

2020 APPROVED NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION ACT PROPOSALS

(Listed alphabetically by title)

A COASTAL SOLUTIONS NETWORK FOR THE PACIFIC FLYWAY

Recipient: Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology

Grant: \$196,350 Match: \$600,000

Countries: Mexico, Colombia, Chile

Notable bird species to benefit: Snowy Plover, Red Knot, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Sandpiper

Cornell Lab of Ornithology proposes to integrate a network to implement the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy with conservation actions in five priority sites in Latin America (Mexico, Chile and Colombia). Partners will restore and manage at least 27,181 acres of key habitats to reduce impacts on priority species of shorebirds, implement capacity building for conservation leaders in Latin America, and conduct outreach campaigns to create social support for these efforts. Specific actions include 1) habitat management - 27,181 acres restored through instream flows and improved hydrological connectivity, 494 acres managed through community agreements, 2471 acres managed for shorebird conservation, 172 acres managed to reduce disturbance and 494 acres improved through best management practices, 2) monitoring and research – assess vulnerability of priority habitats due to extreme weather events, conduct population surveys of migratory and breeding shorebirds as an indicator of success, and 3) education and outreach – train 24 leaders for wetland conservation in Latin America along the Pacific Flyway, engage and train 50 community leaders and stakeholders on key site governance and protection, and environmental education and awareness for the conservation of migratory birds through workshops and bird festivals reaching at least 500 people.

ADVANCING SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION IN THE MIDCONTINENT

Recipient: Manomet, Inc.

Grant: \$148,802 Match: \$446,406

Countries: Colombia, Peru, Venezuela

Notable bird species to benefit: American Golden-Plover, Upland Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit

Until recently, the coasts of South America were thought to provide the most important non-breeding habitats for migratory shorebirds, but recent tracking data shows that birds also migrate along interior river systems. This project seeks to improve understanding of migration in the Llanos savannas of Colombia and Venezuela and the beaches and sandbanks of Amazonian rivers in northern Peru and Colombia. The objectives are to: 1) advance the conceptual model for shorebird conservation in the Midcontinental Flyway, with a focus on identifying priority strategies and actions in the interior of northern South America; 2) engage key South American stakeholders to inform the modeling and garner support for strategy implementation; 3) improve understanding of stopover sites and critical habitats in northern South America for Buff-breasted Sandpiper; and 4) strengthen and empower conservation actions at key stopover sites for Buff-breasted Sandpiper. These actions will further the development of a Midcontinental Shorebird Flyway Strategy.

APPALACHIAN CORRIDOR GREEN MOUNTAINS CONSERVATION V

Recipient: Appalachian Corridor Appalachian

Grant: \$199,400 Match: \$1,412,634

Country: Canada

Notable bird species to benefit: American Redstart, Black-and-white Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Broad-winged Hawk, Canada Warbler, Chimney Swift, Common Nighthawk, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Golden-winged Warbler, Ovenbird, Veery, Wood Thrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker

The partnership of the grantee with other conservation Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and a national NGO, Nature Conservancy Canada, will protect habitats in Quebec and build capacity of local NGOs. The project will protect in perpetuity at least 12 properties and a minimum of 1,000 acres. These actions will protect migratory birds and other wildlife on private lands in Canada.

BIRD CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN

Recipient: Environment and Climate Change Canada

Grant: \$20,000 Match: \$ 76,400

Countries: México, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Ecuador, Perú, Venezuela

Notable bird species to benefit: Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Canada Warbler, Wood Thrush

Environment and Climate Change Canada will convene non-U.S. partners and stakeholders to produce a Bird Conservation Business Plan (BCBP) for Central and South American Highlands and Mexico and Central America's Gulf-Caribbean Slopes. These geographies are linked by the migratory birds that rely on them, the threats they face, and the conservation partners working within them. Partners will follow the approach of the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative and the Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy, using Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation to prioritize conservation actions and to build a conceptual model of change. The result will be a BCBP for Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, and 9 additional priority Neotropical migrants, and the habitats that sustain them during the non-breeding season. The Plan will include Latin American conservation targets, identified by Latin American partners, to ensure international "buy-in" and implementation. The Plan will provide the strategic framework needed to direct human and financial resources to address high priority threats and knowledge gaps and, will provide measurable benchmarks by which conservation practitioners, funders and government agencies can evaluate progress. Target outcomes will include measurable biological improvements in population trends for focal species, measurable threat reductions, and new information to direct conservation efforts.

COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS IN THE ECUADORIAN CHOCO IV

Recipient: Fundación para la Conservación de Los Andes Tropicales

Grant: \$199,319 Match: \$600,035

Country: Ecuador

Notable bird species to benefit: Bay-breasted Warbler, Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Swainson's Thrush, Western Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager.

This project will contribute to the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and endemic taxa in the Mache-Chindul Reserve in northwest Ecuador. The Reserve is a BirdLife International Important Bird Area that houses 27 Neotropical migratory species and is the home of several thousand people with limited education and economic opportunities. The objectives are to: 1) purchase 302.5 acres of forest habitat adjacent to the Mache-Chindul Reserve that are at immediate risk of being cut; 2) reforest 98.8 acres of pasture; 3) establish a longitudinal study of migratory bird habitat use; and 4) promote best practices in ecotourism development. These activities will contribute to long-term ecosystem function by establishing a corridor linking the 8648.7-acre Bilsa Biological Station, the largest continuous forest area in the region, and La Laguna de Cube, a Ramsar wetland site. It will also promote viable economic alternatives among local residents.

CONSERVATION OF SHADE COFFEE PLANTATIONS FOR NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS IN MEXICO

Recipient: Pronatura Veracruz, A.C.

Grant: \$180,327 Match: \$546,459

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Painted bunting, Wood Thrush, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Varied Bunting, Red-faced Warbler, Loggerhead Shrike, Golden-winged Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Willow Flycatcher

Shade coffee plantations provide nesting and feeding habitats for native and migratory neotropical birds. However, the canopy of many shade coffee plantations is being cut to give way to sun coffee plantations, which destroy habitat, promotes soil erosion, reduce biodiversity and increase the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This project will address the conversion to sun coffee plantations in the state of Veracruz. The objectives are to: 1) train 100 smallholder coffee farmers and their families in the implementation of better practices for biodiversity conservation on their farms; 2) certify 50 farms and their products to add market value market; 3) protect 12,355 acres through a voluntary conservation program; and 5) renew and diversify the tree cover with 50,000 trees and 10 million seeds of 30 tree species that will not only increase bird habitat, but also provide farmers with alternative products such as wood, fruits, honey.

CONSERVATION OF THREE IMPERILED GRASSLAND SPECIES III

Recipient: Pronatura Noreste, A.C.

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$601,601

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Baird's Sparrow

Pronatura Noreste, A.C. (PNE) will build on previous projects to identify ecological corridors connecting Grassland Priority Conservation Areas (GPCA)) in the north of Chihuahua in collaboration with the State Government of Chihuahua and other partners and will strengthen the grassland initiative of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Rio Grande Joint Venture to create an investment strategy for grasslands with subchapters for GPCAs. The goal by 2025, is to increase protection of grasslands within the GPCAs to conserve habitat to maintain populations for threatened grassland birds. The project will I) Protect 12,350 acres of grasslands in Mapimí, El Tokio and Valles Centrales (VACE) GPCAs through different legal mechanisms; II) Implement soil restoration and water catchment techniques in El Tokio and Mapimi; III) Elaboration and implementation of Management Plans to restore grasslands in Mapimí, El Tokio and VACE; IV) Develop a Business Plan for Valles Centrales GPCA with a water and land use focus; V) Conduct a coordinated effort of bird monitoring at El Tokio, VACE and Mapimi GPCAs to compare density and richness in properties under management in Mapimi Biosphere Reserve; VI) Conduct environmental education and capacity building events for landowners and field technicians in the Chihuahuan Desert.

CONSERVATION OF TWO NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD FOCAL SPECIES SOUTH PATAGONIA ARGENTINA III

Recipient: Asociacion Ambiente Sur

Grant: \$82,680 Match: \$248,808

Country: Argentina

Notable bird species to benefit: Red Knot and Hudsonian Godwit

This project will improve the conservation status of Red Knot and Hudsonian Godwit in southern Patagonia in Argentina. The objectives are to: 1) build and consolidate local support for conservation actions; 2) expand the area and the degree of protection of urban natural reserves; and 3) increase community awareness through innovative methodologies, such as social marketing and reducing barriers to positive behavior change. The project will reduce the most significant threats to key shorebird areas, including dumping of waste and the disturbance of birds by vehicles, pets and recreational activities.

CONSERVING BICKNELL'S THRUSH ON CANADIAN BREEDING GROUND VI

Recipient: Bird Studies Canada

Grant: \$32,904 Match: \$108,658

Country: Canada

Notable bird species to benefit: Bicknell's Thrush

Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) is one of the most range-restricted neotropical migrants breeding in Eastern Canada, where ~ 38% of its global population (40,000-49,000 individuals) breeds. Substantial declines have been noted throughout its Canadian range; in the Maritimes, data indicates a 12% annual population decline between 2002-2011, and a 40% reduction in distribution of BITH over the last 20 years. The main threat facing BITH is loss and degradation of forest habitat. Bird Studies Canada and partners will immediately improve conservation for BITH in New Brunswick (NB; >400,000 acres) and Nova Scotia (NS; >160,000 acres) by addressing breeding habitat destruction and degradation occurring in industrial forest and other unprotected areas. The primary objectives are to (1) build upon relationships with timber companies to identify and implement longer term strategies that mitigate both mortality and habitat degradation, (2) conduct research to improve understanding of BITH use of industrial habitat and inform Better Management Practices for protection of BITH critical habitat; and (3) continue range-wide surveys to evaluate the success of conservation actions over the medium- and long-term.

CONSERVING MIGRATING RAPTORS COLOMBIA THROUGH MIGRATION MONITORING & EDUCATION

Recipient: Hawk Mountain Sanctuary (HMS)

Grant: \$21,340 Match: \$64,200

Country: Colombia

Notable bird species to benefit: Swainson's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Mississippi Kite, Swallow-tailed Kite, Peregrine Falcon

The aim of this project is to implement conservation awareness and actions for raptor migrants in Colombia and to strengthen local raptor appreciation through education and outreach, and through the development of two count sites to collect scientific data of raptor migration upon which to base practical and effective international conservation efforts. By training local students and conservationists in raptor identification, we seek to encourage them to continue efforts in the future and promote in-country appreciation and awareness of migratory raptors and their journey.

CREATING A HABITAT CORRIDOR FOR NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS IN COLOMBIA

Recipient: American Bird Conservancy

Grant: \$199,188 Match: \$629,057

Country: Colombia

Notable bird species to benefit: Golden-winged, Cerulean and Canada Warblers, Olive-sided Flycatcher

The long-term goal of this project is to restore and manage key wintering habitat areas in the coffee growing region of the Caldas department in the Central Andes of Colombia for the Cerulean, Golden-winged, and Canada Warblers. Coffee plantations are recognized as a main habitat type for migratory bird species, and the Central Andes contain multiple focal areas for these three target species, leading American Bird Conservancy to develop the Central Andes BirdScape. The objectives of this proposal include: advancing the BirdScape conservation strategy; increasing native coverage and habitat connectivity; implementing environmentally sustainable coffee production systems; monitoring our project's success; and raising local awareness about Neotropical Migratory Birds and the importance of healthy habitat corridors.

ELK MOUNTAIN RANCH CONSERVATION EASEMENT

Recipient: Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust (CCALT)

Grant: \$100,000 Match: \$580,000

Country: United States of America

Notable bird species to benefit: Swainson's Hawk, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Brewer's Sparrow, Golden Eagle, Western Tanager, Dusky Flycatcher

This project will permanently eliminate development opportunities on 637 acres in Grand County, Colorado. In recent years, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies has documented the presence of 53 neotropical migratory bird species within two miles of the Property. This project focuses on two primary objectives, (1) permanently protecting 637 acres of diverse habitat surrounded on three sides by public land; and (2) incentivizing additional conservation opportunities. These objectives will be met through the acquisition of a perpetual conservation easement on the Elk Mountain Ranch. Neighboring landowners often initiate projects following the completion of a successful conservation transaction. Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust hopes that by successfully completing the conservation easement on the Elk Mountain Ranch, other landowners will follow suit.

ENABLING LONGTERM COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION OF NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY GRASSLAND BIRDS SOUTHERN CONE

Recipient: BirdLife International

Grant: \$198,451 Match: \$662,081

Countries: Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay

Notable bird species to benefit: Swainson's Hawk, American Golden-plover, Upland Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Bobolink, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper

South America's grasslands span approximately 1 million square kilometers across Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Habitat loss, fragmentation, improper use of agrochemicals, and unsustainable agricultural land management threaten the migratory grassland birds dependent on this ecosystem. BirdLife International, with its partners: Aves Argentinas, Aves Uruguay, Guyra Paraguay, and SAVE Brasil, have worked to conserve grassland birds and their habitats through proven, effective, and scalable conservation solutions. The Grassland Alliance will execute four key strategies to safeguard Southern Cone grasslands critical to the survival of Neotropical migrants and other species: 1. Planning – Develop and begin implementing a Grassland Alliance Bird Conservation Business Plan, in consultation with partners and stakeholders, that provides a road map for future conservation investments. 2. Monitoring – Strengthen and deploy a consistent monitoring and evaluation framework across the Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance network, to advance scientific understanding of the needs of grassland Neotropical migratory bird species, and improve effectiveness of grassland conservation measures. 3. Conserving – Improve management on over 765,000 acres of sustainably managed grasslands through continued work with ranchers to implement Best Management Practices, and bird-friendly beef certification. 4. Raising awareness – Enhance awareness of threats to grassland biodiversity, and possible conservation solutions through effective communication.

ENHANCING PROTECTION OF SIERRA DE NEIBA NATIONAL PARK FOR NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS

Recipient: Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola (SOH)

Grant: \$118,335 Match: \$414,753

Country: Dominican Republic

Notable bird species to benefit: Bicknell's Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prairie Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird

The broadleaf forest of the Dominican Republic represents key wintering habitat for the Bicknell's Thrush (BITH) and other Neotropical Migrants. The Sierra de Neiba is an Important Bird Area mainly composed of broadleaf forest. Deforestation, burning and planting short cycle crops, added to the poor living conditions and insufficient economic alternatives that are present in the local communities, makes this area heavily threatened. During the last 8 years Sociedad Ornitologica de la Hispaniola (SOH) has been improving the capacities of the Ministry of Environment to avoid the expansion of non-regulated agriculture and the habitat loss for the BITH and other migrants, working with the local communities and farmers as direct "users" of the area. This project builds and expands upon those advances. Partners will work with the Ministry to enhance the management of the Sierra de Neiba National Park and with the local farmers to apply better practices for birds in their crop management to

guarantee forest cover. SOH will investigate how migratory birds use and interact with agroforestry in the southern region to take advantage of Dominican government initiatives.

FILLING THE GAPS FOR BIRD CONSERVATION IN HUEHUETENANGO GUATEMALA II

Recipient: Fundacion para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservacion (FUNDAECO)

Grant: \$156,062 Match: \$554,800

Country: Guatemala

Notable bird species to benefit: Golden-cheeked Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Swallow-tailed Kite, Upland Sandpiper, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Wood Thrush, Kentucky Warbler, Painted Bunting

In Phase I and since, FUNDAECO developed a portfolio of key sites for migratory bird conservation, consolidated and expanded the San Isidro Reserve, advanced protection for priority sites and established a new reserve: La Soledad Reserve (1500 acres of pine oak and broadleaf forest). This project will advance the protection of key habitats in Northern Huehuetenango, by a multi strategy approach that includes consolidation of 2 nature reserves (San Isidro and La Soledad Reserves), the strengthening of the management capacities of the Todos Santos Cuchumatán Municipal Reserve, and the establishment of Conservation Agreements with communities in Laguna Yolnabaj and in the Cruz Maltín proposed protected area. FUNDAECO will design a Bird Conservation Regional Strategy, identifying key conservation activities for the already prioritized sites; this Strategy will lead conservation efforts in the region during the next 5 years. Finally, this project will support the establishment of a local bird monitoring team, in order to ensure long term monitoring within the project sites. The project will contribute to the protection of a total of 35,415 acres of forests in Huehuetenango, thus, contributing to long term protection of wintering habitats for Neotropical migratory birds.

FULL ANNUAL CYCLE SCIENCE TO CONSERVE GRASSLAND BIRDS II

Recipient: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR)

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$635,000

Countries: United States of America, Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Lark Bunting, McCown's Longspur, Cassin's Sparrow, Mountain Plover, Ferruginous Hawk

Partners will use research, monitoring, and habitat protection to advance grassland bird conservation across their full annual cycle and fill critical information gaps on migratory and wintering ecology. They will establish an automated radio telemetry network (Motus) in the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of Mexico. Motus, a collaborative series of automated receiving stations, records data on temporal and spatial bird movements from miniature coded radio-tags. This project will improve understanding of nonbreeding ecology, population declines, and connectivity of grassland birds such as Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow to guide management strategies. BCR will work with a network of partners, biologists, and landowners to identify locations on private grasslands within Mexico for Motus stations, install stations, and capture, tag, and remotely track focal species. Partners will build capacity in Mexico by training students and biologists in grassland bird capture and tagging and Motus station installation and maintenance. BCR will conduct monitoring on Open Space properties managed by Larimer County Department of Natural Resources (LCDNR) in northern Colorado, USA to guide conservation and management of grassland and foothill habitat used by priority migratory bird species. With LCDNR they will permanently protect 160 acres of breeding and stopover habitat for migratory grassland birds in Colorado.

INTEGRATING SHOREBIRDS CONSERVATION & SHRIMP FARMING

Recipient: Manomet, Inc.

Grant: \$39,136 Match: \$117,409

Countries: Honduras, Nicaragua

Notable bird species to benefit: Wilson’s Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Black-bellied Plover, American Oystercatcher, Whimbrel, Marbled Godwit, Ruddy Turnstone, Red Knot, Western Sandpiper and Semipalmated Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Willet

The Pacific Americas Shorebird Conservation Strategy identifies shrimp aquaculture as a high threat for shorebirds in the Neotropics. Shrimp farms can lead to loss and degradation of significant areas of shorebird habitat. However, under the right conditions they can also provide safe roosting and foraging habitat. The Gulf of Fonseca is one of the most important areas for shorebird conservation and the most important for shrimp farming in Central America. This project will enhance conservation of critical shorebird habitat through improved management and protection of shrimp farms by: 1) Integrating shorebird needs into the best management practices manual of the SeaJoy shrimp company that manages 9,884 acres of shrimp farms adjacent to these areas, and building company capacity to implement the revised practices; 2) Monitoring the shorebird and prey response to different management to refine best management practices; 3) Promoting expansion of the “Delta del Estero Real” Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site to include an adjacent shrimp farm; 4) Building a strategic alliance with SeaJoy to develop economic incentives for implementation of best management practices that benefit shorebird conservation; and 5) Raising awareness among shrimp farmers and surrounding communities of the importance of the Gulf of Fonseca for shorebirds.

INTEGRATIVE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL LAGOONS IN URUGUAY FOR MIGRANT SHOREBIRD

Recipient: Fundacion Amigos de las Lagunas Costeras de Rocha

Grant: \$199,750 Match: \$1,077,000

Country: Uruguay

Notable bird species to benefit: Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Red Knot, American Golden-plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Red Phalarope, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs, Hudsonian Godwit

The eastern seaboard of Uruguay includes a chain of 5 coastal lagoons, supporting globally important populations of migratory shorebirds that use the surrounding grasslands, wetlands and sandy areas, as well as the lagoon shores, as wintering areas. This region, covering 2,471,000 acres, is under pressure by threats such as agriculture, intensive livestock ranching, urbanization and recreational activities such as uncontrolled tourism. Partners will secure long-term shorebird conservation by developing and empowering an integrative collaborative local conservation network with landowners and other key stakeholders taking direct action on habitat conservation and restoration. Acting jointly with key stakeholders of the region, the management of the 5 lagoons will be integrated by creating local and regional working groups to subscribe local and cross-site management and conservation agreements. Primary actions will include the application of Best Management Practices in 98,800 acres, habitat restoration in 490 acres, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site designations, shorebird population estimates, the building of high-resolution distribution maps, as well as the development of a citizen scientist group that safeguards habitat integrity for neotropical migrant shorebirds. Finally, partners will put together all the experience, contacts, and information to develop a regional plan for shorebird conservation for the lagoon belt.

MIGRATORY LAND BIRD CONSERVATION IN SINALOAN TROPICAL DRY FORESTS III

Recipient: Conselva, Costas y Comunidades, A.C. (CONSELVA)

Grant: \$135,561 Match: \$1,361,558

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Black-capped Vireo, Black-throated Gray Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Lucy’s Warbler, Varied and Painted Buntings, Yellow-breasted Chat, Pacific-slope Flycatcher

This project is the third phase of a long-term conservation strategy for neotropical migratory bird (NMB) populations that arrive in the Tropical Dry Forest (TDF) of Monte Mojino (western Mexico; southern Sinaloa) during their annual migration. The objectives of this stage are to ensure the long-term conservation of NMBs and

their habitat through: 1) Conserving 39,000 acres of high-quality habitat for neotropical migratory bird populations, by using government-funded programs, surveillance patrolling to prevent environmental crimes and implementing forest fire prevention; 2) Reducing local threats to the protection of Neotropical migratory bird populations through sustainable habitat management actions in 1,976 acres. Partners will implement a sustainable cattle management program, training 300 local ranchers in sustainable practices to reduce overgrazing, implement habitat restoration works and restore degraded vegetation in 30 livestock units, evaluating the impact on forest quality. This includes a landscape restoration strategy in 988 acres of priority habitat; and 3) Increasing knowledge and appreciation of Neotropical migratory birds in at least 2,000 local citizens and foreign residents through communication and environmental education activities. Partners will also organize public events (Christmas Bird count; Picture contest and gala events) to promote awareness towards NMBs.

PROTECTING MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT IN WESTERN ECUADOR

Recipient: Fundación Jocotoco

Grant: \$182,357 Match: \$1,535,491

Country: Ecuador

Notable bird species to benefit: Canada Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler, Acadian Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Blackburnian Warbler, American Redstart, Summer Tanager

Habitat loss and changes in environmental conditions in the Neotropics are key threats to migratory birds. Deforestation in Western Ecuador has reduced the Chocó rainforest and the Ecuadorian dry forest to less than 5% of the original cover while environmental changes drive upslope movements of many bird species. This project addresses these crucial threats in six reserves managed by the Jocotoco Foundation on an area of 63,702 acres in Western Ecuador. This region is a key overwintering site for Olive-sided Flycatcher, Swainson's Thrush, Canada Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Blackburnian Warbler. Jocotoco will protect and monitor migratory birds of concern over the six areas, which will result in understanding migratory bird population tendencies over time and more importantly, it will guide Jocotoco to strategically expand its reserves. Jocotoco will leverage funding for increasing migratory bird habitat by at least 9,201 acres. In addition, they will restore 148 acres of migratory bird habitat in the Santa Rosa watershed in Buenaventura reserve and 12.5 acres in the Ayampe river watershed. Jocotoco will promote local participation of communities by inviting adolescents to the migratory bird monitoring transects and by organizing migratory bird workshops at the six project areas.

PROTECTION BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER HABITAT BOLIVIA VI

Recipient: Asociación Armonía

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$600,000

Countries: Bolivia

Notable bird species to benefit: Buff-breasted Sandpiper

The Barba Azul Nature Reserve, a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site, is a critical stopover area in Bolivia for the Buff-breasted Sandpiper and protects six threatened bird species, including the Critically Endangered Blue-throated Macaw. Now in its sixth phase, the objectives of this project are to continue to: 1) maintain 17,297 acres of tropical savanna on Barba Azul Nature Reserve; 2) manage 3,706.6 acres of Sandpiper foraging habitat on the Reserve; 3) conduct patrols of the reserve; 4) monitor Sandpiper populations; 5) research Sandpiper preferences for different cattle stocking rates; and 6) conduct community outreach and education to improve the quality of Sandpiper foraging habitat on private cattle ranches. The activities will improve knowledge of tropical grassland foraging conditions for Sandpiper, improve habitat conditions on the Reserve and on private cattle ranches, and share data that will support conservation efforts.

PROTECTION OF OLD FORESTS & FOOD RESOURCES FOR NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS PENA NEVADA

Recipient: Organización Vida Silvestre, A.C.

Grant: \$197,120 Match: \$742,400

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Flammulated Owl, Rufous Hummingbird, Hermit Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Whip-poor-will, Nashville Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bullock's Oriole, Williamson's Sapsucker, Yellow-breasted Chat, and Golden-cheeked Warbler

This project addresses the conservation needs of six priority bird species that have been identified in the Sierra Madre Pine-Oak and Cloud-Forests/Western Mixed Coniferous Forests Conservation Business Plan. There are several objectives. 1) Permanently protect 33,359 acres of forests that include ancient forest remnants and nectar sources for birds through the designation of two "Voluntary Areas for Conservation" at the Federal level. 2) Restore post-fire sites to improve landscape connectivity on Ejido La Encantada (5,559 acres) and Ejido San Joaquín del Olmo (1,235 acres). 3) Build capacity for natural resource management, such as training 240 local promoters and 30 community leaders who will implement at least 5 community projects and apply best practices to reduce threats to birds. 4) Monitor bird diversity and abundance with community members and quantify the floral resources under different levels of fire disturbance and resource extraction (tequila or livestock feed). The training and monitoring will culminate in a pilot Management and Business Plan to be developed for one property.

PROTECTION OF PRIORITY HABITATS IN THE CHIHUAHUAN DESERT II

Recipient: Protección de la Fauna Mexicana, A.C. (PROFAUNA)

Grant: \$164,760 Match: \$2,230,241

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Mountain Plover, Long-billed Curlew, Sprague's Pipit, Chipping Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow

The project's desired result (10 years) is to increase the abundance of three focal species by 15%: Mountain Plover, Long-Billed Curlew and Sprague's Pipit. These species are extremely faithful to their wintering grounds and depend to a great extent on prairie dog colonies, which provide them with grasslands (seeds). Prairie dog have been eradicated from more than 45% of their original range at the Tokio site as a result of overgrazing and agriculture, which leads to fragmentation of the colonies. The specific objectives are (1) improve the El Tokio colonies through the purchase or lease of land for protection and conservation, (2) Habitat protection through voluntary protected natural areas at Tokio site as a tool of the Environmental Management Unit, (3) Promote the payment of environmental services through the protection of natural resources, (4) Carry out workshops on the implementation of better agricultural and livestock practices, (5) Reintroduce prairie dog colonies in historical sites and create new colonies, to create specialized habitat for focal species in Tokio (Mountain Plover, Long-Billed Curlew and Sprague Pipit), which will increase the species population.

RECOVERY OF GRASSLAND BIRDS IN TWO GRASSLAND PRIORITY CONSERVATION AREAS

Recipient: Organización Vida Silvestre, A.C.

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$982,001

Countries: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Sprague's Pipit, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, Chestnut-collared Longspur, McCown's Longspur, Baird's Sparrow and LeConte's Sparrow

The project will work with a network of farms and protected natural areas to support the conservation of two Grassland Priority Conservation Areas that house 29 bird species of high regional or continental conservation interest. There are several objectives. 1) Increasing the area under protection by developing legal agreements for "Voluntary Areas for Conservation" or "Private Conservation Agreements" on 34,594 acres. 2) Restoring 1,828 acres of degraded grassland ecosystems through fire and rainwater management. 3) Training to improve local capacity and implement good livestock practices that will reduce the impact of overgrazing. 4) Evaluating the habitat conditions and monitoring grassland birds to establish the biological baseline for the protected areas. These actions will limit the expansion of the agricultural frontier as well as reduce overgrazing and the invasion of shrubs, thereby increasing the quantity, quality and connectivity of grassland habitat for birds.

REESTABLISHMENT OF CONNECTIVITY IN PRIORITY GRASSLANDS S. CHIHUAHUAN DESERT IV

Recipient: Universidad Autonoma de Nuevo Leon (UANL)

Grant: \$164,770 Match: \$501,021

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Sprague's Pipit, Lark Bunting, Baird's Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Eastern and Western Meadowlark, Cassin's Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Long-billed Curlew, Mountain Plover

In the Chihuahua grasslands in Mexico, the El Tokio Grassland Priority Conservation Area (GPCA) comprises ≈16,000 ac of inter-mountain grasslands, 80% of which is heavily overgrazed, degraded, and highly fragmented. Partners in this project's fourth phase will 1) protect 7,400 ac through a conservation agreement with Ejidos/Private Ranches in Coahuila and San Luis Potosí; 2) restore 1,235 ac of intermountain grasslands (with grazing management plans, infrastructure, key-line treatment to avoid hydric erosion and improve soil) to suitable conditions; 3) monitor grassland migratory birds health, population densities and habitat vegetation structure (before and after management and restoration activities to assess wintering population status) 4) involve Ejido members / private owners through participation in the generation of the fourth Community Management Plan; and 5) sensitize 300 children and train 30 rural teachers through environmental education workshops focused on grassland migratory neotropical birds.

REGIONAL EFFORTS TO ENHANCE COORDINATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF MESO AMERICAN PINE OAK FORESTS PLAN

Recipient: Fundacion Defensores de la Naturaleza

Grant: \$40,000 Match: \$120,000

Countries: Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, El Salvador

Notable bird species to benefit: Golden-cheeked Warbler, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler

The Alliance for the Conservation of Mesoamerican Pine-Oak Forests includes six countries (US-Texas, Mexico-Chiapas, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and El Salvador) who have collaborated since 2003, following conservation actions in their 2008 plan, to protect and manage winter habitat of the endangered migratory bird, the Golden-cheeked Warbler (GCWA). During 2017-19, Alliance partners developed the "Conservation Plan of the Mesoamerican Pine-Oak Forest Ecoregion and the GCWA (2020-2030)" using Open Standards methodology. The Alliance made remarkable progress defining conservation goals, analyzing threats and contributing factors, defining strategies and actions linked to these strategies, as well as determining results chains (using Miradi tool). The main goal is the conservation of the Mesoamerican Pine-Oak Forests and the Golden-cheeked Warbler, which directly benefits several regional Neotropical migratory bird populations as well as several highly threatened endemic birds and wildlife. Now, the immediate step for the Alliance is to deliver the plan to key stakeholders from Mesoamerica and North America, promote the linking of this plan with other conservation plans for the GCWA (full life-cycle approach), and bring all these actors (and funders) together for implementation of the aforementioned Plan, as of 2020. Partners will increase stakeholder involvement in and understanding of this Conservation Plan.

RESTORATION OF IMPERILED SHOREBIRD HABITAT IN THE BAHAMAS II

Recipient: Conservian, Inc.

Grant: \$90,035 Match: \$306,070

Country: Bahamas

Notable bird species to benefit: Piping Plover; Roseate Tern, Wilson's Plover, Snowy Plover, American Oystercatcher, Least Tern

Building on the first phase funded by NMBCA, the project will continue to implement strategies outlined in the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative for conservation of shorebird habitat in northern and central Bahamas. It will

restore shorebird habitat and limit human-caused disturbance by increasing efforts at sites touched during the first phase and expanding to include new sites. It will train and work with local stewards to increase on-the-ground restorative and protective measures to limit human-caused disturbance and eradicate invasive Australian pine. It will take advantage of the destruction of pines by Hurricane Dorian by targeting new and remaining pines before they can recolonize sites.

RESTORING NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD HABITAT IN THE OSA CONSERVATION AREA

Recipient: Friends of the Osa (dba Osa Conservation)

Grant: \$191,773 Match: \$603,313

Country: Costa Rica

Notable bird species to benefit: Golden-winged, Prothonotary, Bay-breasted, Kentucky and Canada Warblers, Wood Thrush, and Olive-sided Flycatcher

Osa Conservation will restore degraded habitat (57,000 native trees across 140 acres) to build capacity for improved agroforestry and silvopastoral techniques, and engage communities in conservation of migratory birds through citizen science monitoring of bird population. Grant funding will be used for work in the AmistOsa corridor. Match funding will be provided to community outreach and restoration in the AmistOsa Corridor, and continue the restoration, outreach, and monitoring on the Osa Peninsula. Match funding will also support capacity building in the management of existing protected areas with important Neotropical migratory bird habitat, and use cutting-edge conservation technology to monitor and improve our understanding of ecosystems for adaptive management.

SAVING MAR CHIQUITA WETLANDS

Recipient: Aves Argentinas

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$957,562

Country: Argentina

Notable bird species to benefit: American Golden Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Pectoral Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Wilson's Phalarope, Upland Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Hudsonian Godwit, Stilt Sandpiper

Covering 2.5 million acres, the Mar Chiquita lake and associated wetlands and grasslands are the largest saline wetland system in South America and one of the most biodiverse ecosystems in Argentina. More than 40,000 people live in the area. This project supports the long-term goal of attaining formal protection of the wetland system through the creation of Ansenza National Park and through the effective management of both the National Park and a Provincial Multiple Use Reserve. The project will consolidate progress toward this long-term process through several objectives: 1) acquiring at least 13,000 acres; 2) finalizing the National Park declaration process; 3) obtaining baseline information about neotropical migratory bird populations; 4) developing management guidelines; 5) setting up governance arrangements for the effective implementation of the national and provincial parks; 6) building awareness and capacity among community members; and 7) strengthening local economies through alternative, sustainable activities.

SAVING WOOD THRUSH WINTER HABITAT IN TROPICAL ATLANTIC FORESTS II*

*This is a partially funded request. If additional funding becomes available it will go to meet the full request of this project before alternates.

Recipient: Guanacaste Dry Forest Conservation Fund (GDFCF)

Grant: \$50,798 Match: \$213,858

Country: Costa Rica

Notable bird species to benefit: Wood Thrush, Cerulean Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler

GDFCF will conserve wintering habitat of Wood Thrush (WOTH) and other neotropical migrant birds with which WOTH is associated. This two-year proposal builds on a successful current USFWS-supported project (2017) while

introducing new and refined components based on the experiences of Phase I. Specifically this project involves: (1) season-long detection and monitoring of wintering Wood Thrush (WOTH) in three areas of Caribbean rainforest within and adjacent to Área de Conservación Guanacaste (ACG) via trained resident “parataxonomists” from local communities; (2) the protection and stewardship of protected Caribbean rainforest properties that enlarge available habitat for neotropical migrant birds, (3) the identification of food sources of wintering WOTH through a “diet analysis” utilizing DNA metabarcoding and related bioinformatics; and, (4) the installation of a new MOTUS station for tracking neotropical migrants in this region. GDFCF will collaborate with Queen Mary University for DNA analysis of samples and the local Costa Rica Bird Observatories in field work and installation and operation of a MOTUS station. The activities in this project will provide conservation results for WOTH, inform current and future conservation management for neotropical migrant birds that depend on large blocks of protected forest, and continue the evolution of this community-led restoration model.

STEWARDS OF SASKATCHEWAN FOR BIRD SPECIES AT RISK VII

Recipient: Nature Saskatchewan

Grant: \$80,000 Match: \$244,726

Country: Canada

Notable bird species to benefit: Burrowing Owl, Loggerhead Shrike, Piping Plover, Sprague’s Pipit

The Stewards of Saskatchewan programs engage landowners and managers in voluntary stewardship agreements and actions to conserve habitat for species at risk. After six previous phases, 855 landowners participate in the programs and have agreed to conserve approximately 324,894 acres of habitat and 145 miles of shoreline habitat for bird species at risk. This seventh phase will build on those achievements. This project will: 1) promote legally-binding conservation easements; 2) develop site-specific “Species at Risk Beneficial Management Practices” plans with land managers for 16,000 acres; 3) enhance 320 acres; 4) monitor habitat; 5) monitor bird populations; and 6) provide environmental and conservation outreach to agricultural producers and youth.

SUSTAINING KIRTLAND'S WARBLER NONBREEDING HABITAT

Recipient: American Bird Conservancy

Grant: \$89,501 Match: \$270,947

Country: Bahamas

Notable bird species to benefit: Kirtland’s Warbler, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Prairie Warbler

The Kirtland’s Warbler (KIWA) is a neotropical migratory passerine with very small breeding and non-breeding ranges and perhaps the smallest population of any North American migratory species. In October 2019, KIWA was delisted from Endangered Species Act protections thanks to a population recovery largely resulting from broad-scale efforts to expand breeding habitat and reduce mortality threats from parasitic Brown-headed Cowbirds. American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and partners at The Bahamas National Trust (BNT) will develop and execute effective habitat management and community engagement strategies on KIWA’s winter range in the central Bahamas where the population may be limited in at least some years. Partners will: 1) work with a group of Bahamian farmers to build a model program establishing early-successional winter habitat for KIWA and other neotropical migratory birds through ungulate (goat and sheep) farming; 2) monitor the density of KIWAs in ungulate pastures of different ages; 3) compare KIWA and other migratory bird densities in managed (ungulate: goat and sheep pastures) and unmanaged sites, 4) engage the public and encourage public involvement in and support for KIWA conservation; and 5) work with a coalition of local farmers to implement ungulate farming practices that create and maintain KIWA winter habitat.

THE FIRST MOTUS BIRD MONITORING NETWORK IN MEXICO

Recipient: Pronatura Noroeste, A.C.

Grant: \$171,217 Match: \$523,028

Country: Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Red Knot, Snowy Plover, Western Sandpiper, Least Tern

More than one million Nearctic coastal and marine birds use the islands, beaches and wetlands of Northwest Mexico during their annual migratory cycle. Despite this region's importance to these species, many lack robust information about their connectivity and migratory patterns, arrival and departure dates, survival, and habitat use. The limitations imposed on conservation efforts by these knowledge gaps are exacerbated by changing environmental conditions and the accelerated expansion of aquaculture, coastal development, and anthropogenic disturbance. Effective conservation strategies aimed at improving the status of the region's declining species of conservation concern require a cost-effective method to monitor birds and obtain robust data to support conservation decisions. Partners will create the first collaborative network of Motus stations— a coordinated automated radio telemetry system for detecting birds carrying miniature transmitters— to permanently monitor the movements of migratory birds in Northwest Mexico. This infrastructure will allow the project's seven partner organizations to implement a regional research agenda to monitor focal species of conservation concern. This project will thus kick start the expansion of the Motus network in Mexico and immediately begin providing much of the information required to determine the migratory movements of a suite of threatened birds.

US - MEXICO GRASSLAND BIRD CONSERVATION XVIII

Recipient: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (BCR)

Grant: \$200,000 Match: \$600,000

Countries: United States of America, Mexico

Notable bird species to benefit: Sprague's Pipit, Baird's Sparrow, Chestnut-collared Longspur, Mountain Plover

BCR will continue work funded by the NMBCA since 2002 to conserve high-priority and declining grassland bird species of western North America. The project builds on broad scientific foundation and capacity established by BCR and partners over two decades to conserve and enhance habitat for grassland birds across their range. Since 2012, BCR has engaged landowners in northern Mexico to build the Sustainable Grazing Network (SGN) to protect critical wintering habitat and increase abundance and survival of priority grassland birds. In this phase partners will 1) expand the SGN to enroll and protect another 10,000 acres, 2) enhance 10,000 acres of SGN grasslands through improved grazing management, 3) restore at least 100 acres of degraded grasslands through shrub control or other intensive restoration techniques, 4) monitor grassland birds on SGN lands to assess impact, 5) expand outreach efforts to maximize landowner and other conservation partner engagement in the 1st Encuentro Ganadero in Chihuahua), 6) assist in developing a Bird Conservation Business Plan for Chihuahuan grasslands, and 7) permanently protect 160 acres of grasslands in Larimer County, Colorado from exurban development and assist local governments in conserving grassland birds through monitoring populations on over 25,000 acres of protected open space lands.