



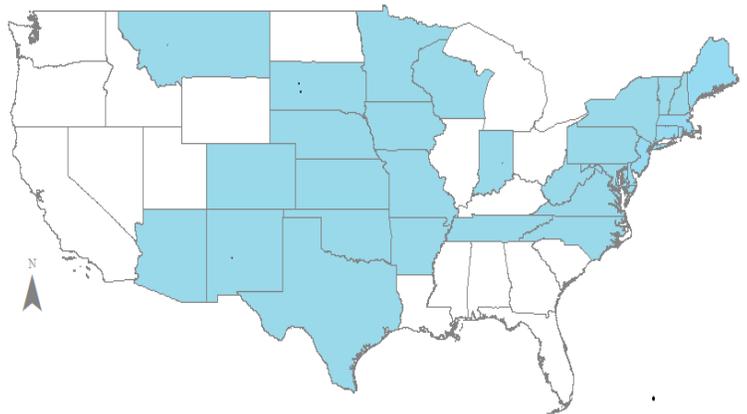
photo: Jessa Nickels



Strategic Investments for Priority Birds

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.

WOOD THRUSH CONSERVATION: Wood Thrush is a SGCN species for at least 30 state agencies. Priority sites for Wood Thrush conservation have been identified in Honduras. This project aims to reduce the rate of forest habitat loss at 2 priority sites. The partners including IN DNR and MDC are working with landowners to reforest land, support engagement in bird friendly agricultural practices, and monitor the results.



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

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

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

CONSERVATION: The goal for Golden-winged Warblers (petitioned to be listed in the ESA and a SGCN species in at least 22 states) is to increase the population by 50% by 2050. Southern Wings (Pennsylvania, Missouri) along with other partners aim to maximize the amount of suitable wintering and stopover habitat through the creation of a six mile corridor in Nicaragua.

To date, partners have planted over 100,000 native trees, conducted workshops on bird friendly agriculture, and expanded the Reserve system by 855 acres. Some next steps include:

- continuing targeted reforestation in the El Jaguar-Yali Corridor,
- expanding the successful reforestation model to the Peñas Blancas Focal Area, and
- supporting conservation of the Saslaya National Park.



Golden-winged Warbler by MarkPedy/Flickr Creative Commons.



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 and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries are well on the way to achieve the objective. The Bahamian government has formally protect the Joulter Cays (113,900 acres) and secure 10% of the Atlantic Piping Plovers population. The Initiative has conducted significant research and monitoring to identify key next steps. They include:

1. engagement of local communities to ensure long term conservation of important areas; and
2. monitoring to assess the impact of past conservation efforts and inform population recovery in the US and Canada.

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 (ESA) by addressing annual life cycle conservation needs.



GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION: Iowa, South Dakota, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma have supported Pronatura Noreste to successfully protect and restore native desert grasslands in Mexico's El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area. To date they have protected 49,381 acres of grasslands and almost 116,000 acres through acquisition or conservation agreements in El Tokio.

Next steps include:

1. continuing grasslands restoration on specific properties (i.e., erosion control fencing), and
2. developing grazing management plans.



Sierra Caral Photo source: FUNDAECO

CONSERVATION IN CARIBBEAN GUATEMALA:

The Izabal region of Caribbean Guatemala is home to over **150 species of shared neotropical migrants**. Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Texas, and Iowa are helping implement a long-term conservation strategy of preserving stopover and wintering habitats.

To date, the multi-year strategy has **protected almost 9,000 acres of land** at Sierra Caral, Punta Manabique, Cerro San Gil, Sarstun (Tapon Creek), and Sierra Santa Cruz.

Next steps in the conservation strategy include:

1. improving the management of lands in the buffer zones of the lands conserved in the first stage of the conservation strategy; and
2. developing Biocenters (properties that will act as training grounds for communities to learn about bird-friendly agriculture).

To learn more or participate contact:

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