



December 19, 2008

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

FROM: H. Dale Hall, Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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SUBJECT: *State of the U.S. Birds* Report

I. SUMMARY

The 2009 *State of the U.S. Birds* Report (report) is the first partnership-based attempt to capture the status of U.S. bird populations in a single, concise document intended for policy makers and the American public. Goals of the report are to demonstrate and provide data-driven support for the ideas that the health of U.S. bird populations is linked to human quality of life and that bird populations are bellwethers of landscape-level changes in the nation's natural resources. The Migratory Bird Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is the designated lead for publishing the report.

II. DISCUSSION

The purpose of the 2009 *State of the U.S. Birds* report is to succinctly describe the health of bird populations in the United States (excluding U.S. territories). The report will also address the major challenges limiting bird population levels and the conservation and management needs for addressing major threats to bird populations, and provide a progress report on the status of priority species. The report will address the overall health of all bird populations, including waterfowl, waterbirds, landbirds and shorebirds. The scope will be guided by the native bird populations of the U.S., but will identify key partners and issues that influence these populations outside the United States. In particular, the *State of the U.S. Birds* report will be coordinated with Canadian and Mexican partners.

Policy makers are the primary audience for the *State of the U.S. Birds* report, although the information in the report will also be provided in a version suitable for the general public. **The report will be released in March 2009 (specifically on March 11 at a Newsmakers Lunch with Secretary of Interior and CEOs of The Nature Conservancy, American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Society, etc.)** and will be updated in coordination with partners.

The report will be strongly influenced by each of the bird conservation initiatives, as well as federal agencies, states, and non-government organizations.

PREPARED BY: Paul Schmidt, AD, Migratory Birds **DATE:** December 19, 2008