



Partners in Flight

Keeping common birds common and helping species at risk through voluntary partnerships

Partners in Flight is a dynamic network of more than 150 partner organizations throughout the U.S., Canada, and Mexico engaged in all aspects of landbird conservation, from science, planning, and policy development to land management, monitoring, and outreach. We work to protect landbirds by implementing strategic monitoring and assessment tools as well as developing priority species lists, conservation plans, maps, and databases that facilitate cross-border cooperation and on-the-ground actions.



Learn more at www.partnersinflight.org



Conservation Action *Makes a Difference*

While conservation planning happens at international, national, or ecoregional scales, action is best taken locally by those who know how the lands, waters, and human and natural communities will respond. Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs) and other partnerships are the primary implementation arms of PIF and other major conservation initiatives. As illustrated in the following examples, JVs achieve range-wide habitat objectives for birds, and reflect local culture and environmental priorities of their geographic regions.

PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT Joint Venture

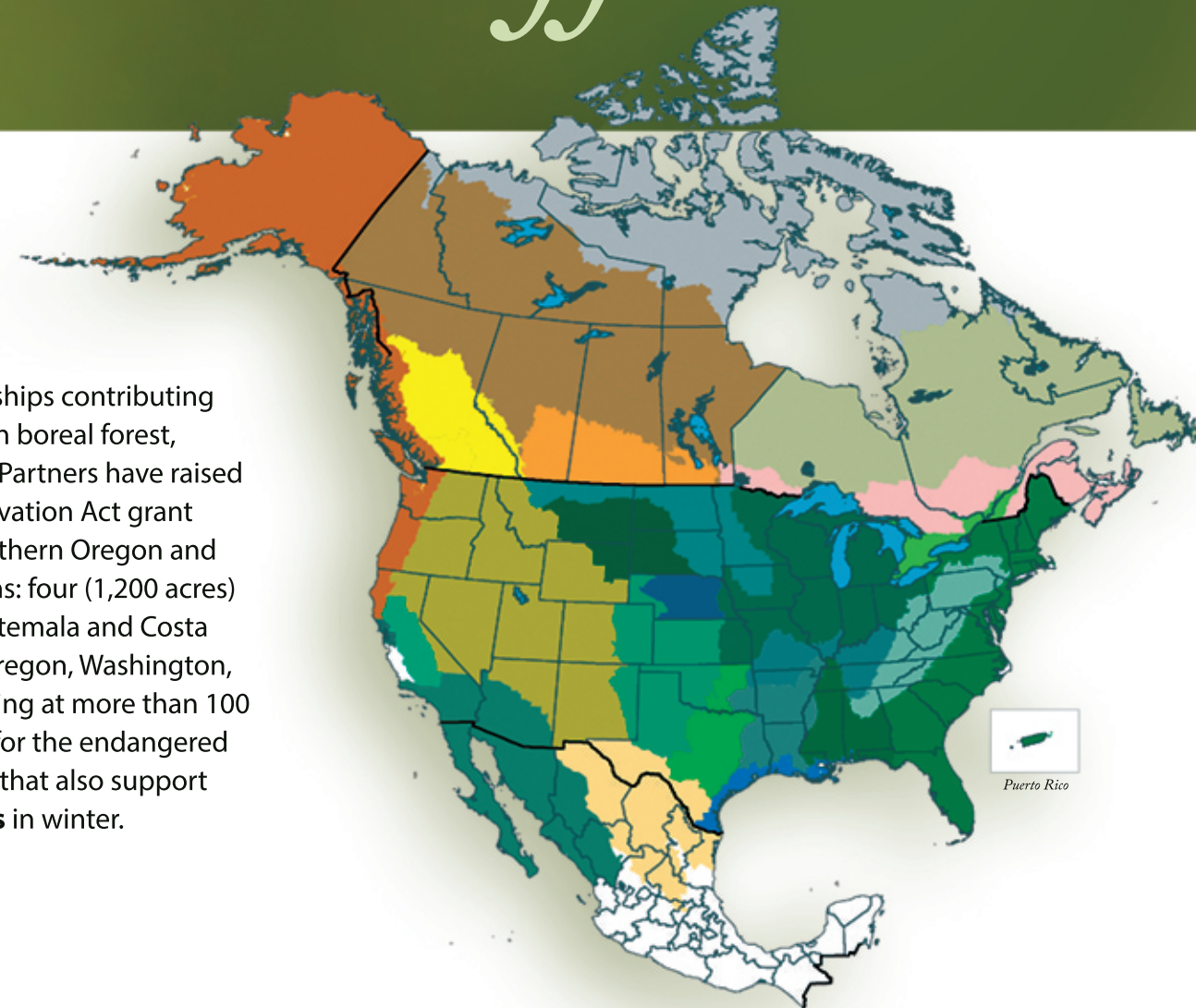
Oak and Prairie Collaborative Conservation

Pacific Birds Habitat JV is one of several U.S.-Canadian partnerships contributing to the conservation of priority landbird species that depend on boreal forest, alpine tundra, and highly threatened oak and prairie habitats. Partners have raised millions of dollars to match Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant funds that support landscape-scale restoration projects in southern Oregon and northern California. Accomplishments include land acquisitions: four (1,200 acres) in the U.S.; three (120 acres) in El Salvador; 40,000 acres in Guatemala and Costa Rica; and habitat management and restoration at 20 sites in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Bird monitoring and research are occurring at more than 100 sites in California, Oregon, and Washington as are inventories for the endangered **Golden-cheeked Warbler** at numerous sites in Latin America that also support Pacific focal species such as **Hermit** and **Townsend's Warblers** in winter.

PLAYA LAKES Joint Venture

Crafting a Landscape That Works for Birds and People

The Playa Lakes JV has identified priority grassland areas for conservation and helped incentivize landowners, through the use of U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Bill conservation programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), to convert cropland back to grassland. The job of private lands biologists is to sensitively match landowners with suitable conservation practices. For the past 25 years, through its ConocoPhillips grant program, the JV has awarded \$2.5 million in grants to support 150+ conservation projects on 68,000 acres of bird habitat much of that in grasslands. In addition, the JV offers capacity grants to increase the ability of programs or organizations to develop and deliver effective habitat conservation.



International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD)

IMBD, PIF's keystone education program, is a hemispheric celebration of migratory birds and their conservation that is hosted at over 600 locations from Canada to Argentina and the Caribbean. Each year, the event highlights PIF conservation messages and provides education materials for use with the youth and their families at refuges, nature centers, zoos, parks, schools, and more through festivals, programs, bird walks, and other activities. Celebrated year-round as birds migrate, IMBD is an opportunity to join together with one voice for bird conservation.

IMBD is coordinated by Environment for the Americas.

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS Joint Venture

Revitalizing a Dynamic Forest Landscape

A major priority of this JV partnership is to improve the health and resiliency of Appalachian forests for landbird populations. Appalachian partners have made substantial progress for two high-priority species: **Golden-winged Warbler** and **Cerulean Warbler** on both public and private lands. By engaging private landowners through two Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) initiatives, including Working Lands for Wildlife and the Regional Conservation Partners Program, partners across five states have committed tens of thousands of acres of private and public lands for habitat enhancements and conservation easements. In addition, 1,000 acres of legacy surface mine lands in Kentucky are being reforested with deciduous species such as blight-resistant American Chestnuts.

ATLANTIC COAST Joint Venture

Partnering for Saltmarsh Conservation

Coastal marsh conservation is a high priority in the Atlantic Coast JV as it supports many species of highest concern, including **Saltmarsh Sparrow**, Black Rail and American Black Duck. Most saltmarsh habitat in northeastern and mid-Atlantic states has been lost or degraded by centuries of draining and filling and the spread of invasive species. JV efforts focus on providing refugia for saltmarsh-obligate species, and partners have conserved more than 200,000 acres of coastal marsh in the last two decades, largely through the NAWCA and Coastal Grants programs. Partners ranging from individual landowners to organizations like The Nature Conservancy are restoring tidal flow and natural hydrology, acquiring lands adjacent to saltmarsh, facilitating the creation of future saltmarsh habitat, and allowing for saltmarsh migration.

Our approach is science-based and partner-driven.

Partners in Flight conservation planning follows a step-by-step planning approach and a logical process for setting objectives, working with partners to implement conservation actions, and evaluating progress toward these objectives.

Contact Us

Bob Ford
Partners in Flight National Coordinator

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Phone: 703-358-2317

Email: Robert_P_Ford@fws.gov

A New Sense of Urgency

Although we have made significant progress since 2004, many landbird species continue to exhibit alarming population declines. The steepest recent declines are seen in grassland birds, species of aridland habitats such as sagebrush and desert scrub, and forest species dependent on specialized structural features or natural disturbance.

New metrics indicate that the window for reversing declines and preventing endangerment is narrower than we thought. Of 86 PIF Watch List species, 22 have already lost at least half of their population in the past 40 years and are projected to lose an additional 50 percent of their current population within the next 40 years. However, we know we can stop and reverse these declines through partnerships that bring together diverse expertise and resources.

The 2016 Landbird Conservation Plan



The 2016 Landbird Conservation Plan presents an overview of action required in the U.S. and Canada over the next ten years. It presents new assessments and tools as well as recommendations to address continental threats, reverse long-term population declines, and prevent landbirds from becoming at risk.

Download the plan at
partnersinflight.org

All Hands On Deck!

GET INVOLVED WITH PIF

- Collaborate with JVs to conserve landbirds
- Engage in PIF focus areas of our Work Plan
- Share the 2016 Landbird Conservation Plan
- Utilize PIF science and education tools
- Become a funding partner

