

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Projects

North America's bird population has declined by 3 billion birds since 1970—and most of these declines have been suffered by migratory species that journey thousands of miles each year from the U.S. to Latin America and the Caribbean. A successful recovery will depend on international conservation efforts across their full migratory ranges.

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grant program has provided a key source of funding and partnerships for conserving more than 350 species of birds across the Western Hemisphere.

There is also significant unmet demand: only 32% of proposals have been funded since 2002. Audubon urges Congress to fully fund NMBCA appropriations in FY24 — and to advance bipartisan legislation introduced this summer to reauthorize and strengthen the program's impact.

QUICK FACTS:

1. There are 386 species of neotropical migratory birds that migrate to and from the U.S. each year, including songbirds, shorebirds and birds of prey. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act provides millions in funding to help preserve and protect their natural habitat and prevent species loss.
2. Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has provided more than \$89 million in grants to support 717 projects in 43 countries.

Projects:

WEST VIRGINIA, USA: Protecting Neotropical Migratory Birds on the Allegheny Front

GRANTEE: The Nature Conservancy West Virginia, Awarded May 2021

GRANT AMOUNT: \$200,000 | **PROPOSED MATCH:** \$620,469

The Allegheny Front is a 165-mile escarpment that connects West Virginia's Monongahela National Forest to the Pennsylvania Wilds – part of a key migratory flyway for Wood Thrush, Black-throated Green Warblers and many other Neotropical Migratory Birds. This project purchased a conservation easement on the Gainer Tract, expanding these protected lands.



Wood Thrush. Photo: Linnet Tse/Audubon Photography Awards

COLORADO, USA: U.S.-Mexico Grassland Bird Conservation

GRANTEE: Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Awarded May 2022

GRANT AMOUNT: \$200,000 | **PROPOSED MATCH:** \$1,100,000

Since 2012, conservationists in Colorado have engaged with landowners in northern Mexico to build the Sustainable Grazing Network (SGN), which has protected 285,000 acres and improved 73,000 acres of grasslands that are breeding and stopover habitats for 20 high-priority grassland birds. This project funds expanding and enhancing the SGN, monitoring birds across the SGN, and building partnerships between conservationists and ranchers in northern Mexico.



Chestnut-collared Longspur. Photo: Joshua Galicki/Audubon Photography Awards

PERU: Bird-Friendly Communities in Northern Peru

GRANTEE: American Bird Conservancy, Awarded April 2023

GRANT AMOUNT: \$199,884 | PROPOSED MATCH: \$611,370

The Amazonas and San Martín regions are priority wintering grounds for 23 species of migratory songbirds, including the Blue-gray Tanager Warbler, Canada Warbler, and Olive-sided Flycatcher. This project supports this critical habitat by planting new trees and coffee plants covering approximately 247 acres of land for migratory birds, working with local landowners and farmers to establish bird-friendly land-use practices, and hosting local workshops to build capacity for community-based conservation.



Scarlet Tanager. Photo: Joseph Woulf/Audubon Photography Awards

CANADA: Conservation for Cerulean Warbler and Priority Birds

GRANTEE: Birds Canada, Awarded April 2023

GRANT AMOUNT: \$99,633 | PROPOSED MATCH: \$301,276

The Cerulean Warbler population has declined by over 70% since the 1970s, primarily due to the loss of forest habitat. Canada's largest Cerulean Warbler populations are in the Frontenac Arch and the Carolinian Region. This project aims to stop the decline of these populations and create new habitat for them over the next two years. That will involve working with private and public landowners, land trusts, Conservation Authorities, and local and federal governments to improve habitat conservation and monitoring for nesting success and habitat threats.



Cerulean Warbler. Photo: Charlie Trapani/Audubon Photography Awards

CARIBBEAN: Building Capacity for Landbird Monitoring and Conservation in the Caribbean

GRANTEE: BirdsCaribbean, Awarded April 2023

GRANT AMOUNT: \$199,876 | PROPOSED MATCH: \$801,573

This project aims to expand three regional monitoring programs that have been improving the long-term survival of landbirds across the Caribbean islands for several years. It will build local monitoring capacity by providing training, tools, and funding. It will also coordinate regional monitoring activities and increase awareness through community outreach and education programs.



Bobolink. Photo: Adam Brandemuhl/Audubon Photography Awards

