



SOUTHERN *Wings*



Southern Wings

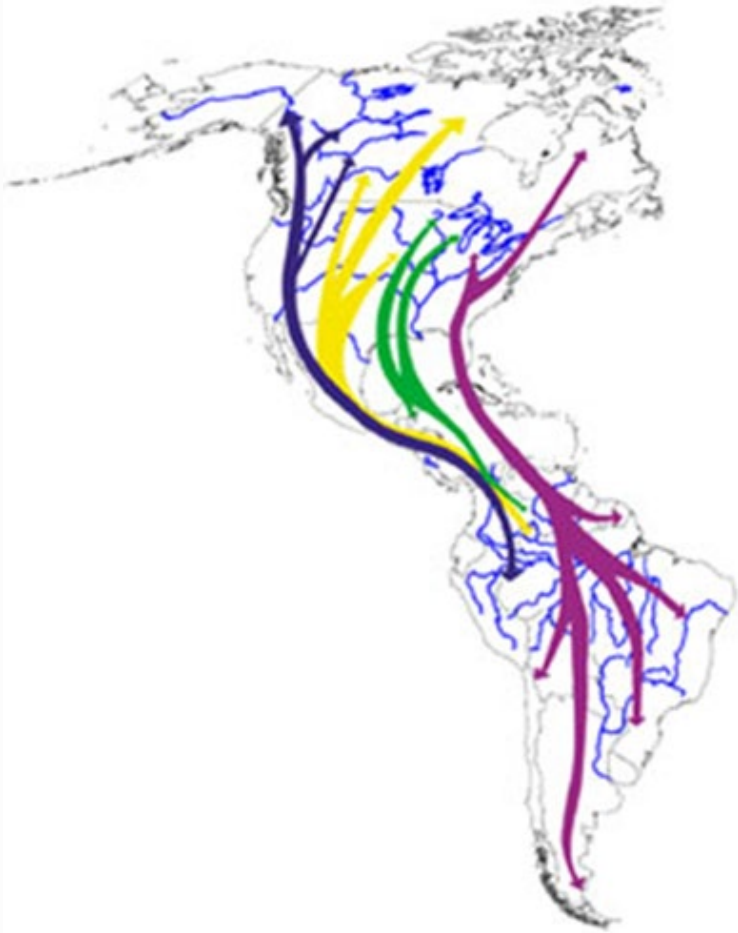
A Partnership of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies





SOUTHERN *Wings*

**An international
collaboration to conserve
shared SGCN migratory
birds through annual
life-cycle conservation**



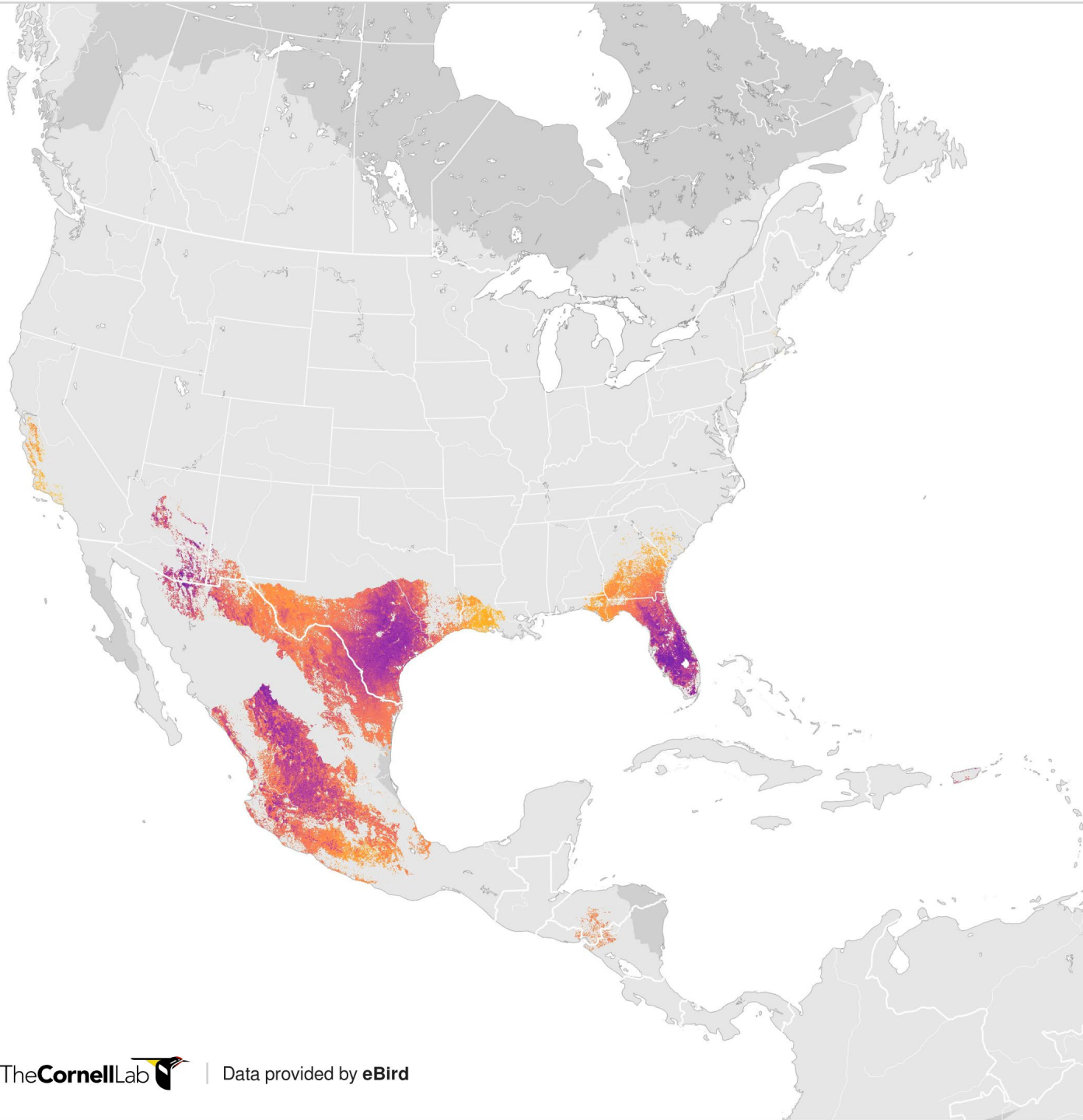


Goal & Mission

Goal: State Fish and Wildlife Agencies contribute \$2 Million per year to the annual lifecycle conservation of shared priority birds in the Western Hemisphere

Mission: Encourage and facilitate state fish and wildlife agency participation in conservation projects for shared priority birds in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.





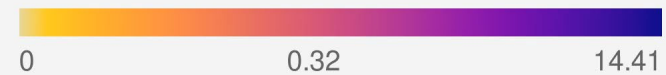
Grasshopper Sparrow

Ammodramus savannarum

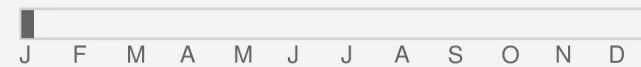
Abundance

This map animates weekly estimated relative abundance, defined as the expected count on an eBird Traveling Count starting at the optimal time of day with the optimal search duration and distance that maximizes detection of that species in a region on the specified date.

RELATIVE ABUNDANCE



WEEK OF THE YEAR January 4



Modeled area (0 abundance)
No prediction

eBird data from 2014-2018. Estimated for 2018.
Fink, D., T. Auer, A. Johnston, M. Strimas-Mackey, O. Robinson, S. Ligocki, B. Petersen, M. Iliff, and S. Kelling. eBird Status and Trends. Version: November 2019.
<https://ebird.org/science/status-and-trends>. Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York.



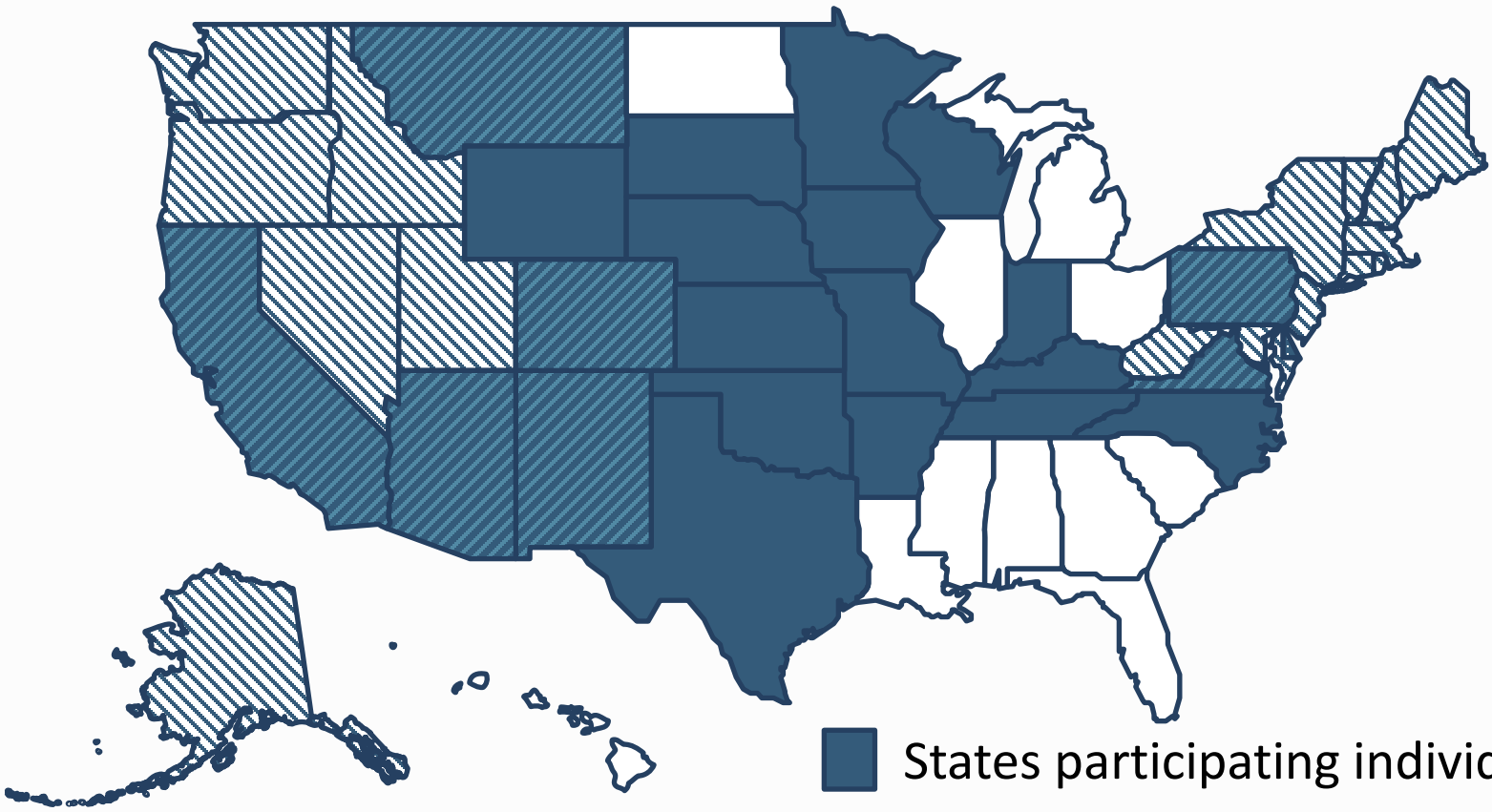
Why State Wildlife Agencies Participate

1. Complements in-state investment for SGCN species
2. Leverages limited state funds (at least 1:1)
3. Implements annual life-cycle conservation because limiting factors may not be in the U.S.
4. Helps keep birds off the ESA





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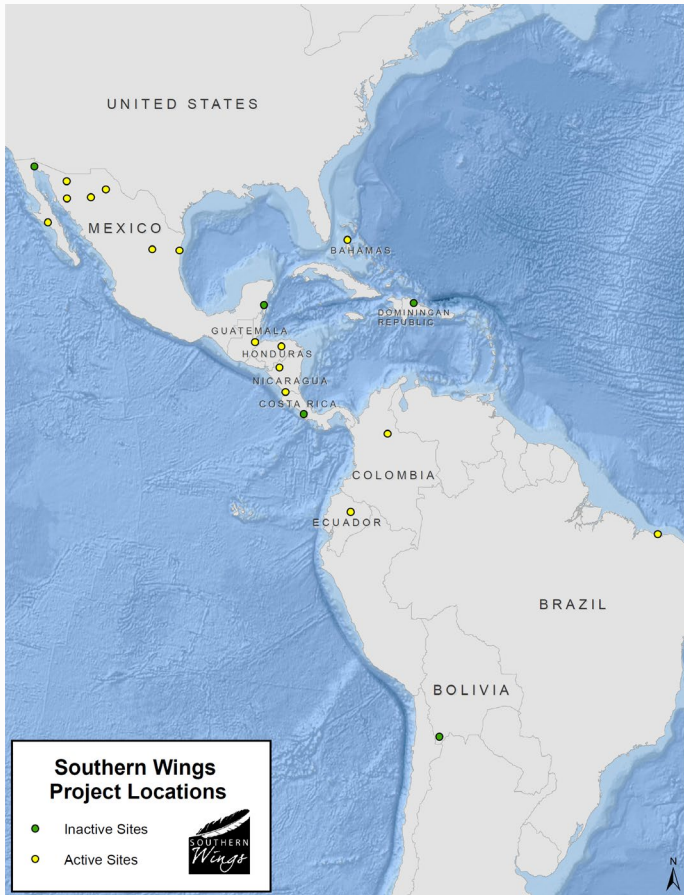
- States participating individually
- ▨ States participating as a group
- ▨■ States participating as a group and individually





What Are They Doing?

40 State agencies have contributed over \$3,500,000 to the conservation of 81 shared SGCN species in 11 countries through 24 projects.





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U.S. Based Partners

- National Audubon Society
- Bird Conservancy of the Rockies
- Birdlife International
- American Bird Conservancy
- Vermont Center For EcoStudies
- Iowa Ornithologists' Union
- Iowa Audubon Society
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act





Grasslands Conservation

- IA, NE, OK, KS, and SD
- Protect and restore native desert grasslands
- Sprague's pipit, loggerhead shrike, grasshopper sparrow, etc.
- Over 150,000 acres of grassland habitat has been secured for conservation

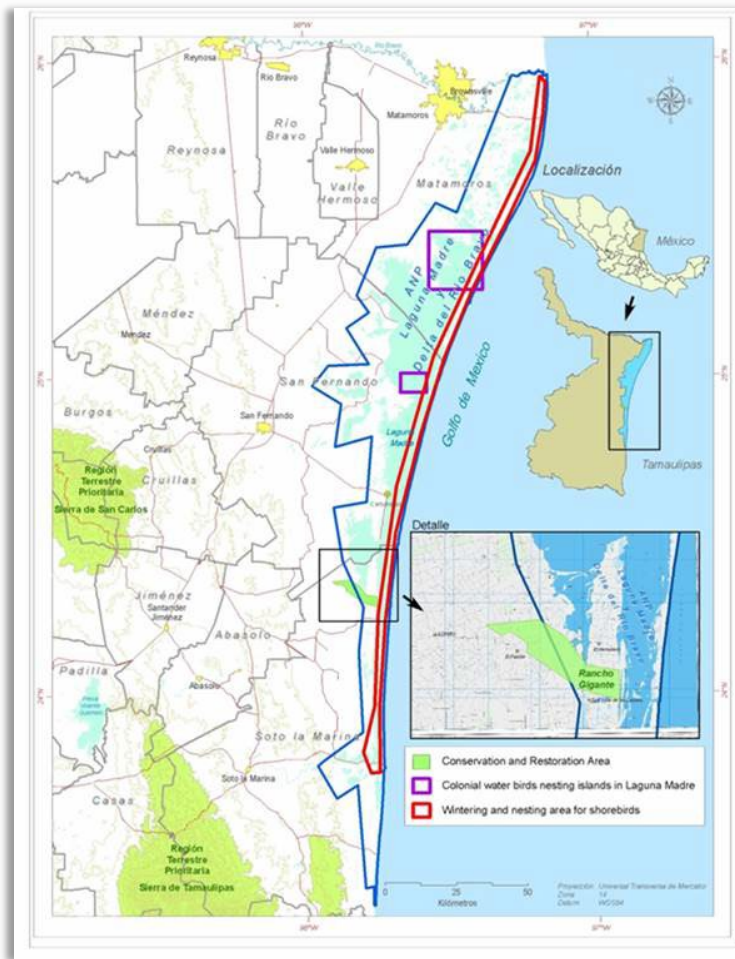


Kurt License





SOUTHERN *Wings*



Protecting stopover and wintering habitat for key priority species of shorebirds and waterbirds at Laguna Madre, Mexico

- Loss of wetlands habitat due to decreasing water availability.
- Important breeding, stopover and wintering areas for species including long-billed curlew; reddish egret; piping, snowy, and semipalmated plovers; least terns; redheads, etc.





Protecting stopover and wintering habitat for key priority species of shorebirds and waterbirds at Laguna Madre, Mexico

- Conserve habitat through protection and restoration
- Reforested 75.6 acres of mangroves by planting of nearly 21,000 mangrove saplings
- Reduced erosion by installing containment barriers, and planting mangrove trees.





Wood Thrush and Golden-winged Warbler Conservation

- Focal areas have been identified in Honduras and Nicaragua
- Actions include protection, forest restoration, and agroforestry

Conservation Action:

- Over 100,000 native trees planted
- Engaged hundreds of landowners some of which have enrolled their properties in the private reserve program



Piping Plover Conservation

A large flock of piping plovers is shown in flight over a blue body of water. The birds are white with dark wings and are scattered across the frame, some in sharp focus and others blurred, creating a sense of movement and a large population.

- **National Audubon Society, Bahamas National Trust, the NEAFWA, NC, VA, and other partners are well on the way to reaching the project goal to protect the wintering habitat of 20-25% of the Atlantic population of the piping plover through targeted actions in the Bahamas.**
- **The partnership worked with the Bahamian government to formally protect the Joulter Cays (113,900 acres) and secure 10% of the Atlantic piping plovers population.**



A Region Wide Strategy in Caribbean Guatemala

- Forests within Guatemala's Caribbean Rainforest Corridor are a vital link in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Caribbean migratory flyway of Central America.
- Stop over and wintering habitat for at least 153 species of neo-tropical migrants.



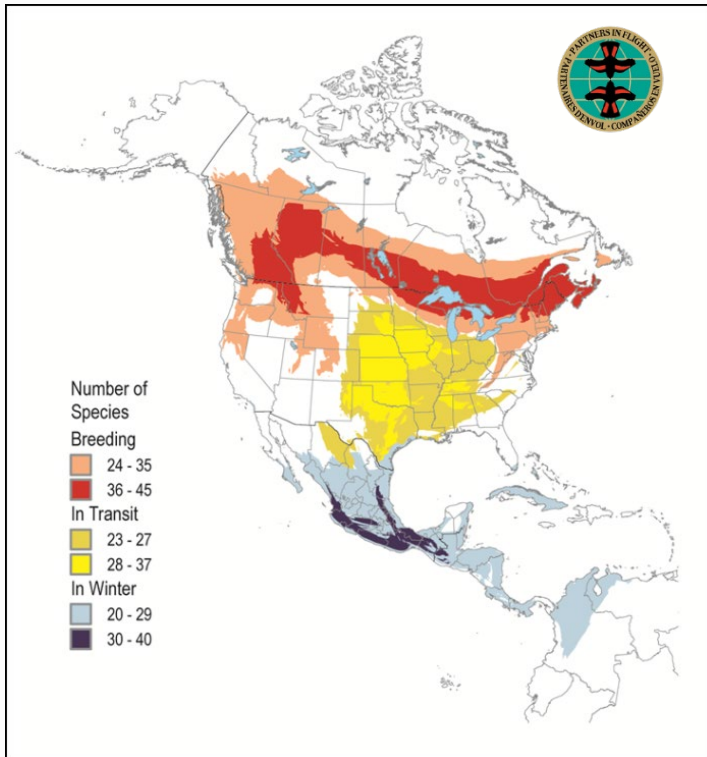


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Almost 11,000 acres of habitat have been acquired for migratory bird conservation in Guatemala!



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61 Species Substantially Shared by
Canada, Mexico & USA

- is a critical complement to in-state investment in SGCN species;
- offers an easy, transparent, and flexible process;
- strong partners that are monitored and provide reporting;
- leverages limited state funds and can provide non-federal match for SWG and PR funds;
- identifies strategic, biologically relevant actions in critical habitats; and
- helps keep species off the Endangered Species Act by addressing full life-cycle conservation needs.





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