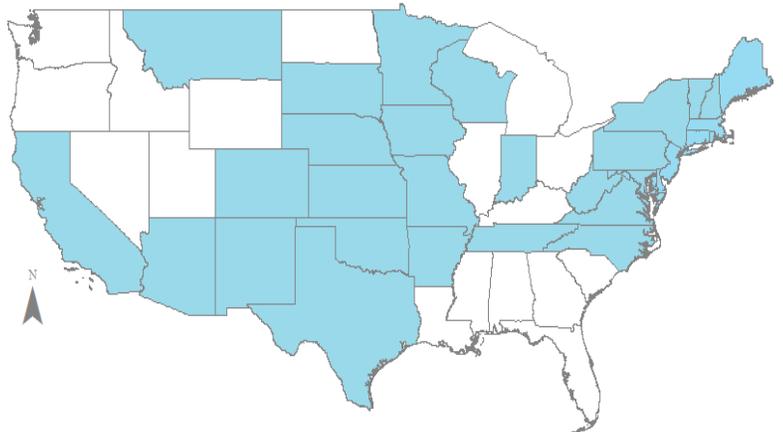




# 2019-2020 Project Opportunities

**CONSERVING KEY SITES FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS:** Over 153 shared migratory birds have been identified in the Izabal region of Guatemala including stopover sites for cerulean warblers and wintering/nonbreeding sites for golden-winged warblers. Working with FUNDAECO and American Bird Conservancy, partners conserve strategically identified areas to achieve the long term goal of protecting priority migratory bird habitat through land acquisition and management, agroforestry, and monitoring. We have already helped conserve almost 9,000 acres. \$197,000 is needed to continue the conservation actions. States with strong biological connections (primarily for landbirds) include AL, NH, NJ, NY, MD, MN, MO, OH, PA, TN, VA, WV, and WI in particular but almost all of the SEAFWA and NEAFWA states have biological connections.

**BICKNELL'S THRUSH CONSERVATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:** Bicknell's thrush conservation depends on conservation action on their wintering grounds in the Dominican Republic. The project focuses on conservation and management within the two key regions – Septentrional and Bahuruco. The actions include acquisition; development of tree nurseries for restoration; implementation of at least 5 workshops on sustainable agriculture; and maintenance and protection of reserves. Approximately \$100,000 is needed. States with Bicknell's thrush as a SGCN such as ME, MD, NH, NJ, NY, VT, and VA have a biological connection to the project.



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**32 States Participating  
Almost 2.9 Million USD  
for conservation**

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### WOOD THRUSH AND GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

**CONSERVATION:** Beyond the two focal species at least 25 other shared migrants winter in the project areas. The long-term goal is to reduce the rate of forest habitat loss in multiple locations in Honduras and Nicaragua to sustain, and eventually increase, the current populations of priority migrants. To date, Southern Wings partners have helped plant over 100,000 trees for reforestation, create the El Jaguar-Yali Corridor, add hundreds of hectares to the private reserve network, and work with landowners to increase the amount of bird-friendly agriculture. Primary actions continue to involve reforestation, working with landowners on agroforestry and silvipasture, community outreach, and monitoring. Approximately \$248,000 is needed. States with strong biological connections include CT, GA, IN, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MS, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, and WI.



**RESTORATION IN LAGUNA MADRE:** Laguna Madre, in northeastern Mexico in the state of Tamaulipas, is just south of the Texas border. A lagoon over 100 miles in length is formed by a barrier island. Large numbers of shorebirds and ducks winter in the lagoon and the barrier islands. Actions focus on mangrove restoration and reducing erosion. In the 240,000-ha Laguna Madre, we will conduct mangrove reforestation, fence key areas to prevent predator disturbance, and inform local constituencies. Approximately \$36,000 is needed. States that have a strong biological connection include AL, CO, ID, KS, LA, MT, NE, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, and WY.



**CONSERVATION IN WESTERN MEXICO:** More than 300 bird species, 45% being neotropical migrants, including the thick-billed parrot depend on the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains in Mexico for breeding, wintering, or stopover habitat. The project is designed to reduce threat impacts on five protected areas which are a priority for bird conservation: Tutuaca, Papigochi, Campo Verde, Madera, and Mesa de Guacamayas.

The goal is that by 2022 habitat needs of Neotropical migratory birds are integrated into forest management plans developed under the new national forest management policy. The policy incorporates biodiversity management to preserve wildlife populations and habitats in the Sierra Madre Occidental.

The multi-year strategy supports the conservation of shared migratory birds that have biological connections to AZ, CA, CO, NM, TX, UT, and WA. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will significantly advance implementation of project actions.



**GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION:** Pronatura Noreste is leading partners to successfully protect and restore native grasslands in Mexico's El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area (GPCA). Southern Wings has been a partner in this project since 2009 and has helped with the protection of over 100,000 acres of grassland habitat. The goals is to restore over 370,000 acres of grasslands through improved grassland management and erosion control.

Actions include developing management plans for La Esperanza, La India, and Los Arbolitos ejidos; developing sustainable livestock management plans; and monitoring migratory birds to determine success.

To support these actions, approximately \$85,000 is needed. States with a strong biological connection to this project include CO, IA, KS, MT, NE, OK, SD, and WY.



**Southern Wings has helped implement grassland conservation in the Valles Centrales GPCA with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies.**

Successes include:

- developing landowner agreements, covering 250,000 acres;
- improving 75,000 acres of grasslands; and
- creating integrated range management plans for over 123,000 acres.

Actions will continue to focus on landowner engagement, range management, and grasslands restoration that includes shrub removal and grazing plans.

Seven to 28 species of greatest conservation need in each WAFWA state have a biological connection to the species that winter in the Chihuahuan Desert.

- Baird's sparrow
- Chestnut-collared longspur
- Long-billed curlew
- Sprague's pipit
- Savannah sparrow
- Horned lark
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Ferruginous hawk
- Golden eagle



**GOLDEN EAGLE CONSERVATION AND MONITORING:** Guided by the federal Program of Action for Golden Eagles, collaborators in Mexico have implemented a monitoring program and conservation actions to conserve habitat and protect the species. The project will train biologists to deploy satellite tracking technology, identify occupied territories and areas for conservation, determine causes of mortality, enhance habitat conservation in selected communal land holdings, and conduct environmental education and capacity building. Specific actions will focus on species and habitat monitoring and restoration of habitat. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$10,000 will significantly advance implementation of these actions.

**MONITORING WESTERN YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOOS:** Western yellow-billed cuckoo numbers have declined within the last 100 years primarily due to widespread habitat loss of riparian habitat. An assessment of the conservation status of cuckoos must consider the totality of the species' range, including northern Mexico. This project will conduct actions that include the following.

- Survey known and suspected yellow-billed cuckoo locations to document changes in presence and abundance.
- Characterize yellow-billed cuckoo habitat through photographic documentation and rapid vegetation assessments.
- Produce a manuscript for a peer-reviewed publication.

Contributions of \$5,000 to \$10,000 will add survey sites. States with a biological connection include AZ, CA, CO, ID, NM, TX, and UT.

**BAHAMAS SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION INITIATIVE:**

Southern Wings aims to help protect the wintering habitat of 20-25% of the Atlantic population of the piping plover through targeted actions in the Bahamas. National Audubon Society, Bahamas National Trust, the Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and other partners are well on the way to reach to that objective. The Initiative worked with the Bahamian government to formally protect the Joulter Cays (113,900 acres) and secure 10% of the Atlantic piping plovers population. We now need to secure wintering grounds for another 10% of the population. Current actions focus on monitoring and community engagement to support future land protection and on the ground habitat management.

States with strong biological connections to this project are CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NY, NC, RI, VT, and VA.



**Red Knot Conservation in Brazil:** Since the early 1980s the red knot population of the Americas has declined by more than 75%, mainly due to coastal development that reduces the quality of food sources and availability of stopover and wintering habitats. The project will help develop recommendations for management to better consider shorebird conservation in the Delta do Parnaíba Protected Area. The recommendations will be presented to the local environmental management council. Other actions include evaluating the status of illegal hunting, and identifying information gaps. Approximately \$42,000 is needed. U.S. states on the east coast mostly from Virginia north have a strong biological connection to this project.



photo: Jessa Nickels



**CERULEAN WARBLER CONSERVATION:** Ecuador has been identified as a priority focal area for cerulean warblers. Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation helped to implement bird-friendly best-practices across coffee farms surrounding the Tapichalaca Reserve. They also contributed to planting 1,600 native trees on coffee plantations in the buffer zone and 7,500 trees within the Reserve. This year partners will continue to manage reforestation and monitor success. Actions will also include reforestation and community outreach in the Chocó-Canandé BirdScape in northwestern Ecuador. Approximately \$68,000 is needed.

**NEOTROPICAL FLYWAY PROJECT:** Close to 300 species of landbirds migrate between the Neotropics and North America. To successfully migrate, migrants typically depend on a series of stopover sites, which provide critical resources but most of the sites have yet to be identified. The project aims to (1) rapidly discover and map stopover sites; (2) determine habitat quality and stopover behavior at these sites; (3) develop conservation strategies at key stopover sites; and (4) train and build capacity among in-country biologists and managers to protect sites and continue long-term monitoring. This critical work needs \$89,000 in 2019 and 2020. All states in eastern U.S. have a significant biological connection through migratory species that use northern Colombia and Central America.

2018 marked the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. With all of its success, we still have hundreds of migratory bird species in decline. Modeled after state involvement in Canada for waterfowl, Southern Wings sets the stage for international collaboration by bringing state fish and wildlife agencies together with colleagues beyond our national borders. Conservation efforts focused solely on U.S. breeding or stopover habitats cannot effectively conserve many neotropical migrants.

### **WATERFOWL AND WETLANDS**

**CONSERVATION IN MEXICO:** The mainland west coast of Mexico contains several important areas for waterfowl. The most significant threats include unregulated growth of the shrimp-farming industry, loss of rice habitat, and road development. The project objective is to enhance 105 acres of in the Moroncarit Lagoon in the state of Sonora. Approximately \$50,000 is needed to help conserve blue-winged teal, lesser scaup, northern pintail and other waterfowl and shorebirds. States with strong biological connections include AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA and WY.



**STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT OF COFFEE FARMERS IN NORTHERN COLOMBIA:** The country of Colombia is an integral part of the lifecycle of more than 170 migratory species. The Colombian Andes have some of the highest rates of deforestation in Latin America. A significant amount is due to agriculture. In Colombia, it is estimated that 87% of neotropical migratory birds occur in agroecosystems and more than 70 species have been found in coffee systems. Therefore, this project targets these landscapes to help conserve species such as golden-winged, cerulean, and Canada warblers; yellow-billed cuckoo; and olive-sided flycatcher. The project will create tree nurseries, engage farmers, and conduct outreach. Approximately \$157,000 is needed. Most states east of the Mississippi River and AR, IA, LA, MN, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, and TX have a strong biological connection to species supported by this project.



Golden-winged Warbler by MarkPedy/Flickr Creative Commons

### **HABITAT CONSERVATION IN NORTHERN SOUTH**

**AMERICA:** Although some populations of golden-winged warbler rely on habitats in Central America, other populations winter in northern South America. State agencies have supported surveys of locations in Venezuela and Colombia to help pinpoint where some of these locations are. Additionally this project looks to work with farmers to create a corridor between two national parks through agroforestry. By supporting bird-friendly agroforestry systems and native tree planning, the aim is to restore 200 acres of land.

The multi-year strategy supports the conservation of shared migratory birds that have biological connections to states across the U.S. in particular where golden-winged warblers and olive-sided flycatchers are priority species. Approximately \$25,000 is needed to advance implementation of project actions.

## WHY SOUTHERN WINGS?

Southern Wings:

- offers an easy, transparent, and flexible process for states to effectively conserve their migratory bird species of greatest conservation need when they are not in the U.S.;
- is a critical complement to in-state investment on migratory bird stop over and breeding habitats;
- leverages limited state funds and can provide non-federal match for SWG and PR funds;
- identifies strategic, biologically relevant projects with high quality partners that provide the most bang for your conservation buck; and
- helps keep species off the Endangered Species Act by addressing annual life cycle conservation needs.



## IDENTIFYING THREATS AND CONSERVATION HOTSPOTS FOR SHOREBIRDS IN THE PACIFIC FLYWAY:

A network of coastal and interior wetlands stretching from southern Alaska to Chile host significant aggregations of shorebirds and are critical for their survival. The Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey and the Migratory Shorebird Project are filling gaps in species population status and trends to assess threats and identify priority sites for conservation. The primary species include western sandpiper, dunlin, marbled godwit, willet, black-bellied plover, sanderling, greater yellowlegs, dowitcher *spp.*, snowy plover, black-necked stilt and American avocet and other migratory waterbirds including black brant.

Actions this year include improving the sustainability of hunting in the San Quintin Bay area, conducting outreach to mitigate the impacts of human disturbance on California least tern and snowy plovers, and conducting annual non-breeding surveys at 21 wetlands across NW Mexico. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$10,000 will significantly advance implementation of these actions for shorebird/waterbirds/waterfowl that have a biological connection to most Pacific Flyway states.



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