

News from the North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC)

May 2016

Partners launch Connect the Connecticut

It started two years ago as an experiment in combining big data with a big conservation vision for the 11,250 square-mile Connecticut River watershed. Today the experiment has evolved into [Connect the Connecticut](#), a collaborative effort among the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) and more than 30 partner agencies and organizations to conserve a network of lands and waters that sustain wildlife and people for generations to come.

[Learn more](#)

Science delivery heats up as summer approaches

The North Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative closed out the month of May with a series of discussions and trainings in Maine, New Hampshire, Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. designed to share practical information and tools with diverse conservation partners working at multiple scales.

[Learn more](#)

Mid-Atlantic develops regional approach for prioritizing vulnerable wetlands

By this time next year, the five states in the Mid-Atlantic region will have a common playbook for prioritizing work to protect wetlands in the face of climate change. Developed collaboratively by the Mid-Atlantic Regional Council on the Ocean (MARCO) and the Environmental Law Institute (ELI), the Wetland Restoration Priorities Project synthesizes state priorities, coastal resilience needs, and climate change predictions to give practitioners a regional lens for evaluating wetland restoration and mitigation efforts.

[Learn more](#)

Standard protocols for assessing road-stream crossings have been updated for 2016

With the survey season getting underway, the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative has released a revised Instruction Guide to accompany the 2016 Stream Crossing Survey form to assess bridges and culverts for aquatic passability. Project lead Scott Jackson of the University of Massachusetts explains the differences in this year's data form in a webinar that has been archived on the NAACC website.

[Learn more](#)

Other News of Note

More than one-third of North American birds in need of urgent conservation action (NABCI)

The 2016 State of North America's Birds report identifies 432 species—ranging from Laysan Albatross to Red-headed Woodpecker, Bobolink to Allen's Hummingbird—listed in the report's Watch List, owing to troubling signs such as population loss, range reduction, and threats to habitat. The report is based on the first-ever conservation vulnerability assessment for all 1,154 native bird species that occur in Canada, the continental United States, and Mexico. It was released May 18 by the North American Bird Conservation Initiative at a meeting of the Trilateral Committee for Wildlife and Ecosystem Conservation and Management in Ottawa, Canada.

[Learn more](#)

The amphibian crisis is worse than you think (Nature World News)

Scientists are working continuously to come up with an emergency response to reverse the decline of amphibians across the United States. However, new research has confirmed there is no simple solution to stop or overturn amphibian declines. Writing in the journal [Scientific Reports](#), researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey said there is no "smoking gun" to shut down the direct cause of their crumbling population all at once, as the new study revealed that reasons for amphibians' population decline varies across regions.

[Learn more](#)

Climate change and the case of the shrinking Red Knots (New York Times)

Each spring, flocks of Red Knots fly up to 9,300 miles from the tropics to the Arctic. As the snow melts, they mate and produce a new generation of chicks. The chicks gorge themselves on insects, and then all the red knots head back south. A study published in the journal *Science* presents evidence that indicates climate change is putting pressure on the birds along their entire journey, possibly helping to drive down their population and making them yet another of many species around the world being affected by climate change.

[Learn more](#)

Researchers say East Coast's saltmarsh sparrow is disappearing (Associated Press)

The Associated Press reports the saltmarsh sparrow is disappearing from its home on the East Coast and could be headed for extinction in as little as 50 years, say scientists whose work could help protect the little birds." University of Maine professor Brian Olsen, "one of the researchers studying the sparrow, said their population has dropped about 9 percent annually since 1998." The FWS has "asked Olsen and the other researchers studying the sparrow to put together information about the bird so it can make a determination about whether it should be considered for protection."

[Learn more](#)

Upcoming Workshops, Meetings, Presentations, and Webinars

June 2, 1:00 pm (EST) -- Webinar: Assessing Vulnerability of Fish and Invertebrates to Climate Change

This webinar provides an introduction to the NOAA Fisheries Fish Species Climate Vulnerability Assessment Methodology, which uses information on species life history characteristics, species distributions, and projected future climate and ocean conditions to estimate the relative vulnerability of fish species to changes in abundance or productivity methodology.

[Learn more](#)

June 11 - 15 -- Stream Simulation Design Workshop, Lewiston, Maine

A five-day training on the USDA Forest Service's stream simulation method, an ecosystem-based approach for designing and constructing a channel through the road-stream crossing structure that reestablishes physical and ecological continuity along the stream corridor. *Registration deadline is May 1st.*

[Learn more](#)

June 20 - 21 -- Fish Passage Conference, Amherst, Mass.

This international conference on river connectivity best practices and innovations brings together researchers, educators, practitioners, funders, and regulators for a forum on advancements in technical fishways, stream restoration, dam removal, road ecology, and more, as well as social issues surrounding connectivity projects, such as funding, safety, and climate change.

[Learn more](#)

Submission deadline for the May edition of North Atlantic LCC News: Friday, June 23, 2016

Please email submissions to: bridget_macdonald@fws.gov

For more information about the North Atlantic LCC: www.northatlanticlcc.org