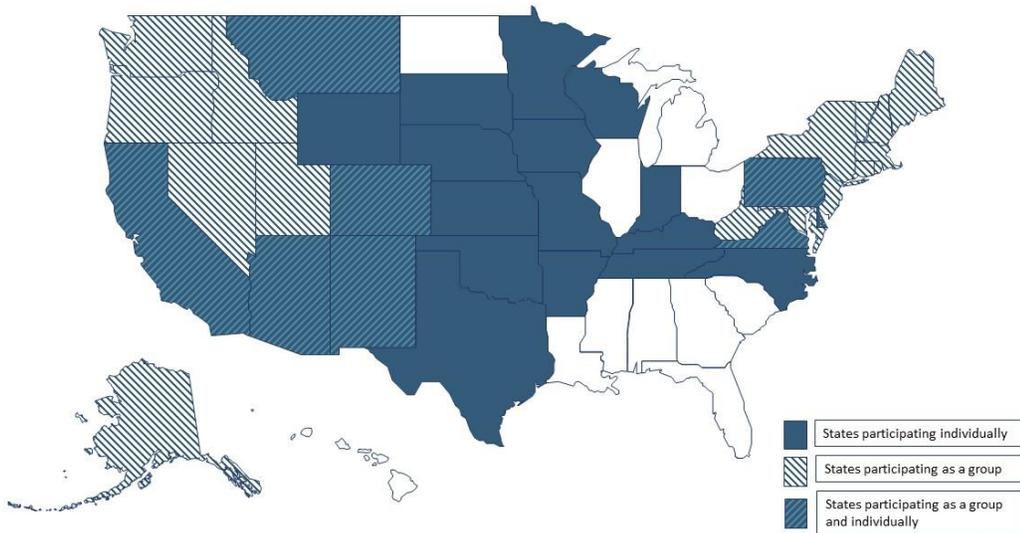




2022-2023 Project Opportunities

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, conservation, and management; agroforestry, and monitoring. We have already helped conserve over 11,000 acres. \$100,000 and \$150,000 is needed for future acquisitions. \$180,000 is needed for restoration. 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.

**40 States
Participating
Over 3.5 Million USD
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 to sustain, and eventually increase, the current populations of priority migrants. To date, Southern Wings partners have facilitated habitat restoration, including the improvement of 335 acres of cacao and coffee plantations by planting 9,617 native trees, 38,530 coffee and cacao plants, and 577 fruit trees. Additionally, nine communities signed conservation agreements that secured commitments to protect 4,283 acres of land within the buffer zone of Sierra de Agalta National Park. Primary actions involve reforestation, working with landowners on agroforestry and silvipasture, and infrastructure needs. Approximately \$247,000 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 planting more than 500,000 saplings on 2,835 acres. These landscapes help conserve species such as golden-winged, cerulean, and Canada warblers; yellow-billed cuckoo; and olive-sided flycatcher. The project actions include actions to increase connectivity between forest patches, restoration, outreach and education. Approximately \$164,000 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.



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 project 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.



GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION: 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 goals 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 \$70,000 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:

- Working with landowners whose land covers over 504,000 acres;
- Improving over 160,000 acres of grasslands; and
- Increasing the number of Sprague's Pipits by 15% annually across ranches.

Actions will continue to focus on landowner engagement, range management, and grasslands restoration. Support of \$5,000 to \$20,000 are needed.

Seven to 28 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) 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



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 \$44,000 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 \$100,000 in 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.

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.

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. Protection of the Berry Islands IBA 7% of the piping plover conservation. Current actions focus on research and monitoring, developing environmental education, and developing bird-based tourism. Approximately, \$64,000 is needed.

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



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 (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 include habitat management through trash clean-up, monitoring, and education and outreach. Approximately \$80,000 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.



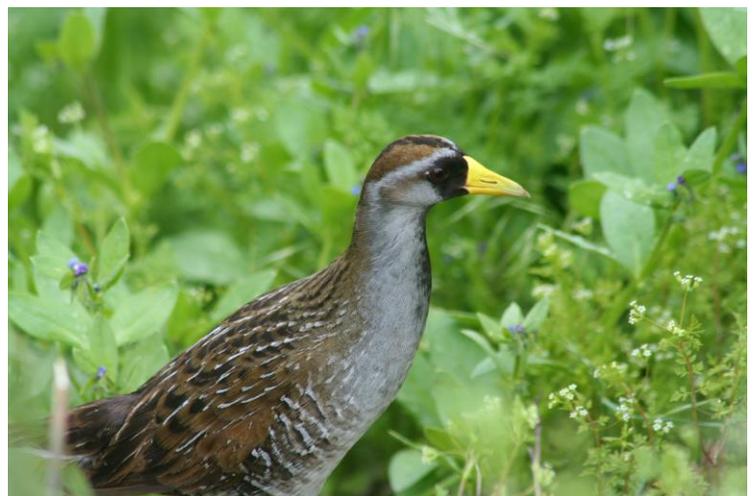
RESTORATION OF WETLAND HYDROLOGY IN THE MARISMAS NACIONALES OF NAYARIT, MEXICO TO BENEFIT MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRDS:

Marismas Nacionales is a complex of wetlands that form a mixture of marine waters and 11 powerful rivers, creating a very varied mosaic of ecosystems such as meanders, river deltas, marshes, freshwater lagoons, estuaries, coastal lagoons, intertidal wetlands and coastal dunes. The project is in the Chugüin-Chuig Tidal Basin (12,429 acres, 5,030ha), in Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve. OVIS and its partners will focus on restoring hydrological flows for the recovery and conservation of mangrove ecosystems, which provide foraging sites and energy resupply for thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway. Priority species include pintail, northern shoveler, mallard, American avocet, western sandpiper, red knot, and more. Total project budget is \$160,618. States with strong connections to this project include WAFWA states.

MARSH BIRD CONSERVATION: IDENTIFYING THREATS AND IMPLEMENTING CONSERVATION ACTIONS IN NORTHWEST MEXICO:

Populations of marsh birds have declined in North America over the last decades. The main cause has been the drastic degradation of wetlands that has occurred on a continental scale, but that has been more severe on Western North America and in the Sonoran Desert. The status of marsh birds in Northwestern Mexico is unclear. Target species include Yuma Ridgeway Rail, American bittern, least bittern, black rail, Virginia rail, and sora. The overall goal is to improve the efficiency of conservation and management for marsh birds (and other waterbirds in coastal wetlands of northwest Mexico through the integration of data and prioritization in decision-making.

Conservation actions include marshbird surveys to collect data and implementing workshops with local landowners. States with a connection to the project are those in the Pacific Flyway.



BICKNELL'S THRUSH CONSERVATION IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

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;
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- helps keep species off the Endangered Species Act by addressing annual life cycle conservation needs.



Photo Credit: Tim Keyes

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

Numerous SGCN's 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 SGCN 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, conduct 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 SGCN connections include AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.

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 non-breeding and breeding bird surveys, improving the conservation and management of key areas, and conducting education and outreach. The total budget is about \$25,000 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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