

Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act *IMPACT Program*

IMPACT

Identifying Measures of Performance and Achieving Conservation Targets (IMPACT) is an effort targeting 13 highly threatened Neotropical migratory bird species, with the goal of achieving a **measurable biological improvement** in these species over the next 5-10 years.

Twenty-five to 30 percent of grant funding from the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is dedicated to the IMPACT program. IMPACT program projects must demonstrate and measure the improvement they have made in priority species' populations, or improve information on the factors limiting these and other threatened species' populations. Projects not accepted for IMPACT program funding remain eligible for funding through the core NMBCA grants program.

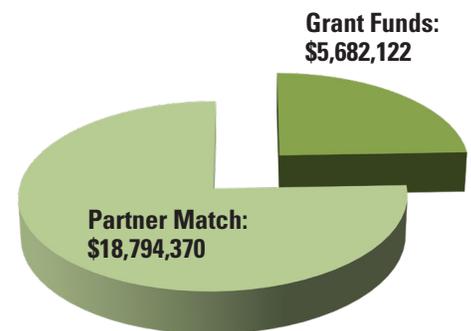
IMPACT...

- **Conserves high priority species**
- **Requires measurable outcomes**
- **Focuses conservation efforts**
- **Catalyzes partnerships**
- **Promotes stewardship**

A Strategy for the Future

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Advisory Group led the development of the IMPACT program, which began funding projects in 2012 and may run through 2022. The group will use the results of the IMPACT program to determine a strategy for the future direction of the NMBCA program.

2012-2018 IMPACT Program Grants



Grant Funds: \$5,682,122

Matching Funds: \$18,794,370

Match Ratio: 3.3 to 1

Projects: 45

Countries: 15

The Core Program

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants program conserves Neotropical migrants for the benefit of the American people. It provides financial resources to conserve 386 species of Neotropical migratory birds throughout the Western Hemisphere. Since 2002, the grant program has awarded more than \$66.1 million in grants, matched 3.8-to-1 by non-federal partners, affecting 4.5 million acres across 36 countries.

The core NMBCA program complements the IMPACT program by maintaining a funding source for all Neotropical migratory species and addressing broader, more difficult to measure conservation outcomes.



Golden-Cheeked Warblers are one of 13 species prioritized for support through the IMPACT program of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Credit: Steve Maslowski/USFWS



The U.S.-Mexico Grassland Conservation Project conserves declining species of grassland birds like the Mountain Plover. Credit: Seabamirum on Flickr CC BY 2.0

Projects

Projects funded through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act IMPACT program must demonstrate an improvement in conservation status for a priority species in a measurable way, or increase conservation knowledge about factors limiting these species' populations. Long-term goals may include:

- **increase a species' reproductive success** on a portion of its breeding grounds as measured by local or regional surveys;
- **improve the population trend of a species** as measured by the North American Breeding Bird Survey;
- **improve the survival of a species** on a portion of its wintering grounds (used by a significant percentage of the population); or
- **reduce the most significant threat** to a target species in a locality or region.



IMPACT-funded outreach campaigns in Bolivia educate people about species that spend their summers in the north. Credit: Armonia

IMPACT program projects will show targeted conservation results within 5-10 years, keeping priority species from decline and complementing long-term investment strategies.

2018 Project Examples

U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation XVI

This project will continue work to conserve high-priority and declining grassland birds of western North America. This work includes identification of important areas, habitats, threats and limiting factors for grassland birds on their Chihuahuan Desert wintering grounds, and landowner collaboration in critical areas to implement best practices, secure conservation agreements, and restore habitat for Sprague's Pipit and 27 other declining grassland species.

Saving the Golden-cheeked Warbler Wintering Habitat I

This project will replicate the approach of incorporating better forest management practices with high conservation values from Chiapas to Guatemala. Partners will share a Conservation Plan for the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler wintering habitat, restore pine oak forest, and conduct field surveys to update the potential winter habitat modeling for the species, along the species winter range.

Priority Species

- Bicknell's Thrush*
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper*
- Cerulean Warbler*
- Golden-cheeked Warbler*
- Golden-winged Warbler*
- Hudsonian Godwit*
- Kirtland's Warbler*
- Long-billed Curlew*
- Mountain Plover*
- Painted Bunting*
- Reddish Egret*
- Red Knot*
- Sprague's Pipit*

The IMPACT program focuses on 13 highly threatened species. These species were chosen both for their urgent conservation need and for our partners' capacity to monitor them and measure population-level results.

How To Apply

IMPACT Program applications follow the same deadlines and submission process as the core NMBCA program, but there are additional requirements. Proposals must clearly address the most important factors limiting growth or stability in populations of targeted species. Proposals should show clear cause-and-effect linkages between the proposed one- to two-year grant period objectives and activities and the identified long-term goals for improved population status. For detailed instructions visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act/how-to-apply.php>

More Information

For more information, contact Guy Foulks, NMBCA Program Coordinator, at 703/358-1944 or Guy_B_Foulks@fws.gov.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Bird Habitat Conservation
5275 Leesburg Pike MS-MB
Falls Church, Virginia 22041 USA
+1 703/358-1784**

**neotropical@fws.gov
<https://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/neotropical-migratory-bird-conservation-act.php>**

October 2018

