



2009- 2024

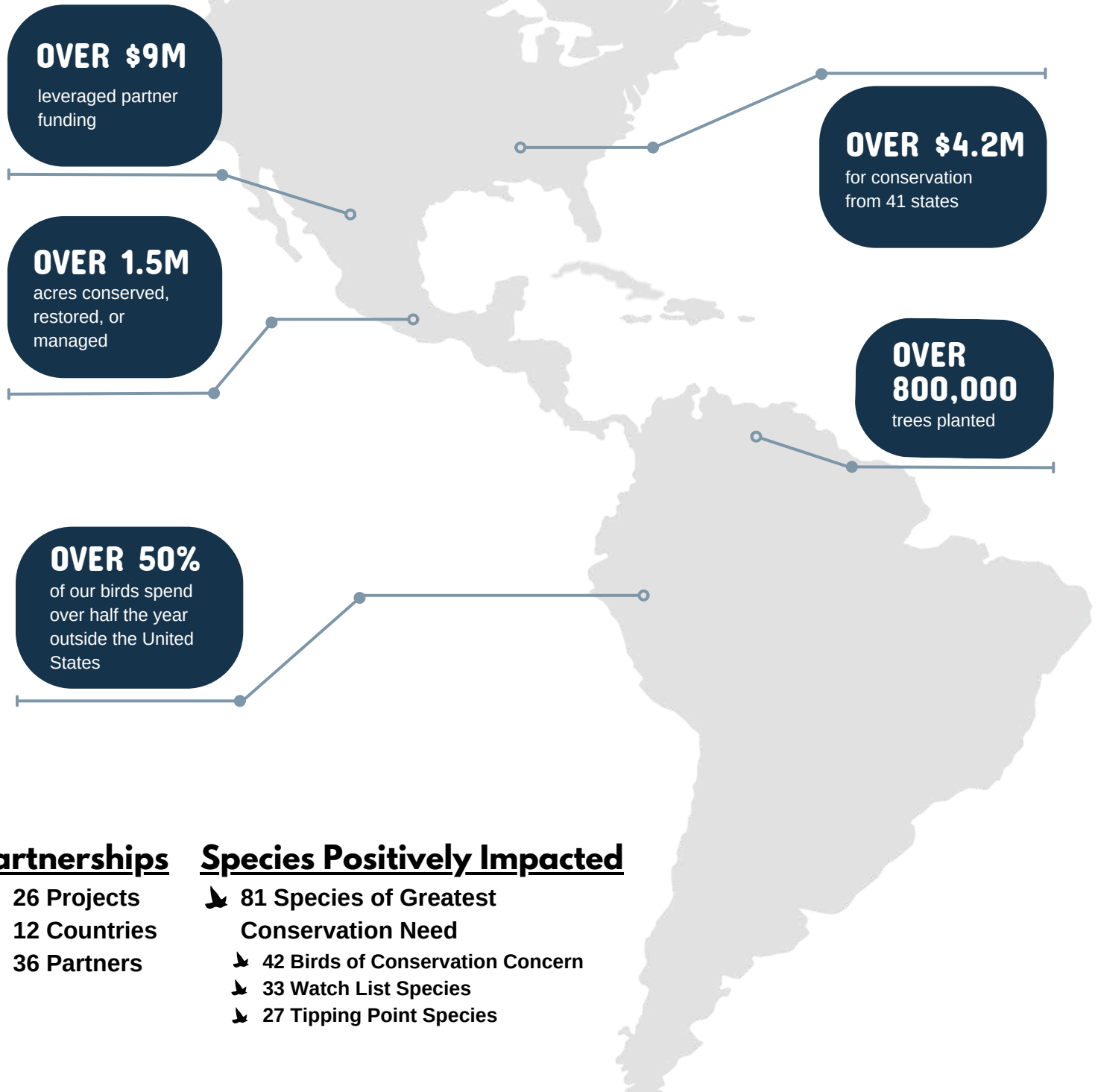
Years of Impact





STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS for Species of Greatest Conservation Need

Southern Wings supports partnerships aimed at conserving birds and reversing their declines.



Partnerships

- 26 Projects
- 12 Countries
- 36 Partners

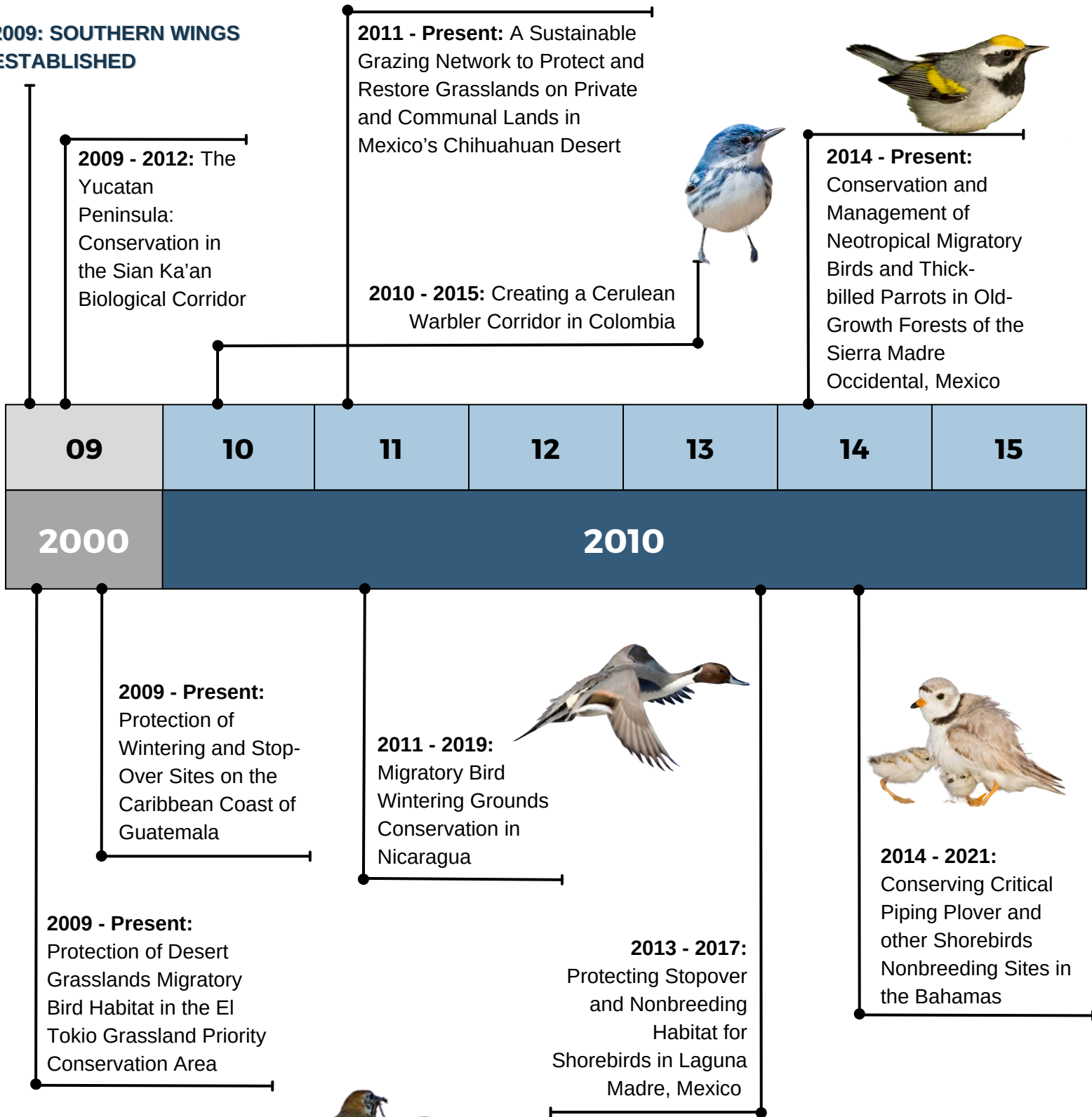
Species Positively Impacted

- 81 Species of Greatest Conservation Need
- 42 Birds of Conservation Concern
- 33 Watch List Species
- 27 Tipping Point Species



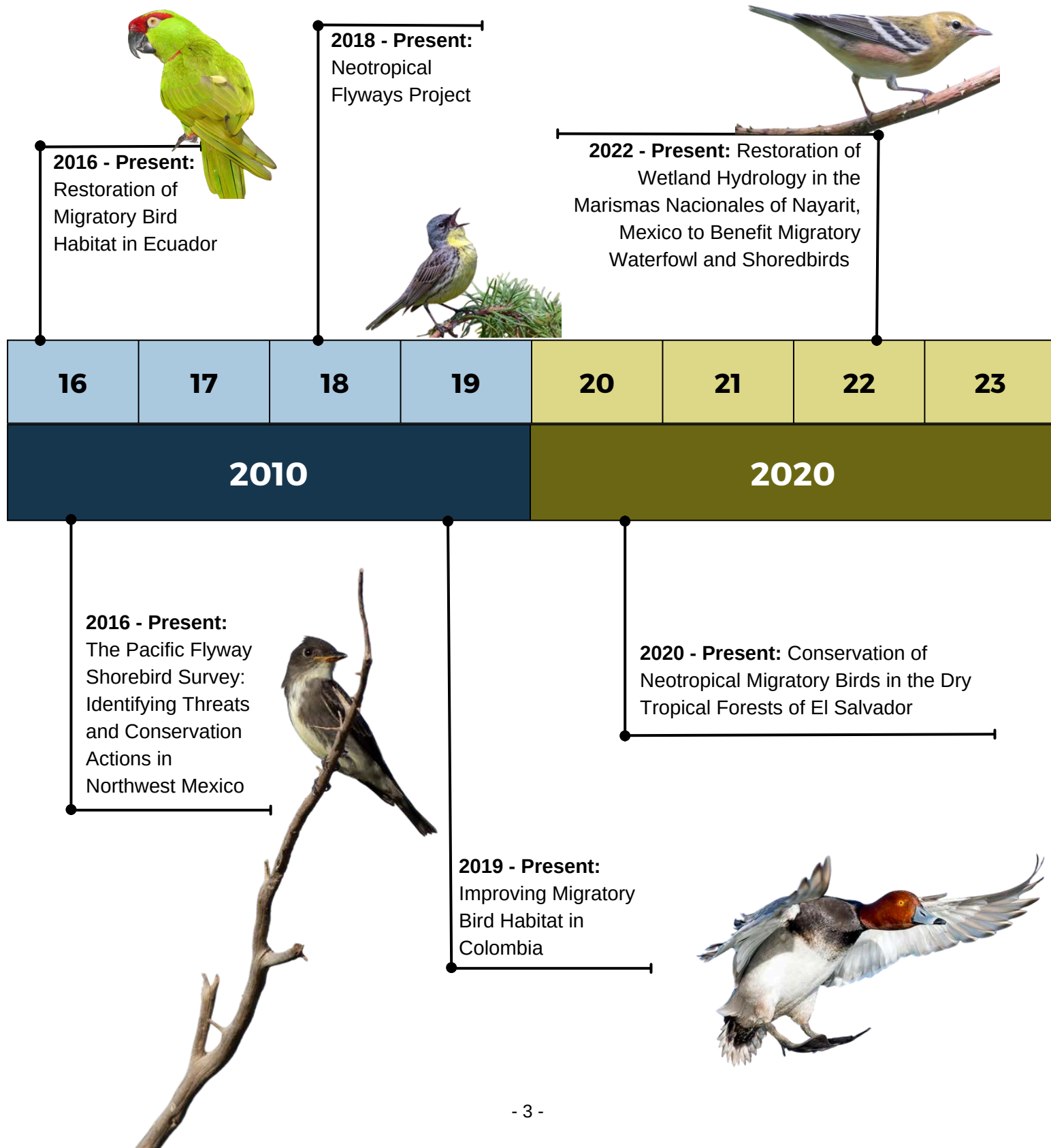
Celebrating 15 Years of Impact

2009: SOUTHERN WINGS ESTABLISHED



Celebrating 15 Years of Impact

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS



The Yucatan Peninsula: Conservation in the Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor



Partners:

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Amigos de Sian Ka'an (ASK)

SIGNIFICANCE:

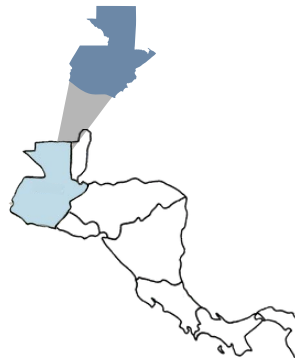
Each spring, the Peninsula is filled with millions of migrant birds that rely on the habitat to nearly double their body weight before attempting the trans-gulf migration to the Gulf Coast of the United States. Conserving habitat in the Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor is crucial for maintaining habitat used by Neotropical migratory birds.

Accomplishments:

Supported the development of the Yum-Balam – Sian Ka'an Biological Corridor by:

- acquiring 1,620 acres to create the San Mateo Ake Reserve. The property, which neighbors the El Eden Reserve, creates a protected area of over 5,400 acres,
- supporting patrols to deter illegal hunting and rapidly identify fires to reduce their spread and impact, and
- restoring 197.5 acres with 28,700 native trees.

Protection of Wintering and Stop-Over Sites on the Caribbean Coast of Guatemala



Partners: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación (FUNDAECO), Izabal Agro Forest

SIGNIFICANCE:

Over 140 species of neotropical migrant use the Caribbean Coast of Guatemala for stop over or nonbreeding habitat. At least 29 of the focal species are Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Accomplishments:

Implementation of a landscape-scale conservation strategy resulted in almost 11,000 acres of habitat conserved, 33,000 acres leveraged for forest conservation with private landowners and local communities, and the installation of three Motus Wildlife Tracking System (MOTUS) stations.



Protection of Desert Grasslands Migratory Bird Habitat in the El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area

2009 - Present

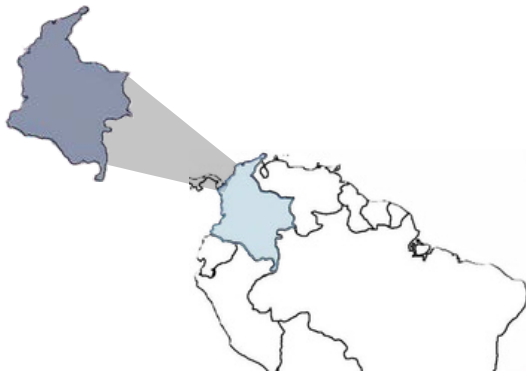
Partners: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Pronatura Noreste (PNE)

SIGNIFICANCE:

The El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area is critical for many Species of Greatest Conservation Need, particularly long-billed curlew, mountain plover, and Sprague's pipit.

Accomplishments:

Over 140,000 acres of habitat conserved through invasive plant species removal, grassland restoration, installation of sustainable ranching infrastructure, and conservation easements that make up a comprehensive strategy to enhance the conservation of grassland habitat in partnership with local communities.



Creating a Cerulean Warbler Corridor in Colombia

2010 - 2015

Partners: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), ProAves

SIGNIFICANCE:

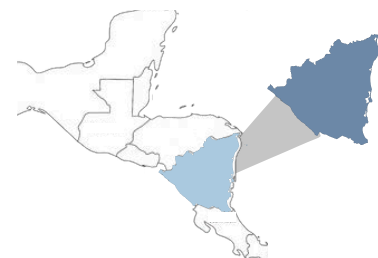
Cerulean Warbler, a species whose population has plummeted, is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in 35 states. Focal areas in South America have been identified as critical to cerulean warbler conservation.

Accomplishments:

Created a six-mile corridor between two important montane reserves in the northern Andes of Colombia through restoration, reforestation, and the promotion of shade-grown coffee and cacao. This included planting over 500,000 trees on 2,835 acres across 200 private farms.

2011 - 2019

Migratory Bird Wintering Grounds Conservation in Nicaragua



Partners:

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Central America including sites in Nicaragua may provide habitat for half of wood thrush that breed in the U.S. and Canada. The northern highlands of Nicaragua are important wintering areas for species such as golden-winged warbler and stopover habitat for many species such as bay-breasted warbler and Canada warbler.

Accomplishments:

Created a corridor from the El Jaguar Reserve to the Volcan Yali Forest Reserve, and enhanced the available habitat near the Saslaya National Park located inside the Bosawas UNESCO Biosphere Reserve. Expanded the El Jaguar Reserve by over 400 acres through private landowner engagement and supporting shade-grown coffee. In total, the work has resulted in the planting of over 100,000 trees since 2011.

2011 - Present

A Sustainable Grazing Network to Protect and Restore Grasslands on Private and Communal Lands in Mexico's Chihuahuan Desert



Partner: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Chihuahuan Desert supports 90% of migratory grassland birds breeding in the western Great Plains. These species have lost more than 70% of their global population since 1970.

Accomplishments:

The Sustainable Grazing Network encompasses almost 700,000 acres. 350,000 acres of grassland habitat have been improved with demonstrated increases in Sprague's pipits.





Protecting Stopover and Nonbreeding Habitat for Shorebirds in Laguna Madre, Mexico

2013 - 2017

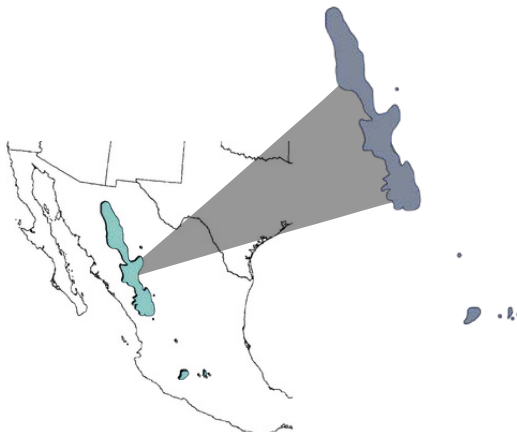
Partner: Pronatura Noreste (PNE)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Laguna Madre in México is composed of lagoons, estuaries, deltas, marshes, intertidal swamps, sea grasses, coastal dunes, and mangroves, representing a substantial role in the survival of shorebirds during their migratory cycles.

Accomplishments:

Restored over 75 acres of mangroves by planting nearly 21,000 mangroves.



Conservation and Management of Neotropical Migratory Birds and Thick-billed Parrots in Old-Growth Forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental, Mexico

2014 - Present

Partner: Organización Vida Silvestre A.C. (OVIS)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Mexico's national forest management policy, which now considers the management of biodiversity, presents an opportunity to work at reducing significant threats (e.g., destructive fires, over-harvesting of timber) to maintain or restore populations of birds in remaining forests of the Sierra Madre Occidental.

Accomplishments:

- Signed a collaboration agreement to implement sustainable forest management practices across 247,000 acres.
- Collaborated with partners to maintain forest certification for an area covering 632,500 acres.
- Monitored forest bird species and conducted research on thick-billed parrots, American goshawks, and Eared Quetzals.
- Implemented monitoring, Predation reduction actions, nest management, and other conservation actions to benefit Thick-billed Parrots.

2014 - 2021

Conserving Critical Piping Plover and other Shorebirds Nonbreeding Sites in the Bahamas



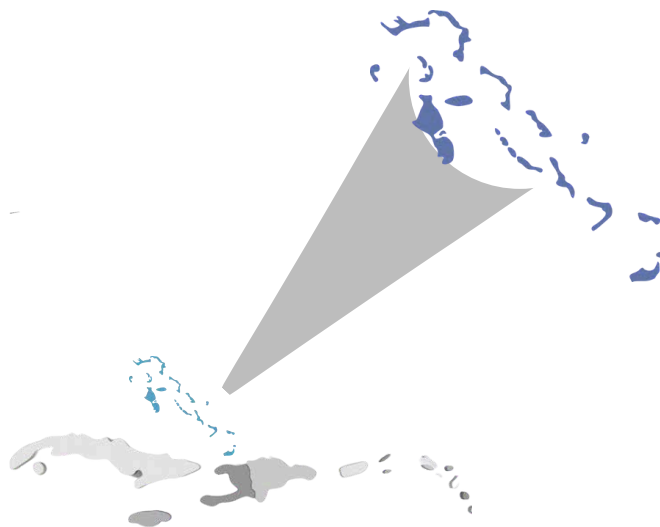
Partners: National Audubon Society, Bahamas National Trust (BNT)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Research demonstrated that 20-50% of the Atlantic breeding population of piping plovers winters on specific islands in the Bahamas.

Accomplishments:

Declared the 113,000-acre Joulter Cays as a National Park and protected critical shorebird and seabird sites, including Berry Islands IBA and Long Island. In total, protected winter habitat for over 17% of the wintering population.



2016 - Present

Restoration of Migratory Bird Habitat in Ecuador



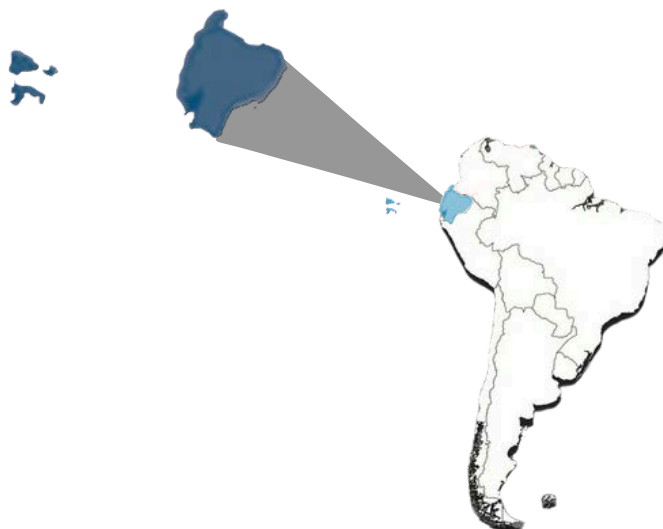
Partners: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Fundación Jocotoco, Fundación Aliados

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Chocó rainforest is important to numerous wintering Neotropical migratory birds, including olive-sided flycatcher and cerulean warbler.

Accomplishments:

Working with local communities to expand shade-grown cacao to support Indigenous communities and birds. Southern Wings has supported restoration of 180 acres with nearly 5,000 cacao and fruit trees, and trained over 100 farmers. Additionally, over 150 acres have been reforested using 25,000 native and fruit trees.





The Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey: Identifying Threats and Conservation Actions in Northwest Mexico

2016 - Present

Partner: Terra Peninsular

SIGNIFICANCE:

Migratory shorebirds traverse thousands of miles across the Western Hemisphere and are reliant upon a network of coastal and interior wetland ecosystems. The Pacific Coast of the Americas supports entire populations of Neotropical migratory shorebird species. The project supports work to fill gaps in Pacific Flyway population status and trends and identify threats and priority areas for conservation and management action. The project contributes to flyway-wide surveys that collect standardized bird and habitat condition data on over 2.5 million non-breeding waterbirds from 14 countries annually.

Accomplishments:

Used the data gathered through 10 years of midwinter Pacific Brant surveys; annual non-breeding midwinter shorebird surveys; and snowy plover, American oystercatcher, and California least tern surveys to inform management actions. Collaborated with a local hunting organization to reduce illegal hunting and human disturbance and make harvest more sustainable, installed predator excluders and a temporary fence to protect shorebird nests, and partnered with the local municipality to obtain a federal concession to control disturbance and promote best management practices on beaches.



Neotropical Flyways Project

2018 - Present

Partner: SELVA

SIGNIFICANCE:

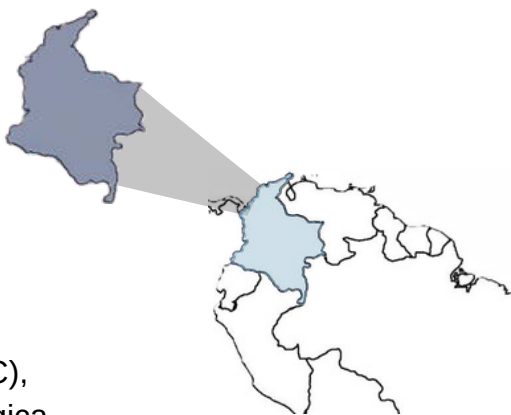
Close to 300 species of landbirds, whose combined populations represent billions of birds, migrate between the Neotropics and North America. For many species, migration is the greatest source of mortality during their annual cycle. It is critical that we identify major Neotropical stopover regions and assess the needs of birds within them.

Accomplishments:

- Surveys generated >100,000 records of migratory landbirds in ~35,000 eBird lists, leading to the identification of previously unknown stopover regions for species of concern like the yellow-billed cuckoo, blackpoll warbler and cerulean warbler.
- Conservation activities at newly described stopovers have led to the establishment of six native tree nurseries and the planting of 4,000 trees in Costa Rica, 24,500 trees in NW Colombia and 11,800 trees in NE Colombia that provide resources to migratory birds.

2019 - Present

Improving Migratory Bird Habitat in Colombia



Partners: American Bird Conservancy (ABC), Corporación VivoCuenca, Fundación Ecológica Cafetera (FEC), Comité de Cafeteros de Caldas, CHEC Grupo EPM

SIGNIFICANCE:

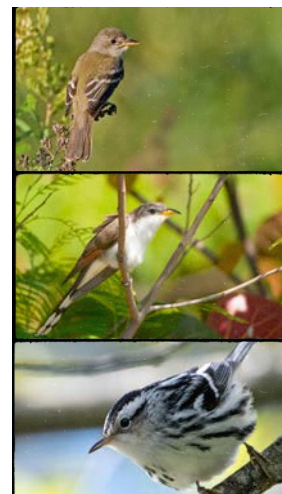
Cerulean warbler is a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in 35 states whose populations have plummeted. In the Colombian Andes focal areas have been identified as critical for the conservation of cerulean, golden-winged, and Canada warbler.

Accomplishments:

Supported engagement with approximately 260 coffee producers in the Central Andes facilitating the planting of more than 170,000 trees and the installation of 10.5 miles of fencing to conserve over 2,000 acres.

2020 - Present

Conservation of Neotropical Migratory Birds in the Dry Tropical Forests of El Salvador



Partner: Paso Pacífico

SIGNIFICANCE:

Central America's Pacific coast is important to migratory birds during migration and overwintering periods. Most of this geography was once dominated by seasonally dry tropical forests. Conservation of the remaining dry tropical forest is critical for 38 species that are considered SGCN from across 12 western states including willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo.

Accomplishments:

- Worked with a team of 10 community rangers to conserve 7,413 acres of dry tropical forests through wildfire monitoring, reforestation, and community engagement and outreach.
- Surveyed 87 sites for wintering willow flycatchers, recording observations in 12 of the sites, and documenting 75 other species across all sites surveyed.



Restoration of Wetland Hydrology in the Marismas Nacionales of Nayarit, Mexico, the Benefit Migratory Waterfowl and Shorebirds

2022 - Present

Partner: Organización Vida Silvestre A.C. (OVIS)

SIGNIFICANCE:

Marismas Nacionales is a complex of wetlands that form a mixture of marine waters and 11 rivers, creating a mosaic of ecosystems such as meanders, river deltas, marshes, freshwater lagoons, estuaries, coastal lagoons, intertidal wetlands and coastal dunes. Marismas Nacionales is one of the most important energy resupply sites for waterfowl on the Mexican Pacific Flyway, providing high quality foraging and resting sites for 15 migratory species.



Accomplishments:

- Conducted hydrological rehabilitation work on 494 acres, restoring and enhancing freshwater flows to a 1,236 acre lagoon.
- Established two 10,000-acre Wildlife Management and Conservation Units to facilitate and expand habitat conservation measures.



THANK YOU
to our partners for
their work to
conserve our shared
migratory birds.



CONTACTS:

Bradley Wilkinson, Ph.D.
Bird Conservation Program Manager
NABCI Coordinator
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
202-838-3475
bwilkinson@fishwildlife.org

Deb Hahn
International Relations Director
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies
202-838-3458
dhahn@fishwildlife.org