

# Leveraging Funds for Effective Conservation in the Americas

## *The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act*

### Catalyzing Conservation across the Western Hemisphere

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) projects benefit most of the 386 bird species that breed in the continental United States or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. These projects have positively affected more than 4.5 million acres of bird habitat and spurred partnerships at local, regional, and international levels.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act promotes long-term conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats through a competitive grants program, by:

- **sparkling partnership-based** conservation, supporting hundreds of public-private collaborations;
- **energizing local**, on-the-ground conservation efforts;



*Cerulean warblers benefit from NMBCA funding that helps to protect critical habitat in Colombia*  
Credit: Jerry Oldenettel CC BY 2.0



*Red Knots are one of 386 Neotropical migratory species that benefit from NMBCA.*  
Credit: Gregory Breese/USFWS

- **achieving habitat protection** and other critical bird conservation activities in 36 countries; and
- **building conservation capacity** in local organizations.

The goals of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act include perpetuating healthy bird populations, providing financial resources for bird conservation, and fostering international cooperation. Because the greatest need is south of

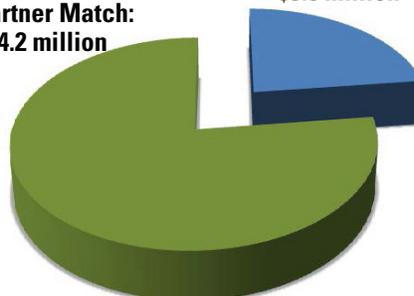
the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States. The grants program requires a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3 to 1. However it has achieved a **match ratio of nearly 4 to 1**, multiplying the program's on-the-ground investment at a rate that surpasses many other conservation grant programs. Each year, grant requests from qualified applicants far exceed the available funding, demonstrating strong demand and awareness of these resources.

### 2018 Grants

Projects: 29  
Countries: 16

Partner Match:  
\$14.2 million

Grant Funds:  
\$3.8 million



### Program Impacts since 2002

**Grant Funding:** \$66 million

**Matching Funds:** \$250 million

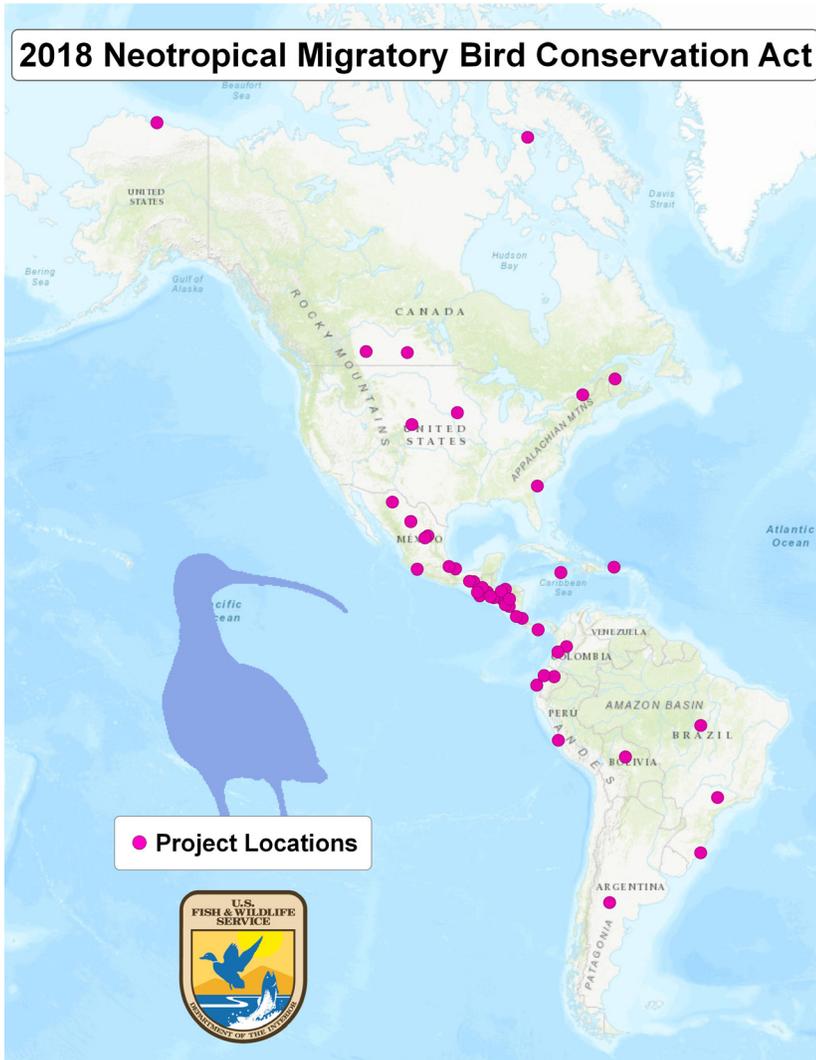
**Match Ratio:** 3.8 to 1

**Projects:** 570

**Countries:** 36

**Acres Affected:** 4,500,000

## 2018 Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act



### Project Highlights

#### *Saving the Golden-cheeked Warbler Wintering Habitat*

This project will implement a conservation plan for the endangered golden-cheeked warbler through the restoration of pine-oak forest in Honduras, sustainable forest management in Mexico, and through conducting field surveys on wintering habitat.

#### *Steele Family Ltd. Partnership Acquisition Project*

The Steele Family Limited Partnership acquisition will preserve and buffer tallgrass prairie that is important breeding and migration habitat in the Little Sioux River watershed of northwest Iowa. It will ultimately expand the Iowa Department of Natural Resources' 1,834-acre Waterman Prairie Wildlife Management Area.

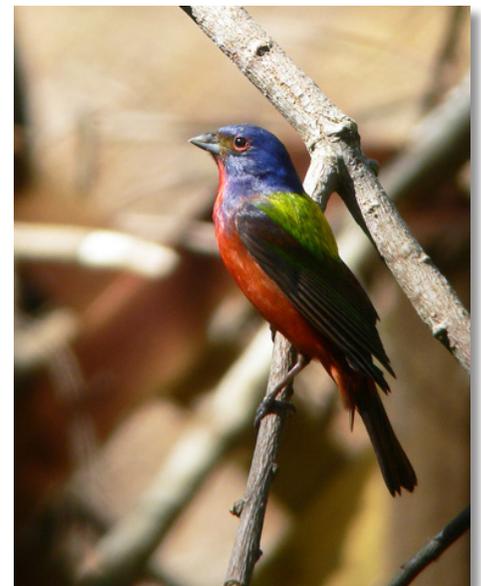
#### *Conserving Bicknell's Thrush on Canadian Breeding Grounds*

The grantees will partner with timber companies and management agencies to implement best practices to reduce mortality and habitat loss; conduct research to improve long-term protection of Bicknell's thrush; and continue regional and range-wide surveys to evaluate the success of conservation actions over the medium- and long-term.

### Key Habitats and Actions

The conversion of grasslands for agriculture is causing the number of grassland birds to decline rapidly. Conservation of these important ecosystems throughout the hemisphere is a high priority for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which has supported two large-scale conservation efforts aimed at conserving grasslands with annual grants over ten years.

Grants fund a broad array of efforts to conserve these and other threatened habitats including securing, restoring, and managing habitat; conducting law enforcement activities; providing community outreach and education; and supporting population research and monitoring.



*The Painted Bunting is another beneficiary of NMBCA funding.*

Credit: Steve Shunk/USFWS

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