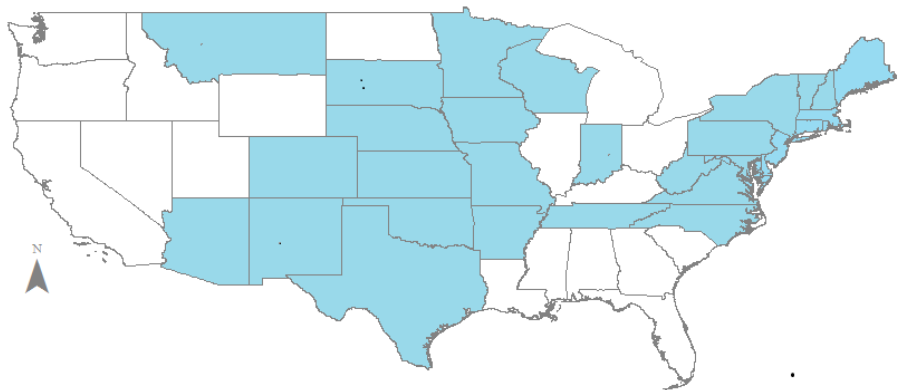




# 2018-2019 Project Opportunities

**GUATEMALA:** Over 153 shared migratory birds have been identified in the Izabal region of Guatemala that include stopover sites for Cerulean Warblers and wintering sites for Golden-winged Warblers. Working with FUNDAECO and American Bird Conservancy we can help conserve strategically identified areas to achieve the long term goal of protecting priority migratory bird habitat through land acquisition and management, and conducting monitoring. \$213,000 is needed. 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.

**NICARAGUA:** Golden-winged Warblers are the focal species but 25 other shared migrants winter in the El Jaguar Reserve and its buffer zones. The first phase of the project helped create the El Jaguar-Yali Corridor. The successes in the first phase will be replicated in two priority areas Peñas Blancas and Datanlí-El Diablo. Actions including engagement of landowners in conservation actions such as restoration, improved agricultural practices, and community outreach. Approximately \$110,000 are needed. States with strong biological connections include CT, MD, MN, NH, NY, MI, MO, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, and WI.



**30 States Participating  
Over 2.8 Million USD on the  
ground for conservation**

**WOOD THRUSH CONSERVATION:** The focal species is the Wood Thrush. However, within the areas targeted for conservation action, three areas have been identified as focal areas for Golden-winged Warbler and other shared warbler species. The long term goal is to reverse the annual decline of the Wood Thrush through coordinated full-life cycle conservation.

Primary actions involve reforestation, working with landowners on silvipasture and cattle management practices, and identification of areas for conservation. Between \$30,000 and \$94,000 is needed in each focal area.

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



#### **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 will focus on mangrove restoration and reducing erosion. Approximately \$40,000 is needed. States that have a strong biological connection with Laguna Madre in particular include AL, CO, ID, KS, LA, MT, NE, NV, OK, OR, SD, TX, UT, and WY.



#### **CONSERVATION IN WESTERN MEXICO:**

More than 250 bird species, 35% being neotropical migrants, including the Thick-billed Parrot depend on the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains in Mexico for breeding, wintering, or stop over habitat. The project is designed to reduce threat impacts on five protected areas which are priority regions 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 new 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, NM, CA, UT, CO, TX, and WA.





**GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION:** Pronatura Noreste is leading partners to successfully protect and restore native desert 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.

Actions in 2016-2017 to begin implementing Phase II of this project will support grassland management actions at Las Esperanzas, establish ejido reserves and conservation agreements with landowners in San Luis Potosi, develop a management plan for La India, and continue monitoring to determine success.

To support these actions, approximately \$76,000 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:

- landowner agreements, covering 118,000 acres;
- restoration actions on almost 3,000 acres; and
- 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.

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 engaged in other conservation actions to conserve habitat and protect the species. Specific actions will focus on species and habitat monitoring, restoration of habitat, and outreach to local landowners.

#### **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. Population status of the Cuckoo in northern Mexico is difficult to assess given the lack of long-term monitoring programs. 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.

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.

Approximately \$315,000 is needed. 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 area of focus 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 assess the management needs of the area and the threats to shorebird populations, and support the conservation and protection of this valuable ecosystem.

Approximately \$44,000 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. IN DNR and MDC 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 expand the reserve through tree plantings and support the promotion of bird-friendly coffee. Approximately \$79,000 is needed.

**NEOTROPICAL FLYWAY PROJECT:** Close to 300 species of landbirds, whose combined populations represent billions of birds, migrate between the Neotropics and North America. For many species, migration is by far the greatest source of mortality during their annual cycle, such that even successive delayed arrivals or degradation at a single major stopover site can lead to significant declines, threatening the viability of populations across the Western Hemisphere. To address this urgent need, the **Neotropical Flyways Project** (NFP) has been operating since 2016 with the goals of (1) rapidly discover and map new stopovers 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. All states in eastern U.S. have a significant biological connection through migratory species that use northern Colombia and Central America for critical stopovers. Approximately \$98,000 is needed.

2018 marks 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 stop over habitats cannot effectively conserve many neotropical migrants.



## 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 recorded in Mexico include Western Sandpiper, Dunlin, Marbled Godwit, Willet, Black-bellied Plover, Sanderling, Greater Yellowlegs, Dowitcher *spp.*, Snowy Plover, Black-necked Stilt and American Avocet.

Bird survey data will be combined with habitat maps to identify conservation priority wintering sites for Pacific Flyway State Wildlife Action Plan focal species and develop shorebird friendly management and conservation strategies for important areas. Surveys will also inform communication and outreach activities to local communities to raise environmental awareness about shorebird conservation.



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