

# *Road to Recovery: States Rock (Hell Yeah!)*

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## 2019 Resolution from the Bird Conservation Committee

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,**  
that the Association of Fish and Wildlife  
Agencies recognizes the **seriousness  
and urgency** of this loss of bird  
abundance across North America and  
**commits to joining in the response** by a  
unified wildlife conservation  
community to achieve healthy  
populations of all bird species by  
**replicating the known successes** for  
waterfowl and other game species, and  
**leveraging the existing scientific  
expertise and resources** within the bird  
conservation community.

# Coordinated Responses

Road to Recovery Workshops

NABCI's Relevancy Toolkit

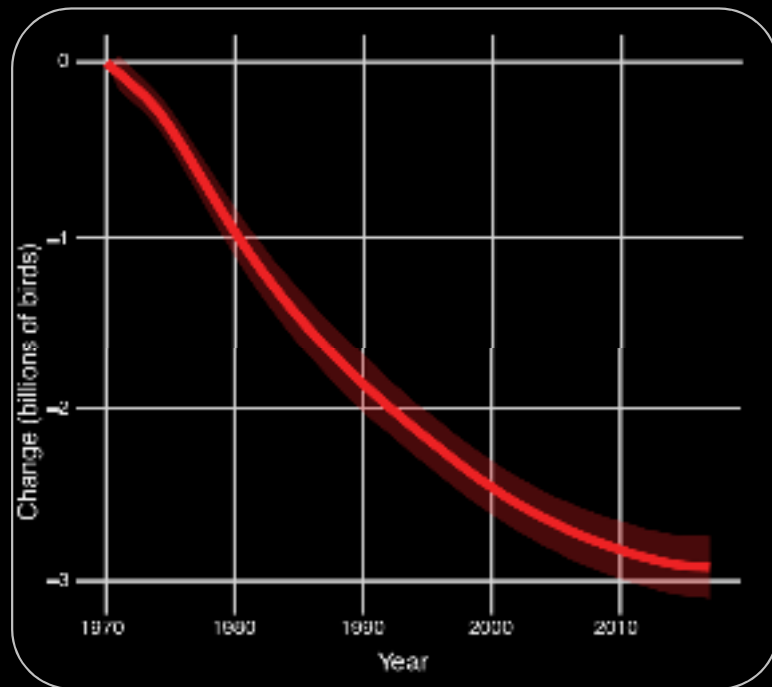
5 Game-Changing Paradigms

USFWS Forest Ecology Working Group webinar series

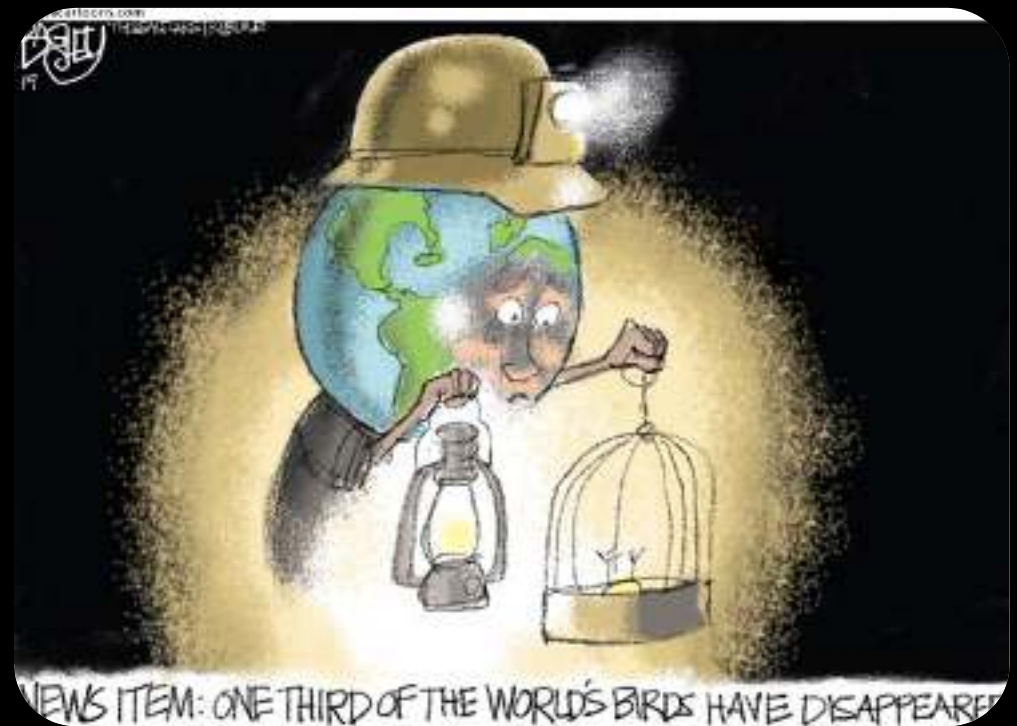
Coordinated agency-wide responses: USFWS, others

Bird-friendly Coalition: multi-agency, academia, NGOs

# A Moment in Time For Conservation



Rosenberg et al. 2019



# Re-imagining Bird Conservation



We need to be more strategic and focused on where to implement conservation action

# Where along the *Road to Recovery*?

Little to no thinking= 1  Recovery in Progress= 7



Evening Grosbeak



Eastern Whip-poor-will



Golden-winged Warbler



Saltmarsh Sparrow



Kirtland's Warbler



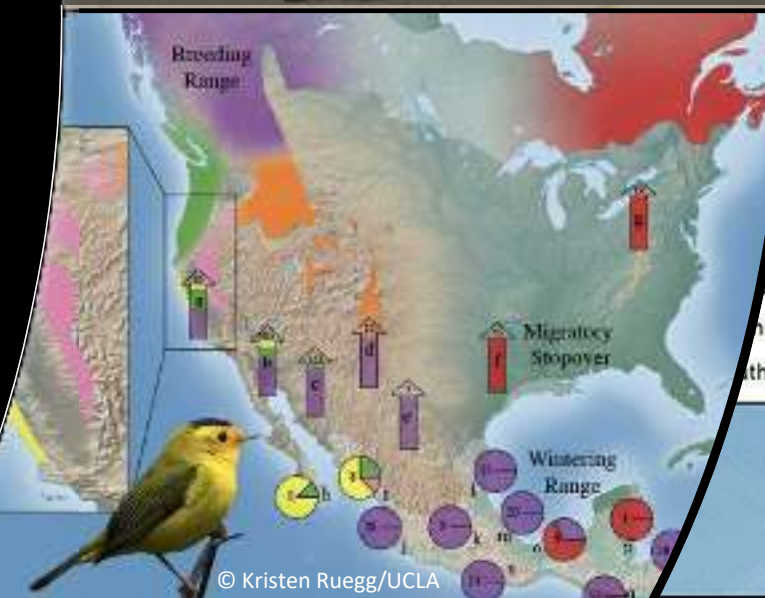
# Advancing the science of species conservation and recovery

R2R Workshops: July, December 2020

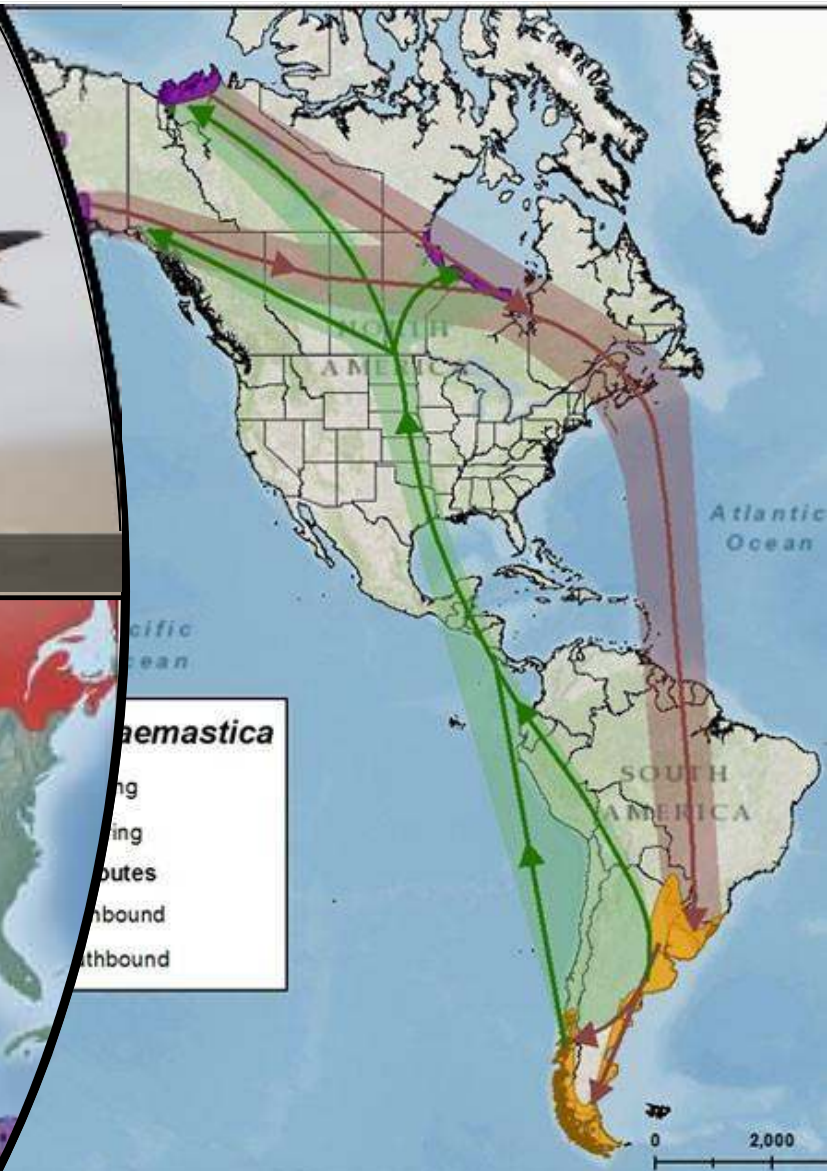
- Causes of declines: Understanding population limiting factors and mechanisms
- Linked Populations: Migratory connectivity and demographics



Hudsonian Godwit



© Kristen Ruegg/UCLA



# Conservation Works!

Wetland conservation and waterfowl management  
to sustain recreational hunting



How do we replicate these successes??





# Are “Birds Just Like Ducks?”

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Non-game birds *CAN* be managed...



## Why isn't conservation working for declining non-game birds?

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- Imprecise Science?
- Lack of Resources? (the \$45 million question)
- Lack of Accountability?

*Conservation is not happening at large enough scales to counteract negative forces of habitat loss, anthropogenic mortality and climate change—we are losing the battle*





State agencies have played critical roles in restoring bird populations and their habitats over time

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# What can States do?

R2R is an approach

Consider SGCN in your states and work to move them up the pyramid

- Opportunities to partner across borders?
- C-SWGs, multi-state grants



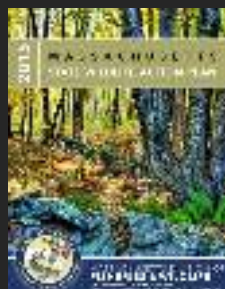
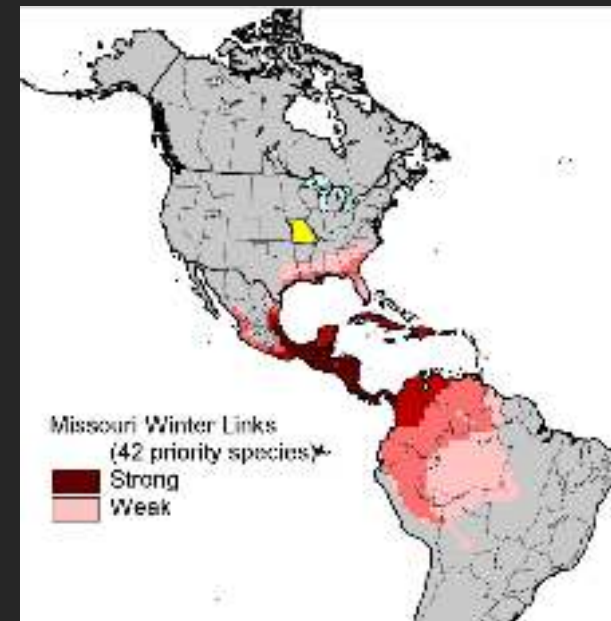
# What can States do *right now*?

## Southern Wings

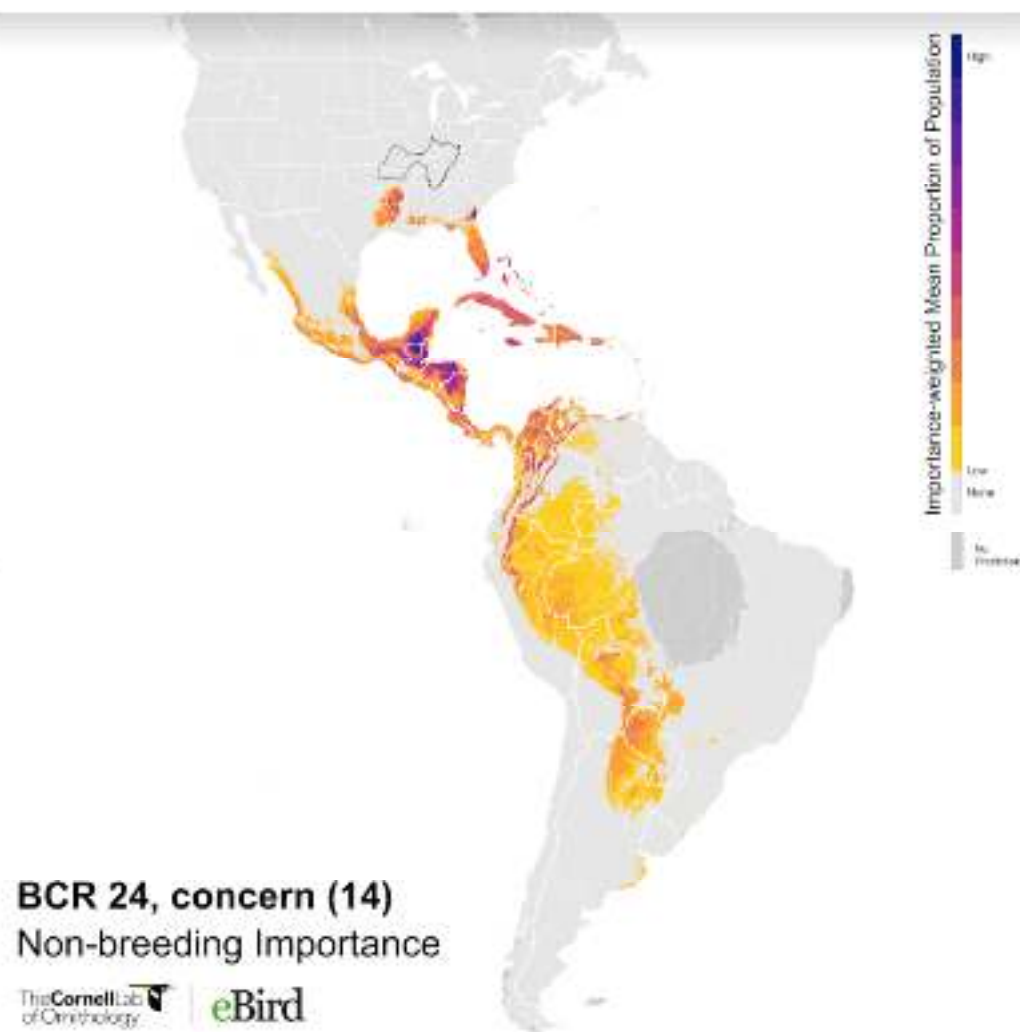
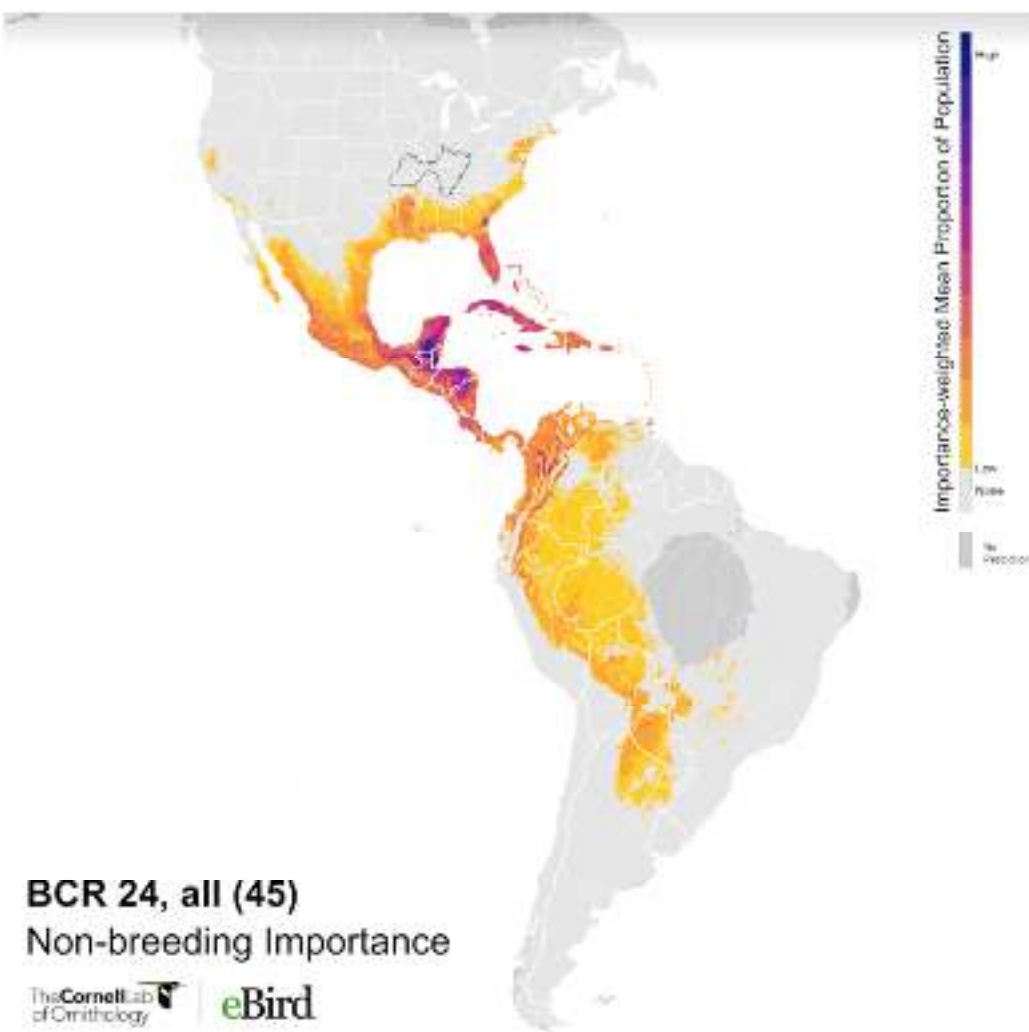
- AFWA program targeting conservation efforts on stop-over sites and wintering grounds
- Requires an advocate –Southern Wings and PIF support justification of this work

## State Wildlife Action Plan Revisions

- Include regional/national/international – full life-cycle conservation

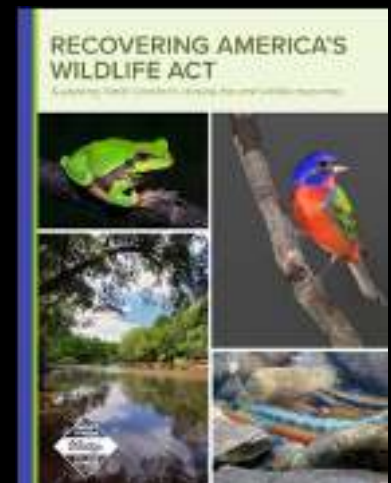






# Conservation Planning

- Habitat and Migratory Bird Joint Ventures
- PIF Eastern Working Group: Conservation Investment Strategies
  - Central and South American Highlands, Gulf-Caribbean Slope
- SWAP 2025 updates; emphasis on landscape-scale, regional, national, international conservation
- Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program
- States' strategic planning for potential RAWA funding

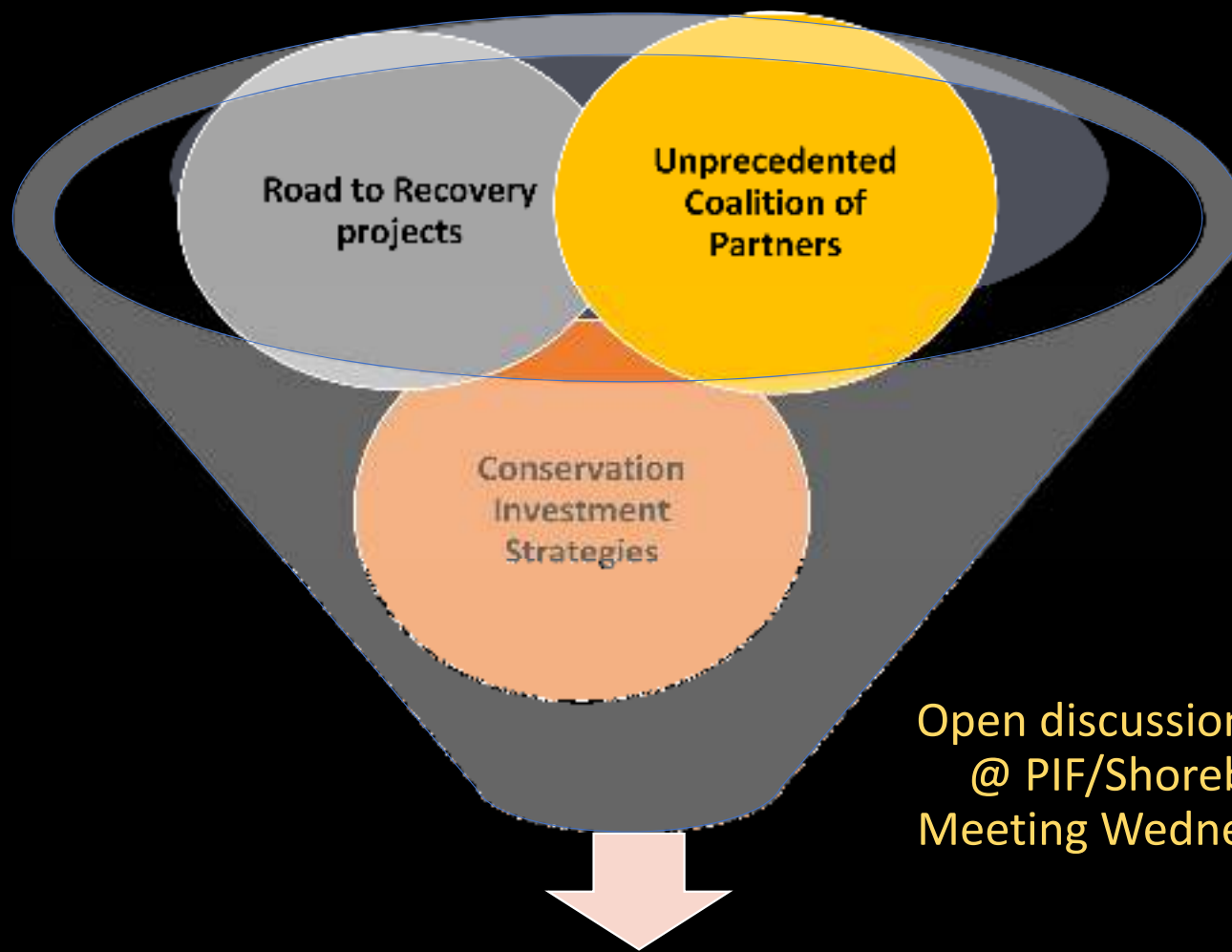


# Capacity Gap

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- **Significant need:** must be more efficient and targeted to be most effective
  - Help coordinate funding opportunities: C-SWG, RAWA, other
- **Significant need:** multi-state coordination across ranges; increase scale
  - Draw on existing talent across states
  - Existing (Southern Wings, NMBA grants) and new actions at each stage of birds' annual cycles





Open discussion on the proposal  
@ PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird  
Meeting Wednesday 1-3 PM CST

**Conservation Delivery Specialist**

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States play a vital role in this equation, but we must start considering how each of us can help slow declines of these species right now, or we lose them.

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