



## Snow geese, quail to benefit from joint U.S.-Mexican pact

Snow geese and endangered masked bobwhite quail are among the wildlife that will benefit from joint U.S.-Mexican conservation efforts agreed upon at a recent international meeting, according to Frank Dunkle, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Washington, D.C.

Representatives from wildlife agencies of the two nations agreed on the projects at the eleventh meeting of the Mexico-U.S.A. Joint Committee for Wildlife Conservation held Dec. 2-4 in Mexico.

Dunkle headed the U.S. team, while Mexico was led by Jose Domingo Gonzalez Solorio, director general for Ecological Conservation of Natural Resources for the Secretariat of Urban Development and Ecology.

"I believe both sides felt this was the most successful meeting in the history of the Mexico-U.S.A. Joint Committee," Dunkle said.

Major projects agreed to at the meeting include:

- Continuation of surveys of white-winged doves and wintering waterfowl species shared by the United States and Mexico.

- Protection of wetlands. Mexico is developing a new plan to protect important wetlands. The Fish and Wildlife Service will assist in developing a management plan for major lagoons of Tabasco and adjacent areas that are important for native Mexican as well as migratory wildlife.

- New studies on the distribution, abundance and harvest of wintering black brant and snow geese in Mexico.

- Joint surveys of endangered Yuma clapper rails in Mexico and training of Mexican biologists in survey and tracking techniques for the species in the United States.

- Joint surveys of endangered masked bobwhite in Mexico. The Fish and Wildlife Service also will train Mexicans in release techniques for captive-bred masked bobwhites.

- Restoration of the Mexican turkey. Mexico will trap 60 wild turkeys in January and send 50 of them to the United States for release in Arizona.

- Control of illegal wildlife trade.

Also at the meeting, the United States and Mexico discussed the possibility of Mexico's joining in implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan.