



Northern Forest Birds Network Steering Committee Charter

April 1, 2019

NORTHERN FOREST BIRDS NETWORK

Background:

Bird conservation in the northern forests of Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin has received increasing attention in the last decade in response to a great need for improved coordination of monitoring and other conservation activities across the boreal hardwood transition zone (Bird Conservation Region 12) for northern forest birds. The Northern Forest Birds Network (previously referred to as the Northern Forest Birds [BCR 12] Working Group) formed in 2013 and has since made steady progress towards identifying a shared vision, translating that vision into clear goals, engaging a robust network of partners, and expanding its focus from coordinated monitoring and data management to also integrating science-based needs of forest birds with land management activities. In 2018, the Network transitioned from operating within the Midwest Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership to serving within the Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture community.

Vision:

Our leadership and guidance in monitoring, research, and management actions ensure thriving, diverse northern forest bird communities across the U.S. portion of Bird Conservation Region 12.

Goal Statements:

1. Northern forest bird conservation and research organizations *actively share information* about the biology, ecology, and status of northern forest birds.
2. Northern forest bird conservation organizations *coordinate and collaborate* to ensure that the conservation needs of northern forest birds are addressed.
3. The *best available science* is used to assess the status and productivity of northern forest birds.
4. Monitoring and research data are used to *inform and evaluate management practices*, which are used to deliver conservation actions that benefit northern forest birds.

NORTHERN FOREST BIRDS STEERING COMMITTEE

Purpose:

The Steering Committee serves as an advisory body by providing guidance, leadership, support, and oversight to the Northern Forest Birds Network. It ensures that the Network's projects and ideas align with its original vision and goal statements and ultimately benefit northern forest birds in Bird Conservation Region 12.

Roles & Responsibilities:

Steering Committee members are expected to:

- Participate in regular conference calls and interim email discussions;
- Assist with planning of annual events, such as webinars, conferences, and workshops;
- Help prepare outreach materials (e.g., brochures, website);
- Communicate the Network's news and events to his or her organization and pertinent partners;
- Promote the Network's vision and goal statements to advance the conservation of northern forest birds;
- Represent his or her organization's interests in leading and participating in the Network;
- Facilitate active engagement from his or her organization; and
- Inform the Chair or Co-Chair at least one day in advance if unable to participate in a conference call or meeting.

Terms of Service:

Steering Committee members are expected to serve a two-year term, and terms are renewable on an individual basis. Ideally, turnover in the Steering Committee will happen on a gradual basis, with sufficient overlap in composition to maintain its mission and functionality (e.g., up to half of the Steering Committee can turn over in a given year). Should a Steering Committee member no longer be able to participate as stated above, that member will help identify a suitable replacement for the remaining length of the term, preferably someone who fulfills similar roles, skills, and state representation as the current member.

Membership:

Steering Committee members should have extensive experience in any or all of the following areas: bird ecology/biology, forest ecology and management, conservation planning, bird monitoring, communication/outreach, or quantitative modeling. They should have primary jobs in an agency (federal or state), non-governmental organization, forest industry, or academics and ideally be positioned to influence the mobilization of resources within their own organizations to help meet the goals of the Northern Forest Birds Network. Because Bird Conservation Region 12 traverses Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, ideally the Steering Committee should consist of relatively equal representation of members across these three states. The Steering Committee shall be composed of no less than 8 and no more than 12 members.

Representatives to the Steering Committee will be invited by current Steering Committee members. Committee members may be replaced at the discretion of the Co-Chairs after a one-year period of inactivity and/or missing three consecutive scheduled Steering Committee calls.

Current Steering Committee Members (listed alphabetically):

- Erin Giese, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay (WI)
- Ryan Brady, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI)
- Dave Fehringer, Forestland Group (MI)
- Ted Gostomski, U.S. National Park Service (WI)
- Alexis Grinde, Natural Resources Research Institute (MN)
- Kayla Knoll, American Bird Conservancy (MI)
- Michael Lynch, Forest Stewards Guild (MN)
- Katie O'Brien, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (MI)
- Peg Robertsen, U.S. Forest Service (Tofte, MN)