



photo: Jessa Nickels



# Strategic Investments for Priority Birds

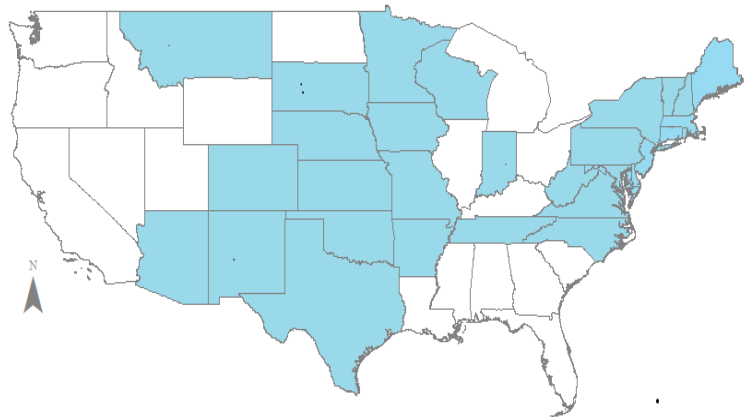
## **CERULEAN WARBLER CONSERVATION:**

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.

**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.



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

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## **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 in Nicaragua.

To date, partners have reforested 100s of acres, conducted workshops on bird friendly agriculture, and expanded the Reserve. Some next steps include:

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



Golden-winged Warbler by Mark Peck/Rickr Creative Commons



## **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 to 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:**

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**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:

1. continuing grasslands restoration on specific properties (i.e., erosion control fencing), and
2. developing grazing management plans.



#### **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).