Canada Goose, (N. Atlantic Pop.)			H					EW, OW	
Canada Warbler	M	HH	M					FW	FO
Canvasback	H		H	HH	M	H		EW, OW	
Cape May Warbler		H		M		M		SW	FO
Carolina Wren					H			FW	FO, SS, US
Caribbean Coot							HH	EW, OW	
Caribbean Martin								FW	FO
Cerulean Warbler	HH		M	HH	H			FW	FO
Chesnut-sided Warbler		H							SS
Chimney Swift	M	H	H	H	H			FW	FO, US
Chuck-will's-widow				H	H	H	H	FW	FO
Clapper Rail			H	M		H	HH	EW	
Common Eider		HH	H					OW, SH	
Common Goldeneye	HH	M	M	H	M			EW, FW, OW	
Common Ground-Dove				HH		H		SW	
Common Loon	M	M		H				OW, SH	
Common Nighthawk		H				H			US
Common Tern	H	H	M	HH		H	H	EW, OW, SH	
Cory's Shearwater			M	H				OW	
Crested Caracara						HH			AG, SS
Dunlin	M		H	H		H		SH	
Eastern Kingbird			H	H	M				AG, FO, SS, US
Eastern Meadowlark	M			H	M	H			AG
Eastern Towhee			H	H	H				FO, SS, US
Eastern Wood-Pewee		H		H	H			FW	FO, SS, US
Elfin Woods Warbler							HH		FO
Field Sparrow	H		H	H	M	M			AG, FO, SS
Florida Scrub Jay						HH		SW	FO
Forster's Tern			H	M		M		EW, OW	
Glossy Ibis			H	H		H		EW, FW	
Golden-winged Warbler	HH		M					SW	SS
Grasshopper Sparrow	M		M	H	H				AG
Grasshopper Sparrow (floridanus)						HH			AG
Great Cormorant		HH						OW, SH	
Great Crested Flycatcher			H						FO
Great White Heron						HH		EW, OW, SH	
Greater Antillean Oriole							HH		FO, US
Greater Flamingo						H	HH	EW, OW, SH	
Greater Scaup	H	M	H					EW, OW	
Greater Shearwater		HH	H	H				OW	
Greater Snow Goose	M	MC		HH				OW	
Greater Yellowlegs	M		H	M		M		EW, SH	
Gull-billed Tern			HH	H		H		SH	
Harlequin Duck		HH	M					OW, SH	
Henslow's Sparrow	HH		M	HH	M	HH		EW	AG, FO, SS
Herring Gull		H		MC				OW, SH	
Hispaniolan Parakeet							HH	FW	FO
Hooded Merganser			M		H			FW, OW	
Hooded Warbler				M			H	FW	FO
Horned Grebe		M	H	H	M	H		OW	AG
Hudsonian Godwit	M	M	H					EW, SH	
Indigo Bunting				M	H				FO, SS, US

Table 1 (continued). Highest and high priority species¹, by Bird Conservation Region (BCR), for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and the habitat types with which they are associated.

Species	13	14	30	27	29	31	69	Wetland	Upland
Ipswich Savannah Sparrow		HH	M					SH	AG
Ivory-billed Woodpecker				HH		HH		FW	
Kentucky Warbler			H	H	H			FW	FO
Key West Quail-dove							H		FO
King Rail	H		M	H	H	H		EW	
Kirtland's Warbler				HH		HH		SW	
Le Conte's Sparrow				H	M	H		EW	AG, FO
Least Bittern	M		M	H	M	H	HH	EW	
Least Grebe							H	EW, OW	
Least Sandpiper	M	M	M	H	M	H	H	EW, OW, SH	AG
Least Tern			H			H	H	OW, SH	
Lesser Antillean Pewee							H	FW	FO
Lesser Scaup	HH		H	HH		H		EW, OW	
Lesser Yellowlegs			M	H	M	H	H	EW, OW, SH	AG
Limpkin				HH		HH	HH	EW, FW	
Little Blue Heron			M	H	M	H		EW, FW, OW	
Little Gull	H							EW, OW	
Loggerhead Kingbird							H		FO
Loggerhead Shrike	M		M	HH	H	HH			AG, FO, SS
Long-billed Curlew				HH		HH		EW	
Long-eared Owl		H							FO
Long-tailed Duck	HH	M	H					OW	
Louisiana Waterthrush			H	M			H	FW, OW	FO
Magnificent Frigatebird						HH	HH	OW	
Mallard	M	MC	H	HH	M			EW, FW, OW, SW	AG
Mangrove Cuckoo						H		FW	
Manx Shearwater			M	H				OW	
Marbled Godwit	M		H	H		H		SH	
Marsh Wren			H	M		M		EW	
Masked Booby						H	HH	OW	
Masked Duck							HH	EW, OW	
Mottled Duck				M		HH		EW	
Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow		HH	M	H		H		EW	
Northern Bobwhite	M		H	H	H	H			AG, FO, SS
Northern Flicker	M	M	H	H	M	H		FW	FO, SS, US
Northern Gannet		H	H	H		H		OW, SH	
Northern Harrier	M	M		M		H		EW	AG
Northern Pintail	H		M	HH		H		EW, OW	
Northern Waterthrush							H	FW	FO
Olive-sided Flycatcher		H						SW	FO, SS
Painted Bunting				HH	M	HH		FW, SW	FO, SS, US
Pied-billed Grebe	M			H	M	M	H	EW, OW	
Pine Warbler				M	H				FO, US
Piping Plover	HH	HH	HH	HH	M	HH	HH	OW, SH	
Plain Pigeon							HH		FO
Prairie Warbler	M		HH	H	HH		H	SW	AG, FO, SS
Prairie Warbler (Florida)						HH		SW	AG
Prothonotary Warbler	M		H	H	M	M	H	FW	FO
Puerto Rican Flycatcher							HH	FW	FO
Puerto Rican Nightjar							HH		FO
Puerto Rican Parrot							HH		FO
Puerto Rican Screech Owl							HH		FO
Puerto Rican Vireo							HH	FW	FO, US
Purple Finch		H							FO
Purple Gallinule				HH		H	H	EW	
Purple Sandpiper		HH	H					SH	

Table 1 (continued). Highest and high priority species¹, by Bird Conservation Region (BCR), for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and the habitat types with which they are associated.

Species	13	14	30	27	29	31	69	Wetland	Upland
Razorbill		H	M	H				OW, SH	
Red Knot	M	H	HH	H		H	H	SH	
Red Phalarope		H	M	H				OW	
Red-cockaded Woodpecker			M	HH	H	HH		FW	FO
Reddish Egret				M		HH		SH	
Red-footed Booby							HH	OW	
Redhead	M			HH	M	H		EW, OW	
Red-headed Woodpecker	M		M	H	M	H		FW	AG, FO, SS
Red-necked Grebe		H						OW	
Red-necked Phalarope		HH	M					OW	
Red-tailed Tropicbird							H	OW	
Red-throated Loon		M	HH	H		H		OW	
Roseate Spoonbill						H		EW, OW, SH	
Roseate Tern		H	HH	H		HH	H	OW, SH	
Ruddy Duck			M				H	EW, OW	
Ruddy Turnstone		H	HH	H		H	H	SH	
Rusty Blackbird	M	H	H	H	H	H		FW, SW	AG, FO, US
Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow			HH	HH		HH		EW	
Sanderling	M	M	HH	H		H	H	SH	
Sandhill Crane				HH		M			AG
Sandwich Tern			H	H		H		OW, SH	
Seaside Sparrow			HH	H				EW	
Seaside Sparrow (Atl. Coast races)						HH		EW	
Seaside Sparrow (Cape Sable)						HH		EW	
Seaside Sparrow (Gulf Coast races)						H		EW	
Semipalmated Sandpiper	M	HH	H	H		H	H	SH	
Sharp-shinned Hawk							HH		FO
Short-billed Dowitcher	H	H	H	H		H	H	EW, SH	
Short-eared Owl	M	M		H	M			EW	AG
Short-tailed Hawk						HH			AG, SS
Smooth-billed Ani						HH			FO, SS
Snail Kite						HH		EW	
Snowy Plover				HH		HH	HH	SH	
Solitary Sandpiper	H		H	H		H	H	EW, SH	
Sooty Shearwater						H		OW	
Stilt Sandpiper				H		H	H	EW, SH	
Surf Scoter		M	H					OW	
Swainson's Warbler			M	H	H			FW	FO
Swallow-tailed Kite				H		HH		FW	
Tricolored Heron			M	H		H		EW, FW	
Tundra Swan	H		H					EW, OW	
Upland Sandpiper	M	H	M	H	H	H			AG
Veery		H							FO
Vesper Sparrow		M		H		H			AG
Western Sandpiper			M	H	M	H	H	SH, OW	AG
West Indian Whistling Duck							HH	EW, OW	
Whimbrel	M	H	HH	HH		H	HH	EW, SH	
Whip-poor-will		M	H		H				FO, SS
White Ibis				H		H		EW, SH	AG
White-breasted Nuthatch						HH			FO
White-cheeked Pintail							H	EW, OW	
White-crowned Pigeon						H	HH	FW	FO
White-necked Crow							HH	FW	FO, US
White-rumped Sandpiper			H					SH	
White-tailed Kite						HH			AG, SS
White-tailed Tropicbird				H			HH	OW	

Table 1 (continued). Highest and high priority species¹, by Bird Conservation Region (BCR), for the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and the habitat types with which they are associated.

Species	13	14	30	27	29	31	69	Wetland	Upland
White-throated Sparrow				H	H			FW	FO, SS, US
White-winged Scoter	M		H	H				OW	
Whooping Crane				HH	M	HH		EW	AG
Willet		M	H	H			HH	EW, SH	AG
Willow Flycatcher	M		H					FW, SW	SS
Wilson's Phalarope	M		H	H		H		EW	
Wilson's Plover			H	H		HH	H	SH	
Wilson's Snipe	M	M		H				EW	AG
Wood Duck	H	M	M		H	M		EW, FW, OW, SW	
Wood Stork				HH		HH		EW, SH	
Wood Thrush	H	HH	HH	H	H			FW	FO, US
Worm-eating Warbler	M		H	H			H	FW	FO
Yellow Rail	M	M		H		H		EW	
Yellow Warbler							H	FW	FO
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		H							FO
Yellow-billed Cuckoo				H				FW	FO
Yellow-breasted Crake							HH	EW	
Yellow-crowned Night Heron			M	H		H	H	EW, FW	
Yellow-shouldered Blackbird							HH	FW	FO
Yellow-throated Vireo			H	M	H			FW	FO, US

¹ For species that are highest priority (HH) and/or high priority (H) in any BCR, their priority status in any BCR is shown, including moderate priority (M) or species of management concern (MC). Species not considered highest or high priority in any BCR plan are not included in this summary table.

² Bird Conservation Region (BCR) names and numbers are below. See map above (Figure 1).

BCR 13 = Lower Great Lakes / St. Lawrence Plain

BCR 14 = Atlantic Northern Forest

BCR 27 = Southeastern Coastal Plain

BCR 29 = Piedmont

BCR 30 = New England / Mid-Atlantic Coast

BCR 31 = Peninsular Florida

BCR 69 = Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

³ We used broad habitat categories in this table, which include many different wetland habitat classes described in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI); our habitat categories, and the NWI classes in each, are:

EW = Emergent Wetlands (fresh, estuarine & salt water): PEM, R2EM, R3EM, L2EM, E2EM

FW = Forested Wetlands (including mangrove forests): PFO

OW = Open Water & Riverine (fresh, estuarine, & saltwater, including lakes & ocean): E1AB, E1UB, R2UB/R2RB, R3UB/R3RB, L1UB/L1RB, M1

SH = Shorelines, Sand & Mud (fresh/salt water, rocky shore, beaches, & islands): PUS2/PUS3, E2RS, E2US

SW = Scrub-shrub Wetlands: E2SS, PSS

⁴ Upland habitat categories used in this table are broad, and correspond to those used by the NWI, including:

AG = Agricultural & Grassland (includes native grass, hay, pasture, crops, and fallow fields)

FO = Forest (includes deciduous, coniferous, mixed, pine, plantations, and savanna)

SS = Early Successional & Shrub (includes old fields with shrubs, and recently-disturbed forests)

US = Urban & Suburban