

# Leveraging Funds for Effective Conservation in the Americas

## *The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act*

### Catalyzing Conservation across the Western Hemisphere

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) projects benefit most of the 386 bird species that breed in the continental United States or Canada and spend the winter in Mexico, Central America, the Caribbean, or South America. These projects have positively affected more than 5 million acres of bird habitat and spurred partnerships at local, regional, and international levels.

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

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



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



*Red Knots are one of 386 Neotropical migratory species that benefit from NMBCA.*

Credit: Gregory Breese/USFWS

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

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

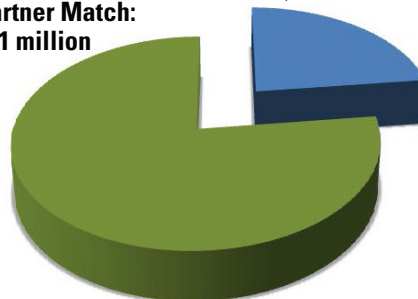
the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States. The grants program requires a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3 to 1. However it has achieved a **match ratio of nearly 4 to 1**, multiplying the program's on-the-ground investment at a rate that surpasses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

### 2020 Grants

Projects: 34  
Countries: 20

Partner Match:  
\$21 million

Grant Funds:  
\$4.8 million



### Program Impacts since 2002

**Grant Funding:** \$75 million

**Matching Funds:** \$286 million

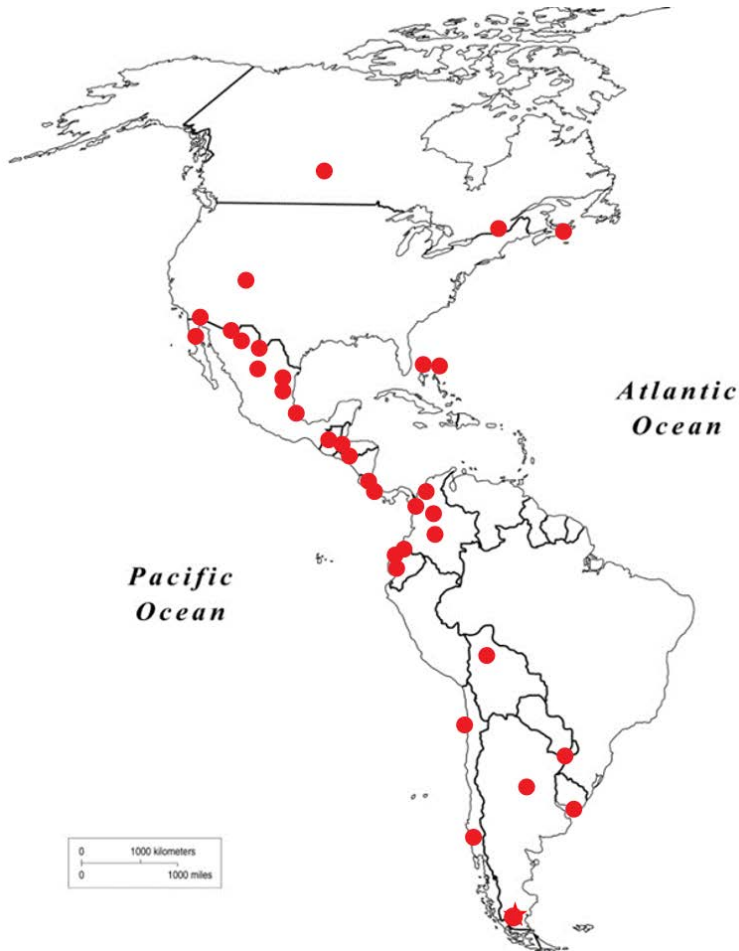
**Match Ratio:** 3.8 to 1

**Projects:** 628

**Countries:** 36

**Acres Affected:** 5 million

# 2020 Projects



## Project Highlights

### *Saving Mar Chiquita Wetlands, Argentina*

\$200,000 to protect 13,000 acres in the Mar Chiquita area of central Argentina through acquisition, development of management practices and community engagement. American golden plover, lesser yellowlegs and pectoral sandpiper are among the birds that will benefit.

### *Integrating Shorebirds Conservation and Shrimp Farming, Honduras and Nicaragua*

\$39,136 to foster bird friendly shrimp farming practices in the Bay of Fonseca. Birds that will benefit include American oystercatcher, ruddy turnstone, and red knot.

### *Sustaining Kirtland's Warbler Nonbreeding Habitat, Bahamas*

\$89,501 to develop and execute effective habitat management and community engagement strategies on Kirtland's warbler winter range in the central Bahamas, where the population may be limited in at least some years.

### *Elk Mountain Ranch Conservation (Colorado)*

\$100,000 to permanently protect over 600 acres of ranchlands in northwest Colorado, an area where over 50 species of neotropical migrants have been reported.

## Key Habitats and Actions

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

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



*The Kirtland's warbler is another beneficiary of NMBCA funding.*

Credit: Joel Trick/USFWS

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