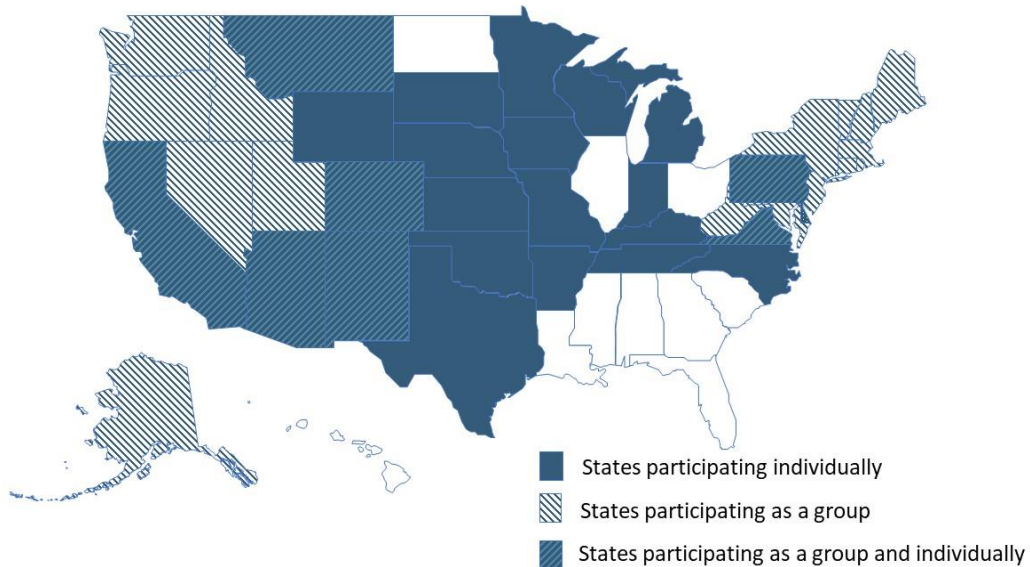




2024-2025 Project Opportunities

CONSERVING KEY SITES FOR MIGRATORY BIRDS: Over 153 shared migratory birds have been identified in the Izabal region of Guatemala including stopover sites for cerulean warblers and wintering/nonbreeding sites for golden-winged warblers. Working with FUNDAECO and American Bird Conservancy, partners conserve strategically identified areas to achieve the long-term goal of protecting priority migratory bird habitat through land acquisition, conservation, and management; agroforestry, and monitoring. We have already helped conserve over 12,000 acres. \$630,000 is needed for acquisitions. \$57,000 is needed for restoration. States with strong biological connections (primarily for landbirds) include AL, NH, NJ, NY, MD, MN, MO, OH, PA, TN, VA, WV, and WI in particular but almost all of the SEAFWA and NEAFWA states have biological connections.

**41 States
Participating
Over \$4.2 Million
for conservation**



WOOD THRUSH AND GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER

CONSERVATION: Beyond the two focal species at least 18 other shared migrants winter in the project area. The long-term goal is to reduce the rate of forest habitat loss in multiple locations in Honduras to sustain, and eventually increase, the current populations of priority migrants. To date, Southern Wings partners have facilitated habitat restoration, including the improvement of 335 acres of cacao and coffee plantations by planting 10,617 native trees, 38,530 coffee and cacao plants, and 777 fruit trees. Additionally, 17 ranchers planted 2,000 native trees and are working on grazing management to promote forest regeneration. Primary actions involve reforestation, working with landowners on agroforestry and silvipasture, and infrastructure needs. Approximately \$50,000 is needed. States with strong biological connections include CT, GA, IN, KY, ME, MD, MA, MI, MN, MO, MS, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, TN, TX, VT, VA, WV, and WI.



IMPROVING MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT IN COLOMBIA: The country of Colombia is an integral part of the lifecycle of more than 170 migratory species. The Colombian Andes have some of the highest rates of deforestation in Latin America. In Colombia, it is estimated that 87% of neotropical migratory birds occur in agroecosystems and more than 70 species have been found in coffee systems. This project targets conservation action on the eastern and western side of the central Andes. Southern Wings has supported work in the Andes for many years including helping create a conservation corridor by planting more than 500,000 saplings on 2,835 acres. In recent years, Southern Wings has supported the planting of over 185,000 trees and installed fencing to conserve over 2,000 acres. These landscapes help conserve species such as golden-winged, cerulean, and Canada warblers; yellow-billed cuckoo; and olive-sided flycatcher. The project actions include actions to increase connectivity between forest patches, restoration, outreach and education. Approximately \$49,000 is needed. Most states east of the Mississippi River and AR, IA, LA, MN, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, and TX have a strong biological connection to species supported by this project.



CONSERVATION IN WESTERN MEXICO: More than 300 bird species, 45% being neotropical migrants, including the thick-billed parrot depend on the Sierra Madre Occidental mountains in Mexico for breeding, wintering, or stopover habitat. The projects aims to protect, restore, and manage mixed coniferous forests and monitor neotropical migratory birds.

The multi-year strategy supports the conservation of shared migratory birds that have biological connections to AZ, CA, CO, NM, TX, UT, and WA. Actions include implementing habitat conservation measures to protect, restore and manage mixed coniferous forests and monitoring. Contributions of \$5,000 to \$20,000 will significantly advance implementation of project actions.



GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION: Pronatura Noreste is leading partners to successfully protect and restore native grasslands in Mexico's El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area (GPCA). Southern Wings has been a partner in this project since 2009 and has helped with the protection of over 150,000 acres of grassland habitat. The goals is to improve over 285,000 acres of grasslands through improved grassland management and erosion control.

Actions include installing infrastructure to support grassland conservation and beneficial ranching practices, restoring grasslands; and monitoring migratory birds to determine success.

To support these actions, approximately \$122,000 is needed. States with a strong biological connection to this project include CO, IA, KS, MT, NE, OK, SD, and WY.



Southern Wings has been a partner in implementing grassland conservation in the Valles Centrales GPCA with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies and many others.

Successes include:

- Working with landowners whose land covers over 612,000 acres;
- Improving over 350,000 acres of grasslands; and
- Increasing the number of Sprague's Pipits by 15% annually across ranches.

Actions will continue to focus on landowner engagement, range management, and grasslands restoration. Support of \$5,000 to \$20,000 are needed.

Seven to 28 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) in each WAFWA state have a biological connection to the species that winter in the Chihuahuan Desert.

- Baird's sparrow
- Chestnut-collared longspur
- Long-billed curlew
- Sprague's pipit
- Savannah sparrow
- Horned lark
- Grasshopper sparrow
- Ferruginous hawk
- Golden eagle



photo: Tessa Nickels



CERULEAN WARBLER CONSERVATION: Ecuador has been identified as a priority focal area for cerulean warblers. Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Missouri Department of Conservation 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. Southern Wing supported conservation work in Ecuadorian Chocó rainforest for migratory birds including olive-sided flycatcher, cerulean warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, and more. This year partners will conduct reforestation, community workshops and engage new farms in conservation in the Chocó-Canandé BirdScope in northwestern Ecuador. Approximately \$60,000 is needed.

NEOTROPICAL FLYWAY PROJECT: Close to 300 species of landbirds migrate between the Neotropics and North America. To successfully migrate, migrants typically depend on a series of stopover sites, which provide critical resources but most of the sites have yet to be identified. The project aims to (1) rapidly discover and map stopover sites; (2) determine habitat quality and stopover behavior at these sites; (3) develop conservation strategies at key stopover sites; and (4) train and build capacity among in-country biologists and managers to protect sites and continue long-term monitoring. This critical work needs \$108,000. Smaller amounts can be used to implement actions in specific areas and countries. All states in eastern U.S. have a significant biological connection through migratory species that use northern Colombia and Central America.

WHY SOUTHERN WINGS?

Southern Wings:

- offers an easy, transparent, and flexible process for states to effectively conserve migratory bird SGCNs when they are not in the U.S.;
- is a critical compliment to in-state investment on migratory bird stop over and breeding habitats;
- leverages limited state funds;
- 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 by addressing full annual cycle conservation needs.

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, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and other partners are well on the way to reach that objective. The Initiative worked with the Bahamian government to formally protect the Joulter Cays (113,900 acres) and secure 10% of the Atlantic piping plover population and protection of the Berry Islands IBA (7% of the Atlantic piping plover population). Current actions focus on research and monitoring, developing environmental education, and developing bird-based tourism. Approximately, \$61,000 is needed.

States with strong biological connections to this project are CT, DE, MD, ME, MA, NH, NY, NC, RI, VT, and VA.



PROTECTING SHOREBIRD HABITAT IN LAGUNA MADRE, MEXICO Laguna Madre, México is composed of a wide variety of ecosystems, among which are lagoons, estuaries, deltas, marshes, intertidal swamps, sea grasses, coastal dunes, and mangroves, representing a substantial role in the survival of shorebirds during their migratory cycles. The focal species include species such as Wilson's plover, snowy plover, piping plover, long-billed curlew, and red knot with benefits to other waterbirds including redheads and blue-winged teal. The work includes habitat restoration, biological monitoring, community engagement and surveillance, and land protection. Approximately, \$109,000 is needed. States with strong biological connections to this project include states in the western and midwestern U.S.



RESTORATION OF WETLAND HYDROLOGY IN THE MARISMAS NACIONALES OF NAYARIT, MEXICO TO BENEFIT MIGRATORY WATERFOWL AND SHOREBIRDS:

Marismas Nacionales is a complex of wetlands that form a mixture of marine waters and 11 powerful rivers, creating a very varied mosaic of ecosystems such as meanders, river deltas, marshes, freshwater lagoons, estuaries, coastal lagoons, intertidal wetlands and coastal dunes. The project is in the Chugüin-Chuig Tidal Basin (12,429 acres, 5,030ha), in Marismas Nacionales Biosphere Reserve. OVIS and its partners will focus on restoring hydrological flows for the recovery and conservation of mangrove ecosystems, which provide foraging sites and energy resupply for thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway. Priority species include pintail, northern shoveler, mallard, American avocet, western sandpiper, red knot, and more. Total need from Southern Wings is \$10,000. State with strong connections to this project include WAFWA states.

IDENTIFYING THREATS AND CONSERVATION HOTSPOTS FOR SHOREBIRDS IN THE PACIFIC FLYWAY:

A network of coastal and interior wetlands stretching from southern Alaska to Chile host significant aggregations of shorebirds and are critical for their survival. The Pacific Flyway Shorebird Survey and the Migratory Shorebird Project are filling gaps in species population status and trends to assess threats and identify priority sites for conservation. The primary species include western sandpiper, dunlin, marbled godwit, willet, black-bellied plover, sanderling, greater yellowlegs, dowitcher *spp.*, snowy plover, black-necked stilt and American avocet and other migratory waterbirds including black brant.

Actions this year include conducting non-breeding and breeding bird surveys, improving the conservation and management of key areas, and conducting education and outreach. The total budget is about \$20,000 but \$5,000 to \$10,000 will significantly advance implementation of these actions for shorebird/waterbirds/waterfowl that have a biological connection to most Pacific Flyway states.



Photo Credit: Tim Keyes

Migratory Bird Wintering Grounds Conservation in

Nicaragua: Nicaragua is home to a total of 706 bird species, of which 190 are migratory. The highland cloud-forest ecosystems and lowland rainforests of Nicaragua provide important wintering areas for several species of migratory birds, including the Golden-winged Warbler, and stopover areas for many species like Bay-breasted Warbler and Canada Warbler. Nearly all the Golden-winged Warbler Focal Areas identified for Nicaragua are in this region. The work in Nicaragua will contribute to two of the five strategies in the Conservation Investment Strategy for the Mid-Elevation Forests of Central and South America: strengthening small-scale sustainable agriculture and influencing local people's behaviors to have a positive relationship with nature. The budget for this year is \$58,000. Focal species include golden-winged warbler, wood thrush, golden-cheeked warbler, and more. State agencies with SGCN connections include most states east of the Mississippi River and AR, IA, LA, MN, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, and TX.



Golden-winged Warbler by MarkPeck/Flickr Creative Commons.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT: The state fish and wildlife agencies, regional state agency association, 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.

RESTORATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION IN COSTA RICA: Finca Cántaros Environmental Association aims to work in the AmistOsa Biological Corridor context to acquire multiple connected patches of up to 300 hectares of degraded cattle pasture that can be restored into habitat for birds and other species over the coming years. They aim to combine strengths by bridging the research expertise of restoration ecologists with the EE expertise of FCEA, to achieve multiple objectives that are beneficial to birds, the planet, people, science and more. Proposed activities include restoration with native trees, property acquisition, and environmental education. The budget for this year is \$81,000. Contributions of \$5,000 would support implementation of project objectives. Focal species include golden-winged warbler, Canada warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, and Baltimore oriole. State agencies with SGCN connections include most states east of the Mississippi River and AR, IA, LA, MN, MO, NE, ND, OK, SD, and TX.

CONSERVATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE DRY TROPICAL FORESTS OF EL SALVADOR: ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING THREATS TO OVERWINTERING HABITAT AND BIRD POPULATIONS: Numerous SGCN's from throughout the pacific flyway use Central America's Pacific coast during stopover, migration, and overwintering. In the lowlands portion of the dry tropical forest 364 bird species have been recorded, including 38 species that are considered SGCN from across 12 western states. Two priority species in this region are the Southwestern willow flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo. Project activities include working with local landowners and the federal environmental department to conserve dry tropical forest, conduct bird monitoring to inform management, and support efforts to build local awareness. The total need is \$17,000 but contributions of \$5,000 would support implementation of project objectives. State agencies with SGCN connections include AK, AZ, CA, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, OR, UT, WA, and WY.



Contact information:

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

Deb Hahn
202-838-3458
dhahn@fishwildlife.org

Bradley Wilkinson
202-838-3475
bwilkinson@fishwildlife.org