

## Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Grants 2019

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**Project Name** U.S.-MEXICO GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION XVII

**Congressional District** CO-LARIMER-2

**Grantee Organization** BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

**Project Officer** Arvind Panjabi

**Grantee Email** arvind.panjabi@birdconservancy.org

**Project Country** MX,US

**Partner Name** LOC-CITY OF FORT COLLINS, LOC-LARIMER COUNTY

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$1,100,000.00

**Joint Venture** PLAYA LAKES

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 18-Shortgrass Prairie, BCR 34-Sierra Madre Occidental, BCR 35-Chihuahuan Desert

**Ecoregion** NA0815-Western Short Grasslands, NA1303-Chihuahuan Desert

**Project Description** Since 2012, project partners have engaged landowners in northern Mexico to build the Sustainable Grazing Network (SGN) to sustainably manage ranches and increase abundance and survival of priority grassland birds. For 15 years, the SGN has protected 285,000 acres and improved 73,000 acres of grasslands. Monitoring of birds and vegetation response on SGN lands shows significant increases in Sprague's Pipits and other species. We have worked with local partners in Colorado to protect and manage threatened grasslands along the rapidly expanding Front Range urban corridor that serve as both breeding and stopover habitat for 20 high priority grassland birds. This project will 1) expand the SGN by 20,000 acres and develop management plans for these lands, 2) enhance 10,000 acres of SGN grasslands through improved grazing management and restore at least 200 acres of degraded grasslands, 3) monitor grassland birds across all SGN lands to assess impact, 4) hold the first "Encuentro Ganadero" in northern Mexico to bring ranchers and conservationists together for grassland conservation, and 5) convene partners to set population and habitat targets for priority grassland bird species in Mexican Grassland Priority Conservation Areas.

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**Project Name** SAVING A CRUCIAL GATEWAY TO SOUTH AMERICA FOR NEOTROPICAL MIGRANTS

**Grantee Organization** FUNDACION PROAVES

**Project Officer** Larryn Atehortua Velez

**Grantee Email** larryn@proaves.org

**Project Country** CO

**Partner Name** CON-RAINFOREST TRUST

**Grant Award Amount** \$195,051.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$727,618.00

**Ecoregion** NT0159-Santa Marta Montane Forests

**Project Description** Colombia's Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta is a highly biodiverse, isolated mountain range located along the country's northern Caribbean coast that serves as a critical wintering and stopover site for 132 species of migratory birds entering South America. This includes two of the world's most threatened migrant landbirds: the Cerulean Warbler (CERW) and Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA). The CERW and GWWA depend on tropical forests at protected locations such as the El Dorado Reserve within the Sierra Nevada for their survival during annual migration. Unfortunately, important habitat throughout the region is quickly being destroyed. Following decades of uncontrolled colonization and agricultural expansion, only 15% of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta's original vegetation remains unaltered. Through this proposal during 2019-2020, partners will protect two new properties that will grow and help to consolidate El Dorado Reserve by 529 acres, all of which will need habitat restoration. They will ensure the ongoing protection and management of 2,985 acres at El Dorado Reserve, thereby safeguarding vital stopover and wintering locations - particularly for populations of CERW and GWWA.

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**Project Name** RESTORING HABITAT FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MIGRATORY HUMMINGBIRDS

**Grantee Organization** ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAS

**Project Officer** Sarahy Contreras

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**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** CON-JIRA, FED-RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA SIERRA MANANTLAN (CONANP), SCH-UNIVERSIDAD DE GUADALAJARA

**Grant Award Amount** \$35,208.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$121,655.00

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 47-Eje Neovolcanico Transversal

**Ecoregion** NT0310-Trans-Mexican Volcanic Belt Pine-Oak Forests

**Project Description** This is a two-year conservation initiative to determine the impacts of fire on the floral nectar resources of migratory hummingbirds in key wintering habitats in the Sierra de Manantlán Biosphere Reserve (SMBR) in Jalisco, Mexico and to act on the management practices and restoration strategies developed from that research at local, regional, and international levels. Partners will provide much-needed management recommendations that address the timing of prescribed fires and the restoration of post-fire habitat through a 378 hectare restoration project that will be monitored and used as a model for future efforts. The project will benefit six Neotropical migratory hummingbird species, focusing primarily upon Rufous Hummingbird, an important pollinator and long-distance migrant whose populations have declined steadily since 1980. This project's end products will include: 1) an assessment of the impacts of fire and fire severity on hummingbird habitat; 2) the role of post-fire restoration on meadows and other habitats used by hummingbirds; 3) recommendations for land managers regarding the effective use of fire as a management tool with consideration of migratory

hummingbirds; and 4) restoration of 378 hectares to provide the nectar-producing plants migratory hummingbirds need to survive at non-breeding sites.

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**Project Name** REDUCTION OF THREATS OF PRIORITY ANM, ALTIPLANO POTOSINO

**Grantee Organization** ORGANIZACION VIDA SILVESTRE, A.C.

**Project Officer** Mario Alberto Morales Loa

**Grantee Email** mmorales@ovis.org.mx

**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** CON-CEMENTOS MEXICANOS (CEMEX) S.A. DE C.V., LOC-EJIDO EL SALADO, SCH-INSTITUTO POTOSINO DE INVESTIGACION CIENTIFICA Y TECNOLOGICA, CON-ORGANIZACION VIDA SILVESTRE, A.C., PRO-TERRA CONSULTORES DE MEXICO, S.C., SCH-UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

**Grant Award Amount** \$177,771.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$597,887.00

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 35-Chihuahuan Desert

**Ecoregion** NA1303-Chihuahuan Desert

**Project Description** Grassland bird populations are declining more rapidly compared to any other group of birds in North America. In the Tokio region of Mexico, it is estimated that more than 80% of the original range of pastures has been eliminated, and therefore there is an urgent need to recover and connect this critical habitat for the benefit of grassland bird populations. The project focuses on recovering short pastures, which constitute specialized and critical winter habitat for three high priority species: Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew and Sprague's Pipit. Together we hope to (1) increase the habitat available for these species by more than 4,200 hectares (10,378.4 acres) and (2) protect more than 10,000 hectares (24,710.5 acres) through Voluntary Conservation Areas and Forest Management Units. We will also implement better livestock and agricultural practices in at least 20,000 hectares (49,421 acres). These actions are expected to improve winter survival and the trend of these bird populations. In addition, (3) we will provide information on the abundance and distribution of birds and provide valuable information to generate demographic projections and habitat models during the winter season.

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**Project Name** PROTECTION OF UNTILLED LOESS HILLS PRAIRIE & WOODLAND

**Location (County)** IA-PLYMOUTH

**Congressional District** IA-PLYMOUTH-4

**Grantee Organization** THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

**Project Officer** Graham McGaffin

**Grantee Email** gmcgaffin@tnc.org

**Project Country** US

**Partner Name** CON-THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN IOWA

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$601,900.00

**Joint Venture** UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 22-Eastern Tallgrass Prairie

**Ecoregion** NA0805-Central Tall Grasslands

**Project Description** The proposed project will protect 243 acres of an 834-acre tract of untilled prairie and oak woodland in the Loess Hills of western Iowa. The remainder of the tract (591 acres) will be acquired simultaneously (funding for this portion will be from other sources and not part of our match for this project). As an addition to Iowa DNR's Stone State Park, the 834-acre Hummel tract will establish a conservation complex of over 3,000 acres by connecting the 1,550-acre park to the 220-acre Heendah Hills preserve and to several conservation easements. The habitat in this area of the Loess Hills is threatened by fragmentation and development due to its proximity to the Sioux City metropolitan. The tract was slated for auction, which would have resulted in the tract being split into five parcels, some of which were to be sold for development purposes. This addition is a rare opportunity to protect a significant amount of land and habitat in the Loess Hills.

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**Project Name** PROTECTING EAST ANDEAN SUBTROPICAL FORESTS IN ECUADOR

**Grantee Organization** FUNDACION JOCOTOCO

**Project Officer** Michael Moens

**Grantee Email** michael.moens@jocotoco.org

**Project Country** EC

**Partner Name** CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-FUNDACION JOCOTOCO, CON-RAINFOREST TRUST, CON-WORLD LAND TRUST

**Grant Award Amount** \$109,480.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$640,782.00

**Ecoregion** NT0121-Eastern Cordillera Real Montane Forests

**Project Description** Habitat loss and climate change in the Neotropics are key threats to migratory birds. Deforestation is higher in Ecuador than elsewhere in South America. This project addresses crucial threats on an area of 91,428 acres in southeastern Ecuador. This region is a key overwintering site for Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher. In this area, we manage the 8,305 acres large Tapichalaca reserve. We will expand the reserve with 494 acres and maintain a 42-acre reforestation area. Together with the local community at Palanda we will continue our habitat enrichment program on 890 acres of shade-grown coffee plantations by maintaining 10,000 saplings on 166 coffee farms. On 1667 acres, we will monitor all migratory bird species over a pronounced altitudinal gradient from Tapichalaca reserve (3400 meters) to enriched shade-grown coffee plantations (1200 meters) in order to identify key areas for reserve expansion and corridor creation, to understand the habitat preferences of migratory birds, and to collect base line data for shifts in their altitudinal ranges. We will promote the certification of bird-friendly coffee in the coffee farm association with a

focus on migratory birds, to promote sustainability of this excellent high-altitude coffee in national and international markets.

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**Project Name** PROTECTING CERULEAN & GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLERS IN COLOMBIA III

**Grantee Organization** FUNDACION PROAVES

**Project Officer** Larryn Atehortua Velez

**Grantee Email** larryn@proaves.org

**Project Country** CO

**Partner Name** CON-RAINFOREST TRUST

**Grant Award Amount** \$199,478.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$799,425.00

**Ecoregion** NT0109-Cauca Valley Montane Forests, NT0110-Cayos Miskitos-San Andres & Providencia Moist Forests, NT0118-Cordillera Oriental Montane Forests, NT0136-Magdalena Valley Montane Forests, NT0145-Northwestern Andean Montane Forests, NT0201-Apure-Villavicencio Dry Forests, NT1006-Northern Andean Paramo

**Project Description** Two of the most threatened Neotropical migrant landbird species experiencing decades of population declines - the Cerulean Warbler (CERW) and Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) - depend on tropical forests across Colombia as stopover and wintering sites for their survival during their annual migrations. However, now more than ever, this habitat is being destroyed at an accelerated rate. The situation is particularly dire as the country emerges from 50 years of a violent civil war that ironically protected much of its natural resources by preventing development and international investment. As peace settles across the nation, deforestation rates have nearly doubled each year since 2015. This project will directly protect and manage habitat at 19 of those protected areas encompassing 46,724 acres that are important stopover and wintering locations for CERW and GWWA; to expand Colombia's protected area network for migratory birds by protecting an additional 3,322 acres at two of those sites; to restore 1,870 acres of migratory bird habitat at two of those sites; to monitor populations of CERW and GWWA at those sites; and to raise awareness about the conservation of these species through education and public outreach with surrounding communities.

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**Project Name** PROT & REST CRITICAL SHOREBIRD MIG SITES, CHILE'S S. CENTER BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOT

**Grantee Organization** NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Project Officer** Matthew Jeffery

**Grantee Email** mjeffery@audubon.org

**Project Country** CL

**Partner Name** CON-COMITE NACIONAL PRO DEFENSA DE LA FAUNA Y FLORA (CODEFF), CON-NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Grant Award Amount** \$168,508.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$506,369.00

**Ecoregion** NT0404-Valdivian Temperate Forests, NT1201-Chilean Matorral

**Project Description** Shorebird populations are experiencing large-scale declines along the Pacific Americas Flyway. Wetlands on the Pacific coast of Chile provide seasonal foraging and roosting habitats for hundreds of thousands of Neotropical migratory shorebirds every year, but they are threatened by development, degradation and pollution. Recently the Chilean Government has provided a major opportunity to improve shorebird conservation in Chile through the launch of a National Wetlands Protection Initiative. One of the focal sites for the Country's initiative is the Humedal-Marisma Rocuant Andalién Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) in the Concepción area of central Chile. This site supports several Neotropical and Nearctic shorebird Species of Conservation Concern including the Hudsonian Godwit and Red Knot. Extensive expertise in conservation planning, saltmarsh restoration, community environmental education and development of sustainable economic development tools including bird-based tourism will be mobilized to build local capacity that can be replicated in other sites. Major outcomes will include: (1) Development of a Conservation Action Plan utilizing the Open Standards methodology and broad community participation, (2) Establishment of a community awareness and outreach program, (3) Capacity development for staff from Chilean conservation organization CODEFF, local municipalities, and Ministry of Environment personnel.

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**Project Name** MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION VIA SHADE CROP FARMING II

**Grantee Organization** PROVITA

**Project Officer** Jon Paul Rodriguez

**Grantee Email** jprodriguez@provitaonline.org

**Project Country** VE

**Partner Name** CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, OTH-BRITISH EMBASSY, CON-IUCN SPECIES SURVIVAL COMMISSION (SSC), LOC-PIEDRA DE CACHIMBO FARMERS, CON-PROVITA, FED-SMITHSONIAN CONSERVATION BIOLOGY INSTITUTE, SCH-U.E. LUIS ANTONIO ARCIA MIRABAL

**Grant Award Amount** \$124,355.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$372,750.00

**Ecoregion** NT0117-Cordillera La Costa Montane Forests

**Project Description** This project builds on the success of Phase I, funded in 2017 by NMBCA, across 200 hectares. Here we propose to scale up organic and Bird-Friendly certification to double our total impact, to an additional 200 hectares of shade crop farms (400 hectares total) in a megadiverse region of the Venezuelan Andes, in a corridor between two key national parks where deforestation risk is exceedingly high. Because focal areas are chosen strategically, and we include a new element of farmer-led tree planting, activities will furthermore prevent otherwise inevitable deforestation at higher altitudes, thus supporting conservation in a total of 1,400 hectares of crucial habitat for many species of migratory and resident birds. This project will promote preservation of both natural and cultural heritage, bolster sustainable livelihoods, and introduce elementary school children to the benefits of leaving forests standing for both birds and people through the Smithsonian's longstanding "Bridging the Americas" curriculum. Future scalability potential includes more than 20,000 hectares (49,400 acres) of coffee plantations as well as large areas of cacao and other crops, for which certification criteria are being developed.

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**Project Name** IMPLEMENTING GOLDEN-CHEEKED WARBLER CONSERVATION PLAN IN CHIAPAS IV

**Grantee Organization** PRONATURA SUR, A.C.

**Project Officer** Claudia Macias Caballero

**Grantee Email** cmacias@pronatura-sur.org

**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** CON-CENTRO DE FORMACION PARA LA SUSTENTABILIDAD MOXVIQUIL, A.C., CON-COMITE DE CUENCA DEL VALLE DE JOVEL, CON-PRONATURA SUR, A.C.

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$628,000.00

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 58-Altos de Chiapas

**Ecoregion** NT0303-Central American Pine-Oak Forests

**Project Description** This proposal focuses on reducing Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA) habitat pressure particularly in Chiapas State of Mexico. The project will contribute to the goals established in the Mesoamerican Pine-Oak Forest and Golden-cheeked Warbler Conservation Plan updated through 2028. Partners will (1) Protect GCWA Habitat through the establishment of a Conservation Easement in a private land (140 hectares), (2) Recover habitat by producing and planting 50,000 trees with a specific composition related to precipitation and altitude to meet GCWA habitat needs (20 hectares), (3) Increase Sustainable Forest Management using best forest management practices in the Sierra Madre of Chiapas implementing the guidelines that have been formally adopted by Mexican authorities SEMARNAT, CONAFOR and CONANP for the evaluation and authorization of forest management programs under conservation criteria in Chiapas (5,000 hectares of forest), (4) Train 20 teachers who will work with 500 children and young indigenous students to teach about the GCWA and its habitat, and (5) Contribute research and findings to the GCWA conservation network.

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**Project Name** GPCAS ENHANCEMENT IN THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT

**Grantee Organization** PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C.

**Project Officer** Iris Anahi Banda Villanueva

**Grantee Email** ibanda@pronaturane.org

**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** FED-COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL (CONAFOR), LOC-EJIDO LA SOLEDAD, LOC-EJIDO OJO LAGUNA , PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C., FED-RESERVA DE LA BIOSFERA DE MAPIMI (CONANP), STA-SECRETARIA DE MEDIO AMBIENTE (SEMA) DEL ESTADO DE COAHUILA

**Grant Award Amount** \$199,909.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$1,590,226.00

**Joint Venture** RIO GRANDE

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 35-Chihuahuan Desert

**Ecoregion** NA1303-Chihuahuan Desert

**Project Description** For three years, Pronatura Noreste, A.C. organized and coordinated universities, government and different Non-governmental organizations in grassland conservation workshops for priority species of binational interest, resulting in the "Business Plan for the Conservation of Wintering Grounds of Sprague's pipit (SPPI)" developed in the framework of the Partners in Flight V meeting, as well as the "Business Plan for the Conservation of Mountain Plover (MOPL). The objectives of this proposal are: protect 826,033 acres of grasslands in Mapimí, El Tokio and VACE GPCAs through certification of Area Voluntarily Destined for Conservation, conservation agreements and two Federal and State Natural Protected Areas; 2) manage 580,803 acres of grasslands in Mapimí, El Tokio and VACE GPCAs through the elaboration, implementation and strengthening of Sustainable Livestock Management Plans; 3) Restore 18,001 acres of priority habitat by soil restoration works; 4) Evaluate the land use change rate from all GPCAs in Mexico and develop a grassland conservation strategy in context of water availability; 5) Develop an avian monitoring at Mapimí GPCA, to compare density and richness inside and outside of the Mapimi Biosphere Reserve; 6) Develop a grasslands management and environmental education toolbox, for trainers across the Chihuahuan Desert.

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**Project Name** FULL ANNUAL CYCLE SCIENCE TO CONSERVE GRASSLAND BIRDS

**Congressional District** CO-LARIMER-2, CO-WELD-4, MT-AT LARGE-0, ND-AT LARGE-0

**Grantee Organization** BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES

**Project Officer** Erin Strasser

**Grantee Email** erin.strasser@birdconservancy.org

**Project Country** MX,US

**Partner Name** CON-BIRD CONSERVANCY OF THE ROCKIES, LOC-CITY OF FORT COLLINS NATURAL AREAS PROGRAM, LOC-LARIMER COUNTY, CO, STA-SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF GAME, FISH & PARKS, SCH-UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE NUEVO LEON (UANL)

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$1,143,368.00

**Joint Venture** PLAYA LAKES

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 11-Prairie Potholes, BCR 17-Badlands and Prairies, BCR 18-Shortgrass Prairie, BCR 34-Sierra Madre Occidental, BCR 35-Chihuahuan Desert

**Ecoregion** NA0810-Northern Mixed Grasslands, NA0812-Northern Tall Grasslands, NA0815-Western Short Grasslands, NA1303-Chihuahuan Desert

**Project Description** Project proponents will use research and monitoring to aid conservation of grassland birds across their full annual cycle by filling critical information gaps on limiting factors and wintering ecology, capacity building to train Mexican nationals in grassland bird identification and monitoring, as well as monitor, protect, and manage breeding and stopover habitat for declining grassland birds. Integral to their approach will be developing an Integrated Population Model (IPM) to advance our understanding of Baird's Sparrow population declines. The IPM will identify when and where in the annual cycle Baird's Sparrows are most limited and identify the best use of resources to conserve Baird's Sparrows and potentially other declining grassland birds that winter in the Chihuahuan Desert as well as other regions that these species use during their annual cycle. Through the City of Fort Collins, we will conduct bird monitoring on 240.5 acres of grassland bird breeding and stopover habitat,

and monitor a newly discovered breeding population of Baird's Sparrow on the front range of Colorado. These actions will help guide conservation and management of these acres and ~36,000 acres of already protected grassland and foothills shrubland managed by the City and Larimer County for recreation and wildlife habitat.

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**Project Name** CRITICAL HABITAT PROTECTION FOR NMBS IN THE MOUNTAINS OF DURANGO III

**Location (County)** DGO-DURANGO, NAY-NAYARIT, SIN-SINALOA

**Grantee Organization** PRONATURA NOROESTE, A.C.

**Project Officer** Miguel Angel Vargas Tellez

**Grantee Email** mvargas@pronatura-noroeste.org

**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** FED-DIRECCION REGIONAL NORTE Y SIERRA MADRE OCCIDENTAL (CONANP), LOC-EJIDO LOS AZULES, LOC-EJIDO PUEBLO NUEVO, CON-PRONATURA NOROESTE, A.C., FED-SECRETARIA DE RECURSOS NATURALES Y MEDIO AMBIENTE (SRNYMA)

**Grant Award Amount** \$152,570.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$659,300.00

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 34-Sierra Madre Occidental

**Ecoregion** NA0302-Sierra Madre Occidental Pine-Oak Forests

**Project Description** The project will consolidate the protection of Neotropical migratory birds in Durango's temperate and tropical forests. Partners will work in two sites: El Ejido Pueblo Nuevo and La Michilia Biosphere Reserve, both located in the State of Durango. They will add a new layer of protection by promoting an Management Area (UMA) in 5,000 hectares, implementing restoration activities derived from the Sustainable Forest Management Plan, as well as elaborating the Management Plan in 35,000 hectares of the Natural Protected Area and conforming of its advisory council. This project strengthens the conservation of these forests, which house more than 369 species of birds, 169 Neotropical species. The project focuses on Important Bird Areas Presidio Pueblo Nuevo, Durango and La Michilia (CONABIO). The Durango Mountains are strategic zones for terrestrial biodiversity and for the provision of ecosystem services such as regulation of temperature and humidity, soil and water conservation, carbon capture and storage, and conservation of biological diversity, among others. The project has strong support from the ejido and from the state and federal authorities.

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**Project Name** CONSERVING BICKNELL'S THRUSH WINTERING HABITAT V

**Grantee Organization** AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

**Project Officer** Andrew Rothman

**Grantee Email** arothman@abcbirds.org

**Project Country** DO

**Partner Name** CON-AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY, CON-FUNDACION LOMA QUITA ESPUELA, FED-MINISTERIO DE MEDIO AMBIENTE Y RECURSOS NATURALES, CON-SOCIEDAD ORNITOLOGICA DE LA

HISPANIOLA

**Grant Award Amount** \$99,997.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$406,330.00

**Ecoregion** NT0127-Hispaniolan Moist Forests, NT0215-Hispaniolan Dry Forests, NT0305-Hispaniolan Pine Forests

**Project Description** Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) is a neotropical migratory bird species whose population overwinters predominantly in the Dominican Republic where forest habitat is under threat from agricultural expansion and fire. With past NMBCA support, significant progress has been made in identifying and protecting critical habitat, managing that habitat, and restoring previously lost habitat for BITH in the DR. This project builds and expands upon those advances. This project will: 1) improve management of four key habitat areas by supporting park guard personnel, patrols, and boundary-marking 2) engage coffee and cacao farmers in Bird-Friendly production methods; 3) restore 73 hectares by planting more than 35,000 native trees and coffee plants, 3) monitor presence, and distribution of BITH and other Partners in Flight priority migratory species; and 4) conduct land tenure studies to explore opportunities for expanding land protection. With matching funds, we will: 1) hire 7 new park guards, and maintain 11 existing guards and two reserve managers; 2) build a new guard station 3) create a new 7.5 hectare private reserve; and 4) build capacity in our partner through construction of an ecotourism facility and a fundraising/educational event.

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**Project Name** CONSERVING ANGUILLA'S ISLANDS AS SAFE HAVENS

**Grantee Organization** FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

**Project Officer** Jennifer Daltry

**Grantee Email** jenny.daltry@fauna-flora.org

**Project Country** AI

**Partner Name** CON-ANGUILLA NATIONAL TRUST, STA-DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES & MARINE RESOURCES (DFMR), CON-FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

**Grant Award Amount** \$184,700.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$598,163.00

**Ecoregion** NT0220-Leeward Islands Dry Forests, NT1310-Leeward Islands Xeric Scrub

**Project Description** More than 80 Neotropical Migratory Birds use the islands of Anguilla that link the Virgin Islands to the Lesser Antilles but, as on many Caribbean islands, they face threats from alien invasive predators and an increasingly degraded and fragmented habitat. This project builds on recent progress to restore and manage Anguilla's offshore islands as safe havens for both resident and migrating birds. Specific objectives are to: (1) Improve bird survival and habitat quality through the permanent control of harmful invasive alien rodents (320 Hectares); (2) Integrate bird conservation goals and actions into the management of two coastal protected areas (an additional 4,350 Hectares); and (3) Establish monitoring and information management systems to evaluate and inform decision making by conservation managers and policy makers. Capacity building is integrated into all three objectives, with at least 30 nationals trained to advanced levels to manage and monitor biodiversity. Monitoring is expected to demonstrate clear and lasting improvements in habitat quality on Anguilla's offshore islands, enhancing the survival of both resident and migratory birds.

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**Project Name** CONSERVATION OF VULNERABLE WOOD THRUSH HABITAT, CARIBBEAN SLOPE OF COSTA RICA

**Grantee Organization** INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE BIODIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA (INBIO)

**Project Officer** Pablo Elizondo

**Grantee Email** jpelizondo@inbio.ac.cr

**Project Country** CR

**Partner Name** CON-COSTA RICA BIRD OBSERVATORIES, FED-INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE BIODIVERSIDAD DE COSTA RICA (INBIO), LOC-MUNICIPALIDAD DE SARAPIQUI

**Grant Award Amount** \$170,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$521,800.00

**Ecoregion** NT0129-Isthmian-Atlantic Moist Forests

**Project Description** Historic land use and contemporary farming practices threaten vestiges of mature tropical rainforest on private lands throughout the Caribbean slope of Costa Rica. As such, the continued loss of mature forest in Costa Rica - the preferred winter habitat for Wood Thrush - has been implicated in the species' ongoing population decline. Based on the need to protect and restore quality overwintering habitat for Wood Thrush on private lands, we propose a project focused on the protection and restoration of mature forest following Costa Rica's National Strategy of Conservation referred to as "Know, Preserve, and Use." We will combine a robust conservation easement program to protect mature and regenerating forest habitat for Wood Thrush; an ambitious reforestation program to create new Wood Thrush habitat; an agricultural certification program to incentivize private landholder participation in easement programs and Wood Thrush conservation; and educational and outreach activities focused on landowner recruitment, migrant birds as ecosystem services, and bird-friendly communities.

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**Project Name** CONSERVATION OF CRITICAL GRASSLANDS IN DURANGO

**Grantee Organization** PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C.

**Project Officer** Adrian Varela Echavarría

**Project Country** MX

**Partner Name** FED-COMISION NACIONAL FORESTAL (CONAFOR), CON-PRONATURA NORESTE, A.C.

**Grant Award Amount** \$178,902.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$1,604,354.00

**Joint Venture** RIO GRANDE

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 34-Sierra Madre Occidental, BCR 35-Chihuahuan Desert

**Ecoregion** NA1303-Chihuahuan Desert

**Project Description** Malpais and Cuchillas de la Zarca Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCAs) have been historically omitted from grasslands conservancy efforts, despite being the ones with the most grassland ecosystem proportional coverage, the highest grassland bird average density, and of being the GPCAs with the first and third highest bird density in the Chihuahuan Desert. With this

initiative, we intend to lay the foundation to join the actions of key actors to work for conservation of these important areas. The project includes: (I) protection of 9,851 acres of critical habitat for grassland birds in Cuchillas de la Zarca and Malpaís GPCAs through legal conservation mechanisms and the creation of two Volunteer Natural Protected Areas (II) restoration of 197.6 acres of key habitat for priority species through soil activities in the GPCA Cuchillas de la Zarca and Malpaís, (III) sustainable grassland management in 9,851 acres, (IV) development of the Business Plan for Conservation of the GPCAs Cuchillas de la Zarca and Malpaís, (V) winter monitoring of grassland birds at the Cuchillas de la Zarca and Malpaís GPCAs

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**Project Name** CONSERVATION FOR CERULEAN WARBLER & PRIORITY BIRDS III

**Grantee Organization** BIRD STUDIES CANADA

**Project Officer** Steven Price

**Grantee Email** sprice@birdscanada.org

**Project Country** CA

**Partner Name** CON-BIRD STUDIES CANADA, FED-ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA

**Grant Award Amount** \$58,500.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$178,700.00

**Joint Venture** EASTERN HABITAT

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 12-Boreal Hardwood Transition, BCR 13-Lower Great Lakes/St. Lawrence Plain

**Ecoregion** NA0407-Eastern Great Lakes Lowland Forests, NA0414-Southern Great Lakes Forests

**Project Description** Nearly 100% of Canada's Cerulean Warbler population (500 pairs) breeds in two areas in Ontario: the Frontenac Arch and the Carolinian Region. In the Carolinian Region declines have been especially severe and the region, much of which is unprotected, is highly fragmented and under immediate threat from timber harvest that removes mature trees reducing forest cover. Implementing Beneficial Management Practices (BMPs) could play an important role in the species' recovery. The project aims to immediately improve the Cerulean Warbler's conservation status in Canada, focusing primarily on the Carolinian Region where the species is most threatened, but also working in the Frontenac Arch to ensure that this population remains stable and the habitat remains intact. Project objectives are to: 1) work with landowners to improve the conservation status of at least 1,850 hectares of unprotected Cerulean Warbler habitat, in the Carolinian and Frontenac regions and support landowners already stewarding 10,794 hectares; 2) work with landowners and partners to help secure 140 hectares of habitat; 3) continue long-term monitoring to track recovery, to direct adaptive management, to prioritize conservation actions, and to evaluate project success, and; 4) gather information needed to develop regionally-specific BMPs for Cerulean Warbler.

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**Project Name** COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY OF SHOREBIRDS IN ALTIPLANO WETLANDS

**Grantee Organization** MANOMET, INC

**Project Officer** Rob Clay

**Grantee Email** rclay@manomet.org

**Project Country** AR,BO,CL,PE

**Partner Name** CON-GRUPO DE CONSERVACION FLAMENCOS ALTOANDINOS (GCFA), CON-MANOMET, INC

**Grant Award Amount** \$37,887.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$130,071.00

**Ecoregion** NT1001-Central Andean Dry Puna, NT1003-Central Andean Wet Puna

**Project Description** The Altiplano wetlands have shown to be of high importance to several wintering and migrating Neotropical migrants, including Wilson's Phalarope, Baird's Sandpiper, both Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, American Golden Plover, Upland Sandpiper and Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Despite the evident importance of the Andean wetlands for the conservation of Neotropical migrant shorebirds, information regarding the importance of individual sites and key threats is limited, and available data have not been used to analyze population sizes or trends of wintering populations. The current proposal seeks to capitalize on the forthcoming international flamingo survey in January 2020, by implementing a simultaneous shorebird survey, in order to obtain up-to-date data on shorebirds using the Altiplano wetlands. Main objectives are 1) To conduct a comprehensive census of shorebirds in Altiplano Wetlands; 2) Quantify population sizes and evaluate trends of wintering shorebird populations; and 3) Identify priority wetlands for the conservation of shorebirds. The project's results will significantly aid the development of a mid-continental shorebird flyway initiative, developing a set of target species, habitats, conservation decisions and actions for collaboration.

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**Project Name** CERULEAN WARBLER HABITAT ACQUISITION IN IOWA

**Location (County)** IA-ALLAMAKEE, IA-WINNESHIEK

**Congressional District** IA-ALLAMAKEE-1, IA-WINNESHIEK-1

**Grantee Organization** IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

**Project Officer** Kelly Smith

**Grantee Email** Kelly.Smith@dnr.iowa.gov

**Project Country** US

**Partner Name** CON-AUDUBON SOCIETY UPPER IOWA CHAPTER, CON-DUBUQUE FLY FISHERS, CON-FRIENDS OF DECORAH FISH HATCHERY, CON-HAWKEYE FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION, CON-IOWA AUDUBON, CON-IOWA CHAPTER OF THE RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY, CON-IOWA COLDWATER CONSERVANCY, STA-IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CON-IOWA NATURAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION, PRI-PRIVATE CONTRIBUTOR(S), CON-TROUT UNLIMITED IOWA DRIFTLESS CHAPTER, CON-TROUT UNLIMITED IOWA STATE COUNCIL, CON-TROUT UNLIMITED NORTH BEAR CHAPTER

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$999,500.00

**Joint Venture** UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER-GREATLAKES

**Bird Conservation Region** BCR 23-Prairie Hardwood Transition

**Ecoregion** NA0415-Upper Midwest Forest-Savanna Transition

**Project Description** The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and partners seek to conserve and enhance Cerulean Warbler populations in the Driftless Area of northeast Iowa through the fee acquisition of three tracts totaling 324 acres. Tracts 1 and 2 are located in Allamakee County, IA. Tract 3 is an addition to the North Bear Creek WMA in Winneshiek County, IA. Each tract adjoins existing state property with known high densities of cerulean warblers.

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**Project Name** BUILDING KNOWLEDGE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF GWWA & OTHER NMB SPECIES IN GUATEMALA

**Grantee Organization** FUNDACION DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA

**Project Officer** Andrea Navas

**Grantee Email** anavas@defensores.org.gt

**Project Country** GT

**Partner Name** FED-CONSEJO NACIONAL DE AREAS PROTEGIDAS (CONAP), SCH-CORNELL UNIVERSITY LABORATORY OF ORNITHOLOGY, CON-FUNDACION DEFENSORES DE LA NATURALEZA, CON-PETEN BIRDERS ASSOCIATION, CON-WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY (WCS)

**Grant Award Amount** \$199,439.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$609,814.00

**Ecoregion** NT0111-Central American Atlantic Moist Forests, NT0154-Peten-Veracruz Moist Forests

**Project Description** This proposal presented by Defensores de la Naturaleza Foundation, Wildlife Conservation Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is a collaboration to contribute to the protection and management of the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA) and other migratory species nonbreeding habitat in Guatemala. This project seeks to complete our understanding on the habitat associations, driving patterns of distribution and abundance of the GWWA and other NMBCA priority species where information gaps have been identified within a key wintering region, the Polochic Region and the Northern Lowlands of Guatemala (Sierra del Lacandón, Maya Biosphere Reserve). Gaining a better understanding of the distribution and abundance of these priority species across focal regions within their non-breeding ranges will optimize efforts to protect and restore existing and potential non-breeding habitat for these species. The project will also engage local stakeholders through training and employment of community monitors. A total number of 260,000 hectares will be protected in the project area: 24,000 at the Polochic Region; 101,000 hectares at Sierra del Lacandón and 135,000 hectares at Maya Biosphere Reserve. Additionally, 70 hectares of deforested lands will be restored at the Polochic Region and Sierra del Lacandón.

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**Project Name** BIRDSCAPING GUATEMALA'S QEQCHI MAYA HIGHLANDS II

**Grantee Organization** COMMUNITY CLOUD FOREST CONSERVATION

**Project Officer** Tara Jean Cahill

**Grantee Email** tara@cloudforestconservation.org

**Project Country** GT

**Partner Name** CON-COMMUNITY CLOUD FOREST CONSERVATION, SCH-UNIVERSITY OF MARY WASHINGTON

**Grant Award Amount** \$169,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$507,000.00

**Ecoregion** NT0112-Central American Montane Forests, NT0303-Central American Pine-Oak Forests

**Project Description** Agroforest ecosystems established in degraded landscapes of northern Guatemala will restore habitat critical to the survival of Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA), Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA), and Wood Thrush (WOTH), in their winter range where they are vulnerable to deforestation caused by rapid expansion of agriculture. Enhanced Birdscape Agroforest Ecosystems created to mimic natural forests, in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) will demonstrate measurable ecological improvement of neotropical migratory bird (NMB) habitat expected to increase non-breeding season survival of wintering populations of GWWA, GCWA, WOTH and 16 other NMBs. Local stewards, informed by environmental education, will implement long term conservation plans to manage NMB habitat in agroforest ecosystems with incentives of improved agricultural production and economic return. Local citizens will plant 250 hectares of restored NMB habitat in 4000 agroforest parcels, measuring 625 m<sup>2</sup> each, marked by GPS coordinates, within 3km of existing forests within the IBAs of the project area.

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**Project Name** BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES IN NORTHERN PERU

**Grantee Organization** AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

**Project Officer** George Wallace

**Grantee Email** gwallace@abcbirds.org

**Project Country** PE

**Partner Name** CON-ASOCIACION ECOSISTEMAS ANDINOS (ECOAN)

**Grant Award Amount** \$200,000.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$633,793.00

**Ecoregion** NT0153-Peruvian Yungas, NT0223-Maranon Dry Forests

**Project Description** Building on our experience in Andean reforestation projects, we have identified priority areas to conserve habitat for migratory birds in their critical wintering grounds. These priority areas include American Bird Conservancy's (ABC) landmark regions called BirdScapes. BirdScapes identify areas where our long-term engagement has the power to improve the conservation outlook for birds by working closely with landowners in the production and marketing of bird-focused, high-value crops and other avenues to economic diversification. ABC has recently established the Colán-Alto Mayo BirdScape, which incorporates ten protected areas and covers 2,644 square miles of habitat within Amazonas and San Martin regions. This project proposes to (i) plant 76,000 new trees and coffee plants covering approximately 247 acres of new habitat for migratory songbirds, (ii) work with local farmers to establish bird-friendly land-use practices, and (iii) advance and build capacity for community-based conservation through the facilitation of local workshops. These activities will occur in the unprotected matrix of forest and agricultural lands within the BirdScape, and will contribute to a continuous arc of habitat improvement across northern Peru to reestablish the wintering habitat for 23 species of migratory songbirds including the Cerulean Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher.

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**Project Name** ADVANCING CONSERVATION & MANAGEMENT OF KEY SHOREBIRD SITES IN PANAMA

**Grantee Organization** NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Project Officer** Matthew Jeffery

**Grantee Email** mjeffery@audubon.org

**Project Country** PA

**Partner Name** CON-NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, CON-PANAMA AUDUBON SOCIETY

**Grant Award Amount** \$199,735.00

**Proposed Match Amount** \$600,429.21

**Ecoregion** NT1414-Gulf of Panama Mangroves

**Project Description** The Upper Bay of Panama is globally recognized for its importance to shorebird survival through several internationally recognized designations including Important Bird Area, Ramsar, and Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. In addition, increased local monitoring efforts have highlighted the importance of the Bay of Parita for shorebirds, with over 2,500 Wilson's Plover counted in 2018. Conservation efforts for the Bay of Panama have led to several successes including it as a Wildlife Refuge and an education program that reaches over 3,000 students annually. This project will address additional strategies from our conservation plan "Our Wetlands, Our Future", including: 1) an analysis of Western Sandpiper population levels; 2) ensuring that no additional mangrove cover is lost in the Bay of Panama compared to 2000 levels; and 3) replicate our approach with the communities around the Bay of Parita with the development of a conservation plan that engages key stakeholders, identifies the threats and helps plot a path for future conservation efforts. Further, we will begin to address solid waste pollution - primarily plastics, which is a major factor in killing off the mangrove forest, reducing roosting habitat and presenting a direct threat to shorebirds through ingestion.