



photo: Tessa Nickels



CERULEAN WARBLER CORRIDOR

THREATS/ CHALLENGES: The sky blue Cerulean Warbler breeds from the Great Lakes region to Georgia, and west from Wisconsin to Louisiana, with concentrations in the Appalachians and Central Hardwoods region. It is the only globally threatened neotropical migratory songbird that winters exclusively in South America, primarily in the subtropical humid forests of the Northern Andes of Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela and Northern Peru. Cerulean Warbler numbers have plummeted by almost 70% since 1966. It is threatened by fragmentation and habitat loss on both its wintering grounds and breeding grounds. Conversion of shade coffee to sun coffee since the 1980's has likely led to a loss of habitat used by Cerulean Warblers.

IMPORTANCE OF THE CORRIDOR: The Cerulean Warbler Corridor (Corridor), which is located in a priority focal area for Cerulean Warblers in Colombia, was established to protect key stopover and wintering habitat for the Cerulean Warbler. The six mile long, one mile wide Corridor links two important montane reserves; The Cerulean Warbler Reserve (513 acres) and the Pauxi Pauxi Reserve (4,470 acres). Hundreds of other birds, including threatened and endangered species, are found in the Corridor. Landowners in this region grow coffee, cacao and other products that can be grown in more sustainable and bird friendly ways, providing opportunities for conservation results.



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PROJECT GOAL AND OBJECTIVES:

Protect and restore high priority wintering habitat for Cerulean Warblers in Colombia.

1. **Objective:** Promote shade coffee and cacao with farmers and landowners to create sustainable revenue streams for the ongoing management and protection of habitat for Cerulean Warbler with >50% of producers in the Corridor.
2. **Objective:** Restore 30 acres of degraded lands in the Pauxi Pauxi Reserve.
3. **Objective:** Engage communities through outreach activities including Migratory Bird Festivals to promote awareness and support for migratory bird conservation to reduce deforestation rates by 50%.
4. **Objective:** Reforest 3,000 acres within the Corridor with native trees.



PARTNER DESCRIPTION:

ProAves is a non-governmental, non-profit organization that was established in 1998 by a group of people interested in preserving the Yellow-eared Parrot in Colombia. Its mission is to protect wild birds and their habitat in the country through research, strategic conservation action, and community outreach and engagement. American Bird Conservancy has worked with ProAves since its establishment.



Preparing native species nursery (B. Skolnik)





SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN:

Broad-winged Hawk, Acadian Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Alder Flycatcher, **Olive-sided Flycatcher**, Western Wood-Pewee, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallow, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Summer Tanager, **Golden-winged Warbler**, Tennessee Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, Northern Waterthrush, **Connecticut Warbler**, Mourning Warbler, **Canada Warbler**, Baltimore Oriole.

NON-MIGRATORY:

Gorgeted Wood-Quail, Rusty-faced Parrot, Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Black Inca, White-mantled Barbet, Recurve-billed Bushbird, Upper Magdalena Tapaculo, Mountain Grackle, and Turquoise Dacnis.

Bold = priority

SUMMARY: American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Fundación ProAves (ProAves), with Southern Wings funding, have made significant strides to reverse the trend of habitat loss by working with over 200 landowners in the Cerulean Warbler Corridor to implement bird friendly practices such as reforestation and shade agriculture. Three tree nurseries have been created within the Corridor. Proaves has set up 18 conservation easements. To facilitate this work, ProAves conducted over 75 workshops and meetings with landowners and communities within the Corridor.

- ♦ In 2011, Southern Wings funds assisted ProAves with the purchase of 299 acres in the Corridor to expand the Pauxi Pauxi Reserve. About 90% of this area is covered with tropical humid forest, and 10% with coffee, cacao, and other small scale agricultural fields.
- ♦ Southern Wings funds have contributed to the more than 500,000 saplings planted on 2,828 acres, of which 1,139 acres correspond to 18 conservation easements on private lands. These easements secured the protection of existing forest.
- ♦ Reserve management (guard salary) and infrastructure improvements to the guard station have been funded. A five-mile trail between the two main ranger stations in the Pauxi Pauxi reserve facilitates communication and contact between the guards and consequently strengthens the ability of the park guards to coordinate patrols.
- ♦ Community outreach and engagement: Over 4,000 people were trained and educated to raise awareness among the community of conservation activities, tree nurseries and reforestation, bird identification, and sustainable use of natural resources. The San Vicente municipality puts on an annual migratory bird festival, which has become a local cultural tradition involving hundreds of participants.

Funds Contributed (through FY2014): \$67,500

