

DoD Bird Conservation Focus Area: Enhancing the Quality of Life

Bird Conservation on Military Lands



Mission

To conserve migratory and resident birds and their habitats on Department of Defense lands.

DoD Bird Conservation — “Partners in Flight”

The Department of Defense (DoD) engages in a wide array of bird and habitat conservation activities. Collectively, these activities are known as Partners in Flight, to mirror related activities being implemented at the national and international levels. Through these efforts, DoD identifies strategies, goals, and priorities for key areas that support and enhance the military mission: stewardship, partnerships/cooperation, communication and education, habitat and species management, bird/animal aircraft strike hazard, monitoring, research, encroachment minimization, and **quality of life**. These goals and priorities outline DoD’s vision for developing and implementing conservation actions that support the mission while minimizing impacts to bird species and their habitats. These key focus areas enable DoD to better integrate programs for migratory and resident birds into existing natural resources and land management programs.

Goal: Enhancing the Quality of Life

Help improve recruitment and retention rates by enhancing soldier/sailor and family well-being and quality of life on the installation.

Background

Recruitment and retention of soldiers/sailors is one DoD’s most important priorities. A viable military installation also requires a viable employment base, and many installation activities are now more closely integrated with the civilian community. Quality of life for Military Service members has always been inextricably linked to the quality of



*Allen’s Hummingbird on
MCB Camp Pendleton
(Photo: Tim Burr)*

community life. Now the linkage is even stronger. Actions that improve the overall quality of life for Military Service members and their families also contribute to public support for DoD’s continuing presence in host communities.

The Conserving Biodiversity on Military Lands guide states: “We measure success not so much by numbers of species recovered or by numbers of environmental restrictions removed from military training operations, but by such criteria as number of successful collaborative management actions undertaken that result in a ‘win-win’ benefit to military training, endangered species recovery, and improved quality of life.” A healthy, functioning human community can help to promote and restore both people and nature, which improves our ecological and social lives.



*Community volunteers planting native plant gardens on Marine Corps Base Hawaii.
(Photo: MCB Hawaii)*

Priorities

DoD developed the following priorities to help achieve its goals for enhancing the quality of life :

- Promote bird watching as a recreational opportunity to connect military families with nature and their community.
- Provide assistance to installation Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) personnel in developing bird watching programs.
- Connect with local bird clubs to engage military families in birdwatching, and with installation biologists to help monitor birds.

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February 2015



Enabling the Mission, Defending the Resources
Department of Defense Natural Resources Program