



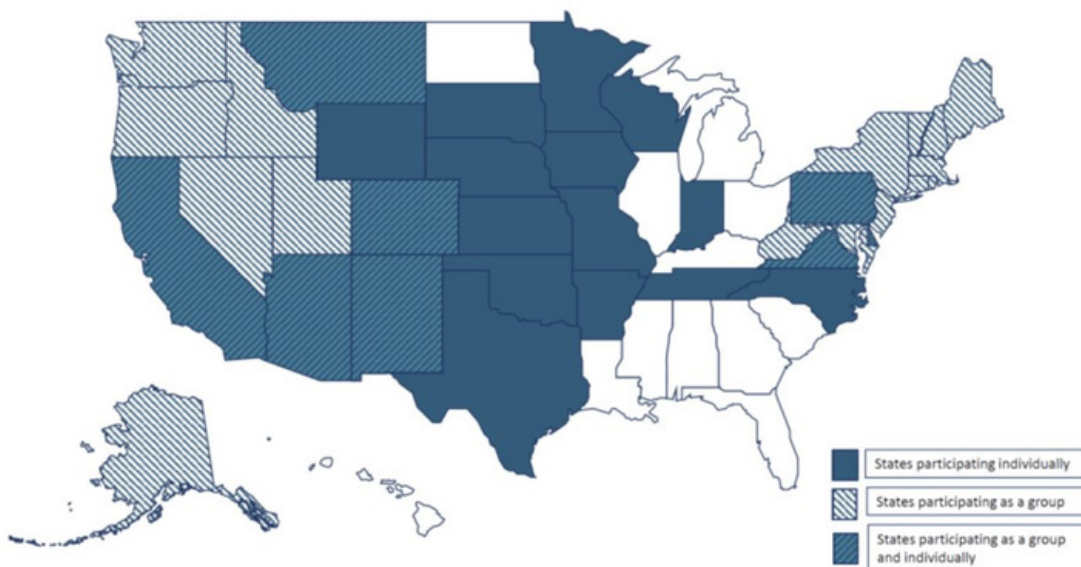
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2021-2022 PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

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 over 11,000 acres. \$127,000 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.

**39 STATES
PARTICIPATING
OVER 3.2 MILLION
FOR
CONSERVATION**



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 planted over 100,000 trees for reforestation, created the El Jaguar-Yali Corridor, secured over 1,700 ha of land through conservation agreements, and worked with landowners to increase the amount of bird-friendly agriculture. Primary actions continue to involve reforestation and working with landowners on agroforestry and silvipasture. Approximately \$164,000 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.



IMPROVING MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT IN 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. 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. This project targets conservation action on the eastern and western side of the central Andes. Southern Wings has supported work in the Andes for many years including helping create a conservation corridor by planning more than 500,000 saplings on 2,835 acres. These landscapes to help conserve species such as golden-winged, cerulean, and Canada warblers; yellow-billed cuckoo; and olive-sided flycatcher. The project actions include tree nursery maintenance, restoration, outreach and monitoring. Approximately \$167,000 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.

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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 projects aims to conserve habitat and implement sustainable forest management practices by integrating habitat needs of neotropical migratory birds into forest management plans using the national forest management policy framework. 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. Actions include implementing habitat conservation measures to protect, restore and manage mixed coniferous forests and monitoring. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will significantly advance implementation of project actions.



GRASSLAND CONSERVATION

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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 140,000 acres of grassland habitat. The goal is to restore over 370,000 acres of grasslands through improved grassland management and erosion control.

Actions include installing infrastructure to support grassland conservation and beneficial ranching practices, restoring grasslands; and monitoring migratory birds to determine success.

To support these actions, approximately \$53,000 is needed. States with a strong biological connection to this project include CO, IA, KS, MT, NE, OK, SD, and WY.

Southern Wings has been a partner in implementing grassland conservation in the Valles Centrales GPCA with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and many others.

Successes include:

- enrolling landowners in the network whose land covers 504,000 acres;
- improving 160,000 acres of grasslands; and
- increasing the number of Sprague's Pipits by 15% annually across ranches enrolled in the network.

Actions will continue to focus on landowner engagement, range management, and grasslands restoration.

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





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 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. Current actions focus on completing the International Plover Census, working with local communities to develop local conservation initiatives and working with management agencies to develop management plans

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

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CONSERVING WATERBIRDS IN LAGUNA MADRE, MEXICO

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 (reddish egret, Wilson's plover, snowy plover, red knot, long-billed curlew, and piping plover) and ducks winter in the lagoon and the barrier islands. Actions focus on mangrove and costal dune restoration, reducing erosion through infrastructure, and monitoring.. 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.

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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. In 2020, Southern Wing supported conservation work in Ecuadorian Chocó rainforest for migratory birds including olive-sided flycatcher, cerulean warbler, Acadian flycatcher, and more. This year partners will conduct reforestation, community workshops and maintain tree nurseries in the Chocó-Canandé BirdScape in northwestern Ecuador. Approximately \$49,000 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 \$104,000 in 2021/2022 with about \$20,000 in immediate funding needs for specific action. All states in eastern U.S. have a significant biological connection through migratory species that use northern Colombia and Central America.



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2020 MARKED THE BEGINNING OF THE ROAD TO RECOVERY (R2R) WORK STEMMING FROM THE PAPER PUBLISHED IN THE JOURNAL SCIENCE (ROSENBERG ET AL. 2019) THAT DOCUMENTS ALMOST 3 BILLION FEWER BIRDS IN THE NORTH AMERICAN AVIFAUNA THAN 50 YEARS AGO. WITH THE DATA GATHERED BY R2R, ANNUAL CYCLE CONSERVATION PROGRAMS LIKE SOUTHERN WINGS WILL BE BETTER ABLE TO TARGET OUR CONSERVATION ACTIONS.

WHY 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 cycle conservation needs.



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CONSERVATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE DRY TROPICAL FORESTS OF EL SALVADOR: ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING THREATS TO OVERWINTERING HABITAT AND BIRD POPULATIONS

Numerous Species of Greatest Conservation Need from throughout the Pacific flyway use Central America's Pacific coast during stopover, migration, and overwintering. In the lowlands portion of the dry tropical forest 364 bird species have been recorded, including 38 species that are considered Species of Greatest Conservation Need from across 12 western states. Two priority species in this region are the Southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo. Project activities include working with local landowners and the federal environmental department to conserve dry tropical forest, improve bird monitoring to inform management, and support efforts to build local awareness. Contributions of \$5,000 would support implementation of project objectives. State agencies with species of greatest conservation need connections include AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.

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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 conducting waterbird and secretive marsh bird surveys, protecting nesting habitat for snowy plover and California least tern, conducting workshop on sustainable hunting, and improving the conservation and management of key areas. The total budget is about \$84,500 but \$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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