



photo: Jessa Nickels



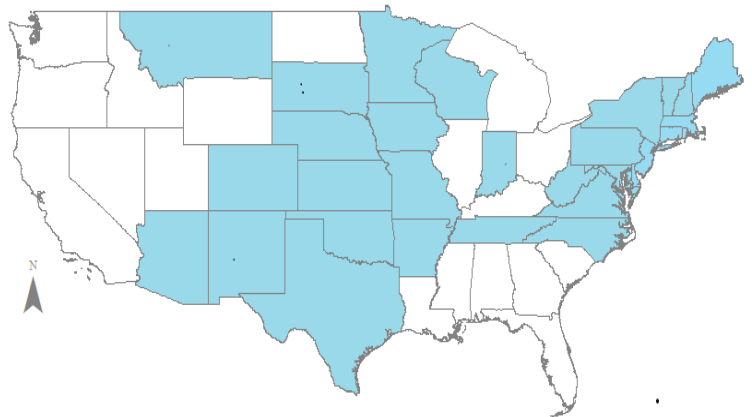
Strategic Investments for Priority Birds

2016 marked the 100 year anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty. The Treaty recognized that conserving migratory birds calls for international collaborations. It set the stage for innovative solutions and tools that have enabled waterfowl populations to grow and thrive. Just as successful waterfowl conservation required new strategies and approaches, we now need new and innovative solutions and tools to reverse the declines of hundreds of migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere as we embark on the next 100 years.

Southern Wings is one of these tools. Southern Wings helps to focus vital conservation funds on nonbreeding and migration sites for state agency priority birds. For a modest investment in conservation of shared species in Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean, state agencies can help keep state priority birds off the Endangered Species Act. All the NEAFWA state agencies participate through the Association. Pennsylvania and Virginia also participate individually.

CERULEAN WARBLER CONSERVATION Colombia has been identified as a priority focal area for Cerulean Warblers. NEAFWA, Indiana, and Missouri helped expand one reserve by 299 acres and plant over 500,000 native trees to reforest almost 3,000 acres.

Next Steps: Reforestation and monitoring in critical reserves in Ecuador.



**30 States Participating
Over \$2.5 Million on the
ground for conservation**

SOUTHERN WINGS

- is a critical complement to in-state investment on migratory bird stop over and breeding habitats;
- leverages limited state funds;
- can provide non-federal match;
- 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 (ESA).

SOUTHERN WINGS PROJECTS:

- implement objectives that are biologically relevant to the states;
- aim to take action on high priority objectives in critical habitats for state priority migratory bird species;
- protect your in-state investments through annual life cycle conservation; and
- work with partners that have an established and proven track record.



GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER CONSERVATION:

The goal for Golden-winged Warblers (petitioned to be listed in the ESA and a SGCN species in at least 22 states) is to increase the population by 50% by 2050. Southern Wings (Pennsylvania, Missouri) along with other partners aim to maximize the amount of suitable wintering and stopover habitat through the creation of a six mile corridor from the El Jaguar Reserve to the Volcan Yali Forest Reserve in Nicaragua. To date, partners have reforested 100s of acres, conducted workshops on bird friendly agriculture and expanded the Reserve. Some next steps include:

1. continuing targeted reforestation in the El Jaguar-Yali Corridor,
2. expanding the successful reforestation model to the Peñas Blancas Focal Area, and
3. supporting conservation of the Saslaya National Park.



Sierra Caral Photo source: FUNDAECO

CONSERVATION IN CARIBBEAN GUATEMALA:

The Izabal region of Caribbean Guatemala is home to over **150 species of shared neotropical migrants**. Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Iowa are helping partners implement a long-term conservation strategy of preserving stopover and wintering habitats along Guatemala's Caribbean migratory funnel.

To date, the multi-year strategy has **protected almost 9,000 acres of land** at Sierra Caral, Punta Manabique, Cerro San Gil, Sarstun (Tapon Creek), and Sierra Santa Cruz.

Some next steps in the conservation strategy include:

1. improving the management of lands in the buffer zones of the lands conserved in the first stage of this strategy; and
2. developing Biocenters (properties that will act as training grounds for communities to learn about bird-friendly agriculture).

Wood Thrush Conservation: A new Southern Wings project aims to help conserve the Wood Thrush that is an SGCN species for at least 30 state agencies. Priority sites for Wood Thrush conservation have been identified in Honduras. This project aims to reduce the rate of forest habitat loss at 2 priority sites. The partners will work with landowners to reforest land, support engagement in bird friendly agricultural practices, and monitor the results.

States with strong biological connections include CT, GA, IN, KY, MD, ME, MA, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, VT, and WV.



Red Knot Conservation: Since the early 1980s the Red Knot population of the Americas has declined by more than 75%, mainly due to the impacts of coastal development in reducing the quality of food sources and availability of stopover and wintering habitats. The area of focus for this project is the Banco dos Cajuais in northeastern Brazil, one of the largest intertidal flats in northeast Brazil and a key stopover and wintering site for endangered Red Knots of the Atlantic Flyway. The primary actions will support municipal authorities in developing and implementing a preliminary Zoning Plan for the Barra Grande Protected Area while conducting an awareness campaign targeted at local stakeholders to value the area as an important component in conserving this valuable ecosystem. U.S. states on the east coast mostly from Virginia north have a strong biological connection to this project.

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 and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are well on the way to reach that objective. The Bahamian government has formally protect the Joulter Cays (113,900 acres) and secure 10% of the Atlantic Piping Plovers population. The Initiative has conducted significant research and monitoring to identify key next steps. They include:



1. finalize the science and advocate for establishment of a new 12,000 to 30,000 acre of National Park at the Northern Berry Islands Important Bird and Biodiversity Area;
2. develop a management plans that engages the public in the planning and future protection of critical shorebird areas; and
3. restore habitats with removal of invasive plants and mammals



To learn more or participate

contact:

Deb Hahn

International Relations

Director

Association of Fish and

Wildlife Agencies

202-838-3458

dhahn@fishwildlife.org