

## Brad Andres Receives the Prestigious Gary T. Myers Bird Conservation Award

Melissa Leasia. 08/30/2020 :

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Brad Andres

The U.S. Committee of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) presented our own Brad Andres, President of Evergreen Audubon, with the 2020 Gary T. Myers Bird Conservation Award at the Committee's August meeting.

The purpose of the award is to recognize individuals or groups who have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments and leadership in bird conservation in furtherance of the principles of the NABCI and the national/international bird initiatives.

Recognized accomplishments must advance the vision of protecting and restoring the populations and habitats of North American birds by:

1. Initiating and broadening bird conservation partnerships
2. Increasing financial resources available for bird conservation in the U.S. and range-wide
3. Enhancing the effectiveness of those resources and partnerships through integrated bird conservation
4. Facilitating integrated bird conservation through monitoring, research, modeling, habitat management, or conservation programs
5. Facilitating conservation through communication, education, outreach or policy advancements
6. Working at the national and continental levels



Long-billed Curlew (c) Bill Schmoker

Gary Myers was a long-time director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and a recognized champion of bird conservation who inspired a generation of conservationists. Myers led the collaborative effort to develop the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, and he was a strong and tireless champion for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). In recognition of his role in leading this effort, he was selected by the Secretary of the Interior to be the first representative for the Mississippi Flyway on the National Flyway Council. Myers was also a staunch supporter and advocate of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' partnership to generate non-federal funding for NAWCA match that is used for Canadian wetland habitat conservation. Myers recognized that many species, not just waterfowl, benefit from wetland and upland habitat conservation, and he worked to incorporate an all-bird focus into the conservation work of the Joint Ventures. Myers' support and advocacy were instrumental in forming NABCI in 1999 and he served on the NABCI Committee for several years.

The US NABCI Committee and the AJVMB began presenting annual Conservation Awards in 2007, but in 2010, upon Myers' retirement, this honor was renamed the Gary T. Myers Award in recognition of the leaders in bird conservation who share Gary's passion, dedication, and commitment to bird conservation, and who have worked to help fulfill his vision of integrated bird conservation delivered through Joint Ventures.



American Avocet. Photo courtesy of Bradford Winn.

Brad received this prestigious award for his leadership U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership and other important contributions to bird conservation. Brad has been the national coordinator of the [U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership](#) since 2001. Additionally, Brad is on the steering committees of the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI); the Pacific Americas Shorebird Initiative; and Midcontinent Shorebird Conservation Initiative. He is co-chair of the AFSI Shorebird Harvest Working Group and is the U.S. Government's Point of Contact for the Convention on Migratory Species Flyways Working Group and CMS/UNEP Americas Flyway Task Force. Brad is also actively involved with NABCI's Human Dimensions Working Group and has been a proposal reviewer for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act since 2002. Over his career, he has authored or co-authored more than 100 technical papers and reports.

We're not sure where he finds to time to do all this AND lead our Evergreen Audubon chapter but somehow he does. Congratulations, Brad!

(Thank you to Brad's better half, Heather Johnson, for providing the information about the award and Brad's accomplishments.)