

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 142: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Chapter 6: Assistant Director - Migratory Birds

Originating Office: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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6.1 The Assistant Director - Migratory Birds advises the Director and is responsible for developing policy and representing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) on issues relating to migratory birds, international migratory bird treaties, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, North American Waterfowl Management Plan, U.S. Shorebird Plan, Waterbirds for Americas, Partners in Flight, North American Bird Conservation Initiative, Duck Stamp Program, migratory game bird hunting regulations, aviation issues, and wetlands programs. Through communications, outreach, education initiatives, and programs for children and adults, the Migratory Bird Program ensures long-term support for bird conservation and opportunities for people to enjoy bird-related recreation. The Assistant Director supervises the following divisions/offices:

A. The Division of Migratory Bird Management.

(1) Serves as the Service's technical authority on migratory bird management issues.

(2) Advises other offices, agencies, and the public on the four international migratory bird treaties and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, and other applicable statutes.

(3) Coordinates, conducts, analyzes, makes recommendations, and reports on activities associated with the data collected on population status, harvest and hunter activity, and habitat needs of migratory birds. Data from these surveys and monitoring programs are key inputs in the Adaptive Harvest Management frameworks and the basis for the development of annual migratory bird hunting regulations, permitted take and conservation of migratory birds in the United States.

(4) Serves as the Service's primary contact to facilitate the coordination of migratory bird management and research activities within and across Flyways and States.

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Responsible for coordinating Federal and State migratory bird harvest management and other actions to achieve mutual conservation objectives.

(5) Maintains a fleet of aircraft in support of Service migratory bird management and conservation priorities and the needs of other Service programs or other Federal agencies. Coordinates with the Department of the Interior and National Aviation Management Office on matters of pilot training, aviation policy, and management.

B. The Division of Bird Habitat Conservation.

(1) Administers the United States' implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and coordinates with national and international Plan partners to support habitat conservation initiatives carried out under the Plan.

(2) Develops plans, budgets, and reports in support of the U.S. bird habitat joint ventures, species joint ventures, and Joint Venture Management Boards.

(3) Administers the North American Wetlands Conservation Act grants program in the United States, Canada, and Mexico, including support of the North American Wetlands Conservation Council.

(4) Administers the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants program in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and supports the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Group.

(5) Coordinates the development and implementation of the U.S. Shorebird Plan, North American Waterbird Conservation Plan, and Partners in Flight programs.

(6) Administers the Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (Duck Stamp) and Junior Duck Stamp programs, including art selection, stamp design, and marketing of the Federal and Junior Duck Stamps.

C. The Division of Bird Conservation, Permits, and Regulations.

(1) Coordinates the preparation, review, and revision of Service migratory bird planning and policy documents and regulations for which the Migratory Bird Program has responsibility under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Fish & Wildlife Conservation Act, and related laws.

(2) Provides leadership and direction for migratory bird permit policy and regulations. Oversees consistent application of the migratory bird permitting regulations and policies across the Service Regions and in cooperation with other Service Programs.

(3) Provides support for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service-wide electronic permitting systems and databases. As the ePermits system owner, the Migratory Bird Program

oversees the cross-programmatic technical team responsible for the continued development and maintenance of ePermits and coordination with other Service programs with permitting functions.

(4) Works with State, Federal, industry, and other partners to develop and disseminate conservation practices to minimize the take of migratory birds, reduce impacts to bird habitats, and reduce human-bird conflicts.

(5) Develops and implements memoranda of understanding with other Federal agencies for the conservation and management of migratory birds.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Assistant Director – Migratory Birds

