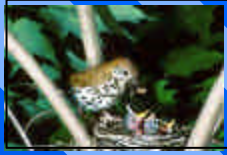


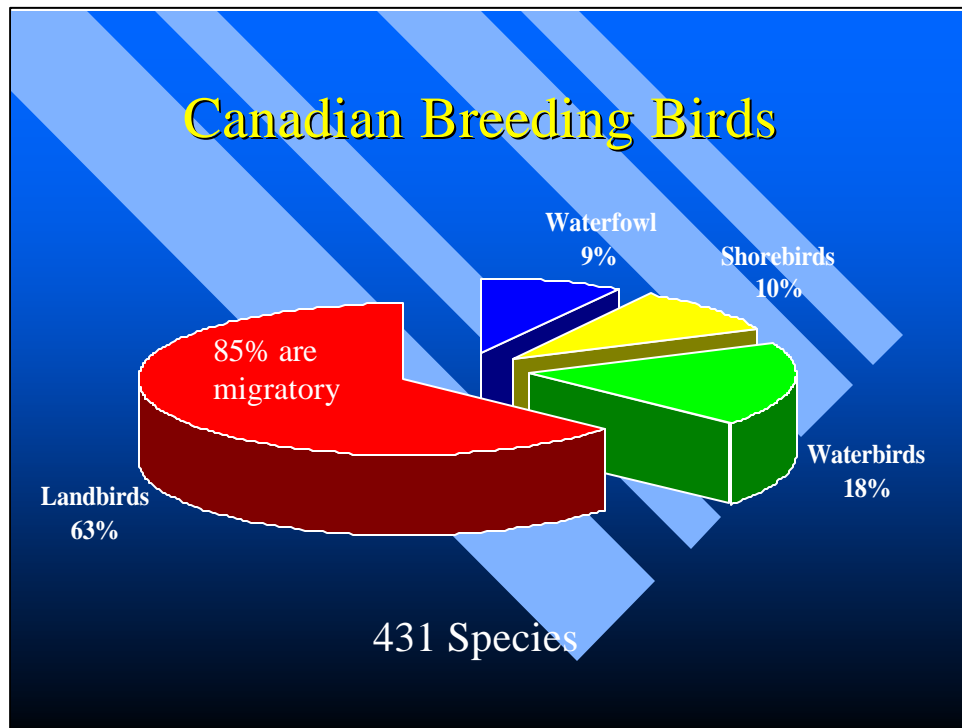
- The purpose of my short talk is to provide you with an overview of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative, where it came from and how it works.
- I want to acknowledge that I have borrowed the work of others in my slides, particularly Art Martell, formerly a CWS director of Pacific Region, and also the work of Pete Blancher, - or Dr. PIF
- Before I get started, how many folks here have heard of NABCI?



The Importance of birds

- Visible and valuable components of biodiversity
- Important representatives of ecological health
- Inspire an ecological approach to conservation
- Fastest growing recreational activity in North America
- Their migrations motivate partnerships

- I think to this group the importance of birds goes without saying.
- They are obviously valuable, essential components of biodiversity and ecosystem health.
- What I think is interesting though from a socio-economic perspective, is that birds and their migrations have motivated incredible international cooperation, which for waterfowl for example, has translated into millions of dollars in wetland habitat conservation efforts across the continent.



- Given that waterfowl cover only 9% of Canada's 431 breeding birds, and landbirds cover a whopping 63% of our breeding species- most of which are migratory (85%) we should be marketing this migration thing a little more!
- We're getting there. Efforts for waterfowl conservation are expanding to include all birds and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative is about just that. Conserving all birds and all habitats.
- So what took us so long to get here? Let's take a quick look back...



Historical Perspective

- 1900 - North American birds were at risk from unregulated hunting and marketing
 - *RESPONSE:* Treaties (Canada-US, 1916; Mexico-US, 1936)
- 1980s Waterfowl Habitat Crisis
 - *RESPONSE:* North American Waterfowl Management Plan- 1986
- Today - North American birds still at risk
 - *RESPONSE:* North American Bird Conservation Initiative

- In the early 1900s, NA birds were at risk from unregulated hunting pressure and marketing and the response to that was the formation of migratory bird treaties between Canada and the US in 1916, and between the U.S. and Mexico in 1936.
- In the 1980s, waterfowl populations declined so drastically due primarily to habitat loss (drought) on the Prairies, that an international response was initiated to protect wetland and upland habitats – critical for waterfowl production and survival. **Enter the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.**
- Part of the success of the Plan continues to be facilitated by legislation in the US called that enables millions of US dollars into Canada (to be matched) for wetland and associated upland conservation.

In the late 1990s, we recognized that NA birds are still at risk, primarily from habitat loss.

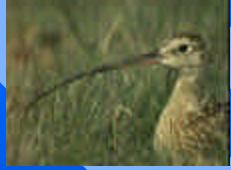
Based on history of cooperation, conservationists from Canada, the US and Mexico, along with the NA Commission for Environmental Cooperation worked together to develop the Response...the North American Bird Conservation Initiative



NABCI Vision

Populations and habitats of North America's birds protected, restored and enhanced through coordinated efforts at international, national, regional and local levels, guided by sound science and effective management

- NABCI's vision is that populations and habitats of NA's birds are protected, restored and enhanced through coordinated efforts at various scales, guided by sound science and effective management.
- One of the key points in the Vision is the "Guided by Sound Science" piece. All of us recognize that the science behind bird conservation is not perfect. However, it is important to move forward based on the information we have, to outline the knowledge gaps as well as the assumptions we're making, and go forward.

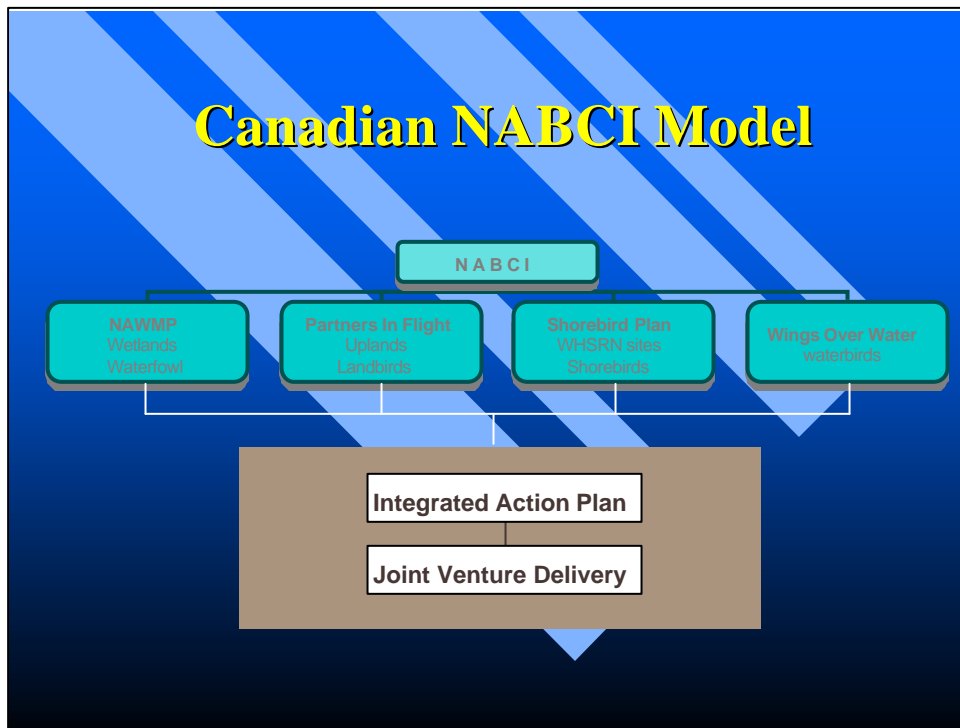


NABCI Goal

To deliver the full spectrum of bird conservation through regionally based, biologically driven, landscape-oriented partnerships.

The goal of NABCI is to deliver bird conservation programs that are regionally-based (i.e. that have a *geographic focus*) that are biologically-driven (*the science piece...inking on-the Ground management to population responses*), and landscape oriented (i.e. *balancing conservation and socio-economic needs*).

Canadian NABCI Model



- How do we achieve a coordinated approach to bird conservation?
- Using our NABCI model, conservation priorities are identified within each of the four major bird groups at a national level or in the case of Partners In Flight- at a continental level.
- These priorities are stepped down to regional level plans or Bird Conservation plans and subsequently integrated into an action plan.
- Those actions are delivered by regionally-based partnerships or Joint Ventures.

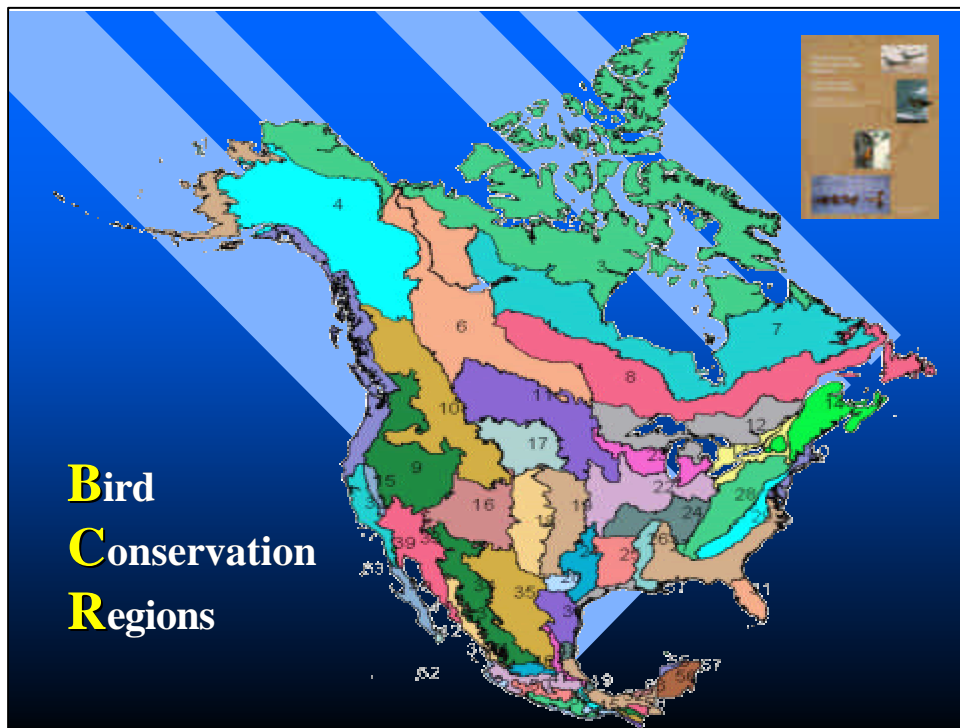
Developing a Common Framework

- First challenge to integrated bird conservation
- International mapping team agreed to use NACEC hierarchical framework of nested ecological units
- These were combined to form Bird Conservation Regions.
- 67 BCRs throughout NA

• To facilitate a 'coordinated' approach to all bird conservation under NABCI, the first major challenge was developing a common planning framework.

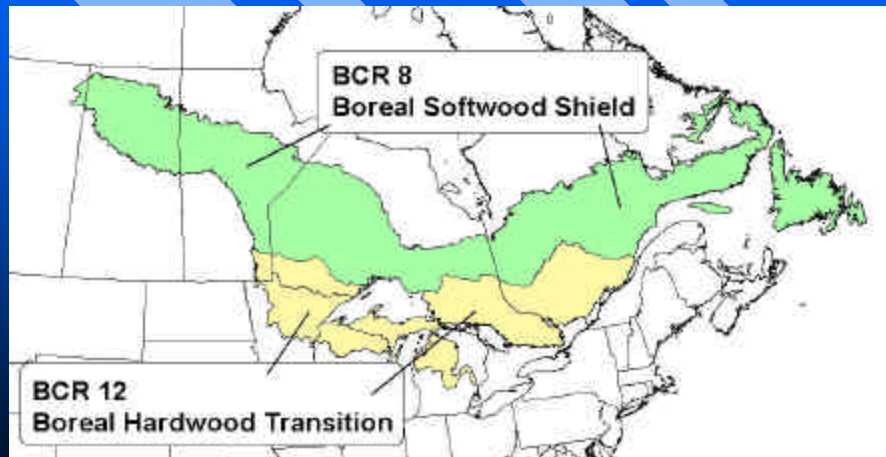
• To do this, a mapping team of folks from the US, Canada and Mexico considered a number of ecoregion delineations and agreed to use the The North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (the other CEC) hierarchical framework of nested ecological units.

• These were combined, based on similar bird communities, habitats, and resource management issues to form 67 Bird Conservation Regions across the continent.

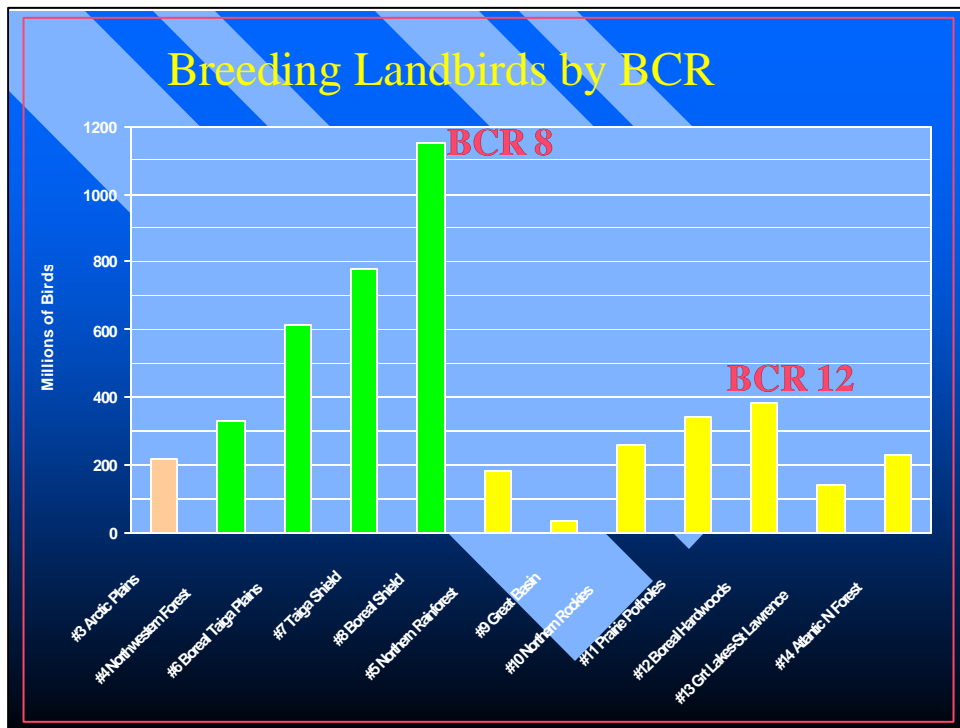


- This is the result of that exercise.
- The purposes of delineating these BCRs was not only to provide a consistent spatial framework for planning and evaluation, but also to facilitate greater communication among bird initiatives and to promote cooperation across jurisdictions and borders as well as expanded partnerships for implementation.
- One thing to notice here is that Canada's BCRs tend to be larger than the others, and orient themselves on an east-west basis- crossing many jurisdictions. As you might imagine, this makes cross-jurisdictional planning slightly more complicated.

A closer look at BCRs 8 and 12



- Taking a closer look at BCRs 8 and 12, together these landscapes cover two countries, and span 6 provinces!
- For this and other reasons, we've elected to plan for Ontario's portion of BCRs 8 and 12, and are coordinating our efforts with neighbouring jurisdictions.



- Just to give you a sense of the relative importance of the two BCRs we're focusing on here this week to breeding landbirds, out of the 4 boreal BCRs denoted by the green bars, BCR 8 has the highest number of breeding landbirds – just over one billion, and of the non-boreal and transition forest BCRs, 12 is quite high with just under 400 million breeding birds using this landscape.

Clearly these are two very important BCRs for landbirds.



How NABCI Works at the BCR level

- Determine biological and strategic priorities and population goals for species
 - waterfowl, landbirds, shorebirds, waterbirds
- Establish specific habitat objectives
- Identify common threats and actions needed
- Implement effective monitoring practices
- Evaluate progress
- Design and implement appropriate responses

- In wrapping up, I want to show you how what we'll be doing here this week really emulates how NABCI at the BCR-level.
- Over the course of the week we'll be determining conservation priorities for landbirds, setting population and specific habitat objectives, identifying conservation actions and making recommendations for research, monitoring and so on.
- Part of the planning process will also address metrics we should use to evaluate our progress against our objectives and finally, conservation partners will use the plan to make informed decisions in designing or targeting their conservation programs.

Integrated Bird Conservation Conservación integral de las aves Conservation intégrale des oiseaux



nabcí
North American
Bird Conservation
Initiative

ícaan
Iniciativa para la
conservación de las aves
de América del Norte

ícoan
Initiative de
conservation des oiseaux
de l'amérique du nord

all birds ... all habitats ...