

Southern Wings

BIRD CONSERVATION INVESTMENTS THAT SUPPORT CLEAN AIR,
CLEAN WATER, HEALTHY HABITATS AND HUMAN WELL-BEING



WHY BIRDS? Birds are excellent indicators of the health of habitats and therefore, the health of the places that people live. Birds are economic drivers. Bird watching and hunting play a key role in the U.S. economy, supporting recreational opportunities and generating billions in economic output, including creating jobs in association with those opportunities. Birds provide pollination and pest control services that are worth millions to the agricultural sector. Birds connect people. Investments in birds and their habitats enhance goodwill, and support the security and stability of natural resources and countries.



Vision - Healthy and sustainable populations of migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere that are enjoyed for generations to come.

More than 200 species of birds in North America rely on habitats in at least two of its three countries—United States, Canada, and Mexico.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO our waterfowl populations were in steep decline. Partners in the United States, Canada and Mexico joined forces to reverse the declines of this shared bird resource. They restored, conserved and protected wetland habitats that resulted in the healthy waterfowl populations we have today. Now many other migratory bird species are in decline. New and innovative partnerships and tools are required to reverse the declines of hundreds of migratory birds as we embark on another one hundred years of conservation. Southern Wings is one of these tools. Southern Wings is a partnership of state

fish and wildlife agencies. With its partners, Southern Wings helps focus vital conservation funds on targeted sites in migratory corridors and wintering grounds for more than one-half of North America's breeding birds. These sites include forests, wetlands, and grasslands that face continually mounting pressures. Southern Wings was launched in 2008 by the 50 state fish and wildlife agencies under the auspices of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Southern Wings facilitates the investment of partner contributions from Mexico and the Caribbean to the southern cone of South America.



Annual Life-Cycle Conservation - Migratory birds make amazing and inspiring journeys every year. During the warmer part of the year they nest and have young in one country and then begin a voyage south, stopping to rest and feed in other countries, eventually reaching a final winter destination. These nesting, stopping, and wintering sites form a network of locations that play a fundamental role in the life of a bird. The connection between each site makes it critical to take actions in each location to be successful in conserving migratory species.

ACCORDING TO THE 2016 AND 2022 NATIONAL SURVEY OF FISHING, HUNTING, AND WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED RECREATION:

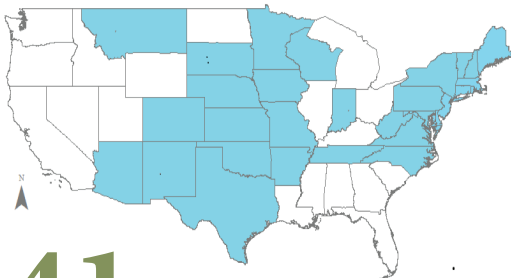
in 2022, 148 million Americans enjoy watching wildlife and 96 million of those observed birds. They **\$250 billion**.

In 2016, birdwatchers spent an estimated \$39 billion.

In 2016, that translated into over 16 billion in local, state, and federal tax revenue results .

SOUTHERN WINGS:

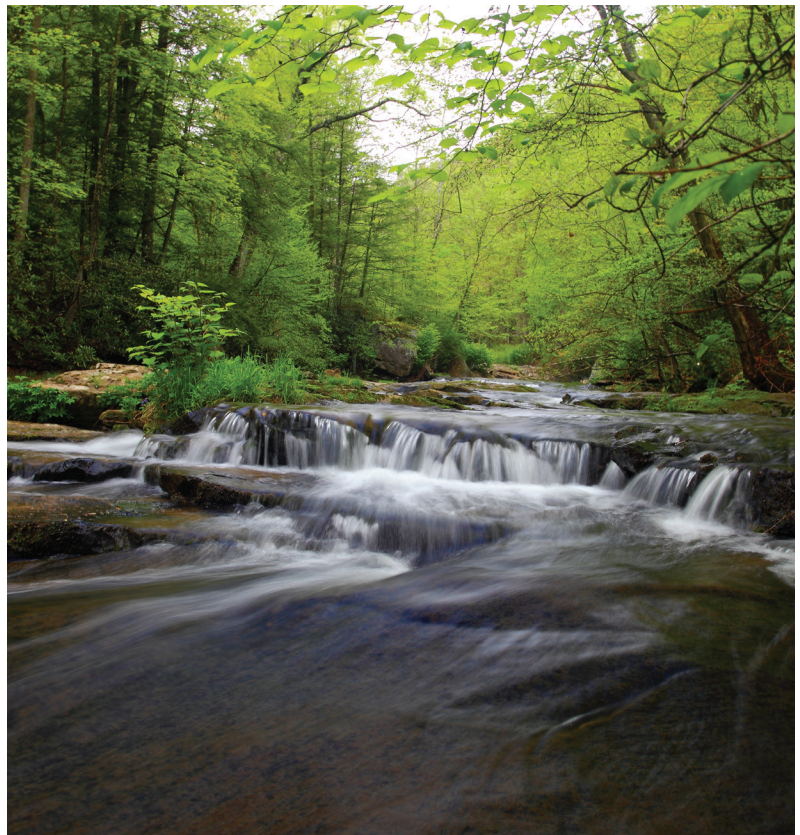
- helps keep migratory birds from being listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA);
- supports jobs and the economy;
- is a critical complement to U.S. migratory bird conservation investments;
- leverages funds;
- can help corporations, foundations, and non-profit organizations meet social and environmental goals;
- identifies strategic, biologically relevant projects with proven partners in areas where return on investment is greatest; and
- provides an easy, transparent, and flexible process to engage in successful conservation partnerships.



41 states contributed over **\$4 million** for 24 on-the-ground conservation projects in 11 countries, leveraging millions more.

SOUTHERN WINGS PROJECTS:

- help provide clean air, clean water, and healthy habitats;
- help support local economies;
- amplify conservation impacts by building local capacity;
- help maintain habitats resilient to disasters;
- protect U.S. investments through annual life cycle conservation; and
- work with partners that have established and proven track records.



EASTERN DECIDUOUS FOREST - FORESTWANDER NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY

SPECIES BENEFITED

MORE THAN 81 PRIORITY SPECIES HAVE BENEFITED FROM SOUTHERN WINGS. Particular effort has gone into the conservation of high-priority species whose populations are in steep decline and most of which have been petitioned to be listed under the ESA or could be soon without conservation action—Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Long-billed Curlew, Bicknell’s Thrush, Piping Plover, Mountain Plover, Sprague’s Pipit, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Wood Thrush.



TREE NURSERY (NICARAGUA) - DAVID WIEDENFELD

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

Northern Nicaragua is one of the most important wintering grounds for the Golden-winged Warbler (petitioned for listing in the ESA in 2011). Missouri Department of Conservation and Pennsylvania Game Commission supported successful conservation at the El Jaguar Reserve in Nicaragua. The focus is on restoring habitat, decreasing the rate of conversion of habitat to agricultural lands and supporting bird-friendly methods of crop production. They planted 10s of thousands of trees and created private reserves to create a conservation corridor.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

One-third of all grassland species are in steep decline. Species such as the Long-billed Curlew are listed as endangered, threatened, or species of special concern in several states. Native desert grasslands conservation in communal (ejido) and private ownership in Northern Mexico were supported by Iowa Department of Natural Resources, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks, Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, and Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation. These states helped conserve and manage over 150,000 acres of grass-lands while supporting ranchers and ejidos.



LONG-BILLED CURLEW - ALEX LAMOREAUX

PROJECT MANAGEMENT – The state fish and wildlife agencies, Regional State Agency Association, funder, or U.S.-based non-profit organization (NGO) transfers funds to the on-the-ground partner, usually a local NGO. The in-country and/or U.S.-based NGO is responsible for overseeing project implementation, administering funds, and providing annual accomplishment reports. The Southern Wings coordinator ensures the project(s) are implemented, reports are provided, and helps address any issues that arise.


Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies

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