

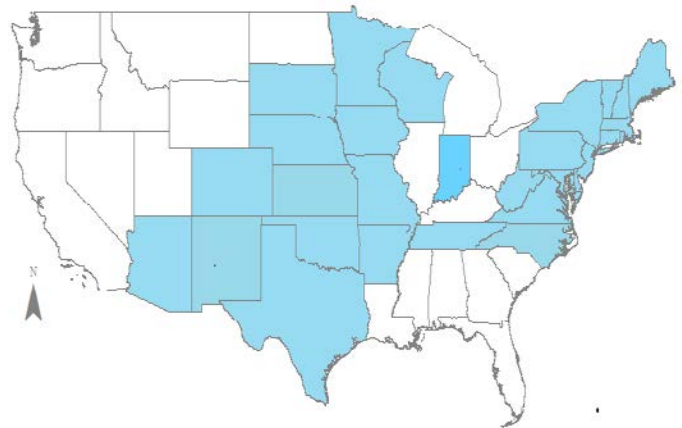


Strategic Investments for Priority Birds

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. SEAFWA participants: Arkansas, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia.

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 PROJECTS:

- include specific goals and objectives to be achieved,
- require at least a 1:1 match,
- can provide non-federal match,
- outline the actions needed and their costs,
- identify the species impacted,
- support SGCN species conservation, and
- contain a requirement to report back on the use of state funds, actions taken, objectives met, and challenges faced.

Southern Wings chooses projects based on the best science that:

- connects state agencies to projects based on the biology of the species,
- uses our ever increasing knowledge about migration routes, stop over habitats, and wintering areas to identify the most important project sites, and
- focuses on the most important actions to be taken.



Golden-winged Warbler by Mark Peck/Flickr Creative Commons.

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.



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).



GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION: Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma have supported Pronatura Noreste to successfully protect and restore native desert grasslands in Mexico’s El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area. To date they have protected 49,381 acres of the Llano de Soledad grasslands and a almost 116,000 acres through acquisition or conservation agreements in El Tokio.

Some next steps include:

- ◆ continuing grasslands restoration on specific properties (i.e., erosion control fencing),
- ◆ developing grazing management plans. and
- ◆ continue monitoring of results.



New Mexico and Arizona helped implement grassland conservation in the Valles Centrales GPCA. The goals of the project are to:

- ◆ enroll 200,000 additional acres into the Sustainable Grazing Network in the Chihuahuan Desert of northern Mexico to reach the overall goal of 500,000 acres by 2020;
- ◆ secure 15 year collaborative management agreements with at least 6 additional ranchers to protect conservation investments; and
- ◆ double the carrying capacity of these habitats for species such as Sprague’s pipit and Baird’s Sparrow.

Seven to 28 Species of Greatest Conservation Need in each WAFWA state 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**



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photo: Jessa Nickels

CONSERVATION IN GUANACASTE NATIONAL PARK, COSTA RICA:

Minnesota DNR chose to focus their partnership in the Guanacaste region of Costa Rica. Many birds familiar in Minnesota spend the winter in this region of Costa Rica, including the Baltimore Oriole, Orchard Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Chestnut-sided Warbler, and Golden-winged Warbler. They are partnering with the Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund to initiate the project's first "Bird Conservation Area" in cooperation with both Costa Rican public land managers and private landowners along the Pacific coast. Critical to the project success is garnering support for bird conservation among local citizens and youth so that they will see the multiple benefits of the Guanacaste National Park .