



The Southern Wings Program

A Partnership of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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Goal and Mission

- **Goal:** State Fish and Wildlife Agencies contribute \$2 Million per year to the annual lifecycle conservation of shared priority birds in the Western Hemisphere
- **Mission:** Encourage and facilitate state fish and wildlife agency participation in conservation projects for shared priority birds in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.



Why State Wildlife Agencies Participate

1. Protect investments on breeding habitats
2. Leverages limited state funds
 - Greater collective impact
 - Even small amounts of funding go a long way
3. Makes biological sense – Annual Lifecycle Conservation
4. Birds are of great interest to citizens and are economically significant
5. The program leverages state money at least 1 to 1

What Are They Doing?

- State agencies & their in-state partners have contributed over:
 - \$600,000 US dollars
 - \$550,000 in-kind
- Projects in 11 countries



Project Characteristics

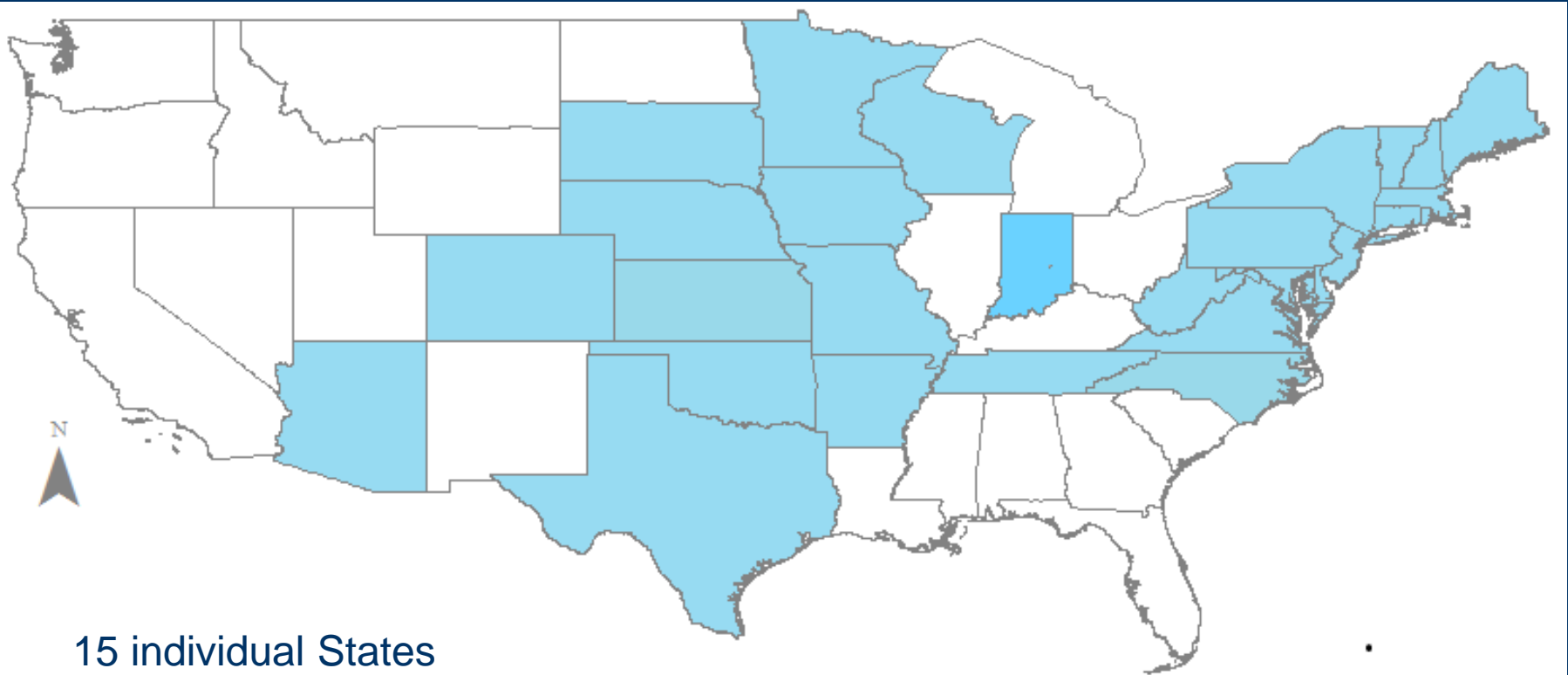
1. Target/benefit state priority migratory birds
 2. Have strong migration linkages to one or more States
 3. Objectives which are of biological relevance to States
 4. Seeks to implement habitat restoration, management, or on-the-ground activities
 5. Proposal is ready to be implemented or is an ongoing project.
- Additional support contributes to implementing additional objectives or enhancing current objectives.



Reserva El Jaguar Project - Golden-winged Warbler and Wood Thrush conservation



28 Participating States



15 individual States
NEAFWA (13)

US Based Partners

- American Bird Conservancy
- National Audubon Society
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Birdlife International
- Vermont Center For EcoStudies
- Iowa Ornithologists' Union
- Iowa Audubon Society
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA)

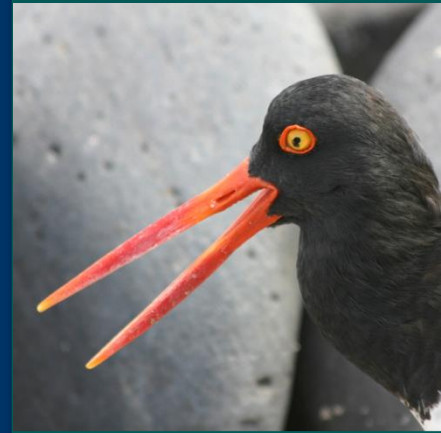
In-Country Partners

- FUNDAECO (Guatemala)
- Reserva El Jaguar (Nicaragua)
- Bahamas National Trust (Bahamas)
- Fundacion Proaves (Colombia)
- Osa Conservation (Costa Rica)
- Pronatura Noreste/Noroeste (Mexico)
- Amigos de Sian Ka'an (Mexico)
- Sociedad Ornitológica Hispaniola and Fundación Loma Quita Espuela (Dominican Republic)
- Asociación Armonía (Bolivia)

Benefits to NRDAR and Southern Wings working together?

- Support conservation efforts where they make biological sense across the full lifecycle of a species
- Improve our ability to restore the impacted species.
- Mechanism to readily compensate for an injury that has occurred to migratory birds (i.e., readily acquire restoration credits for injured migratory birds).

Protect investment made in the U.S.



American Oystercatcher by Deb Hahn



Wood duck



Golden-cheeked Warbler by Greg Lavaty

Benefits con't

- The State agencies through Southern Wings can help identify projects; help leverage funds; provide additional accountability; and provide links to quality projects with quality partners
- Leverage additional funds for migratory bird conservation
- Develop additional support from local constituents for annual life cycle conservation



American Oystercatcher by Deb Hahn



Wood duck



Golden-cheeked Warbler by Greg Lavaty

Northern Mexico Grasslands Project

- In conjunction with NMBCA grant
- Restoration, management and protection in Grassland Priority Conservation Areas
- EX: El Tokio GPCA

Iowa, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota
Are involved in the project

Ejido Reserves
Ranching Techniques
Habitat connectivity
Management Plans
Conservation Actions

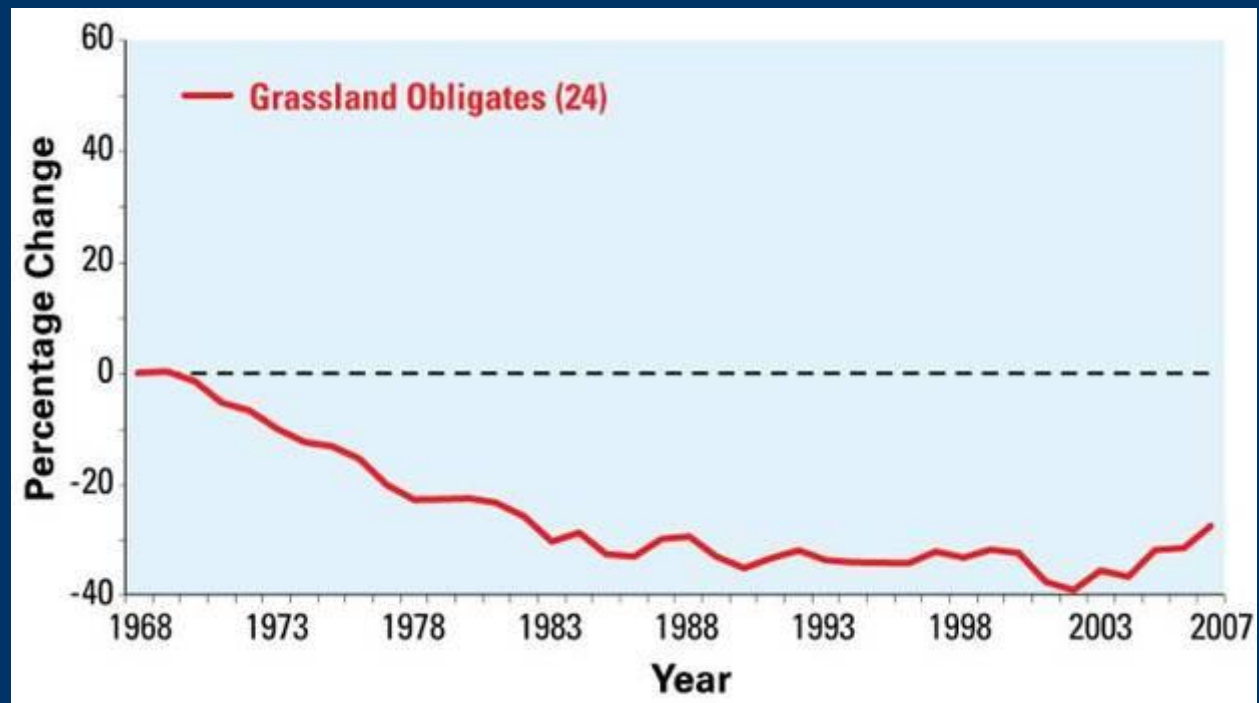


GRASSLANDS

America's Heartland is Home to Our Nation's Fastest Declining Birds



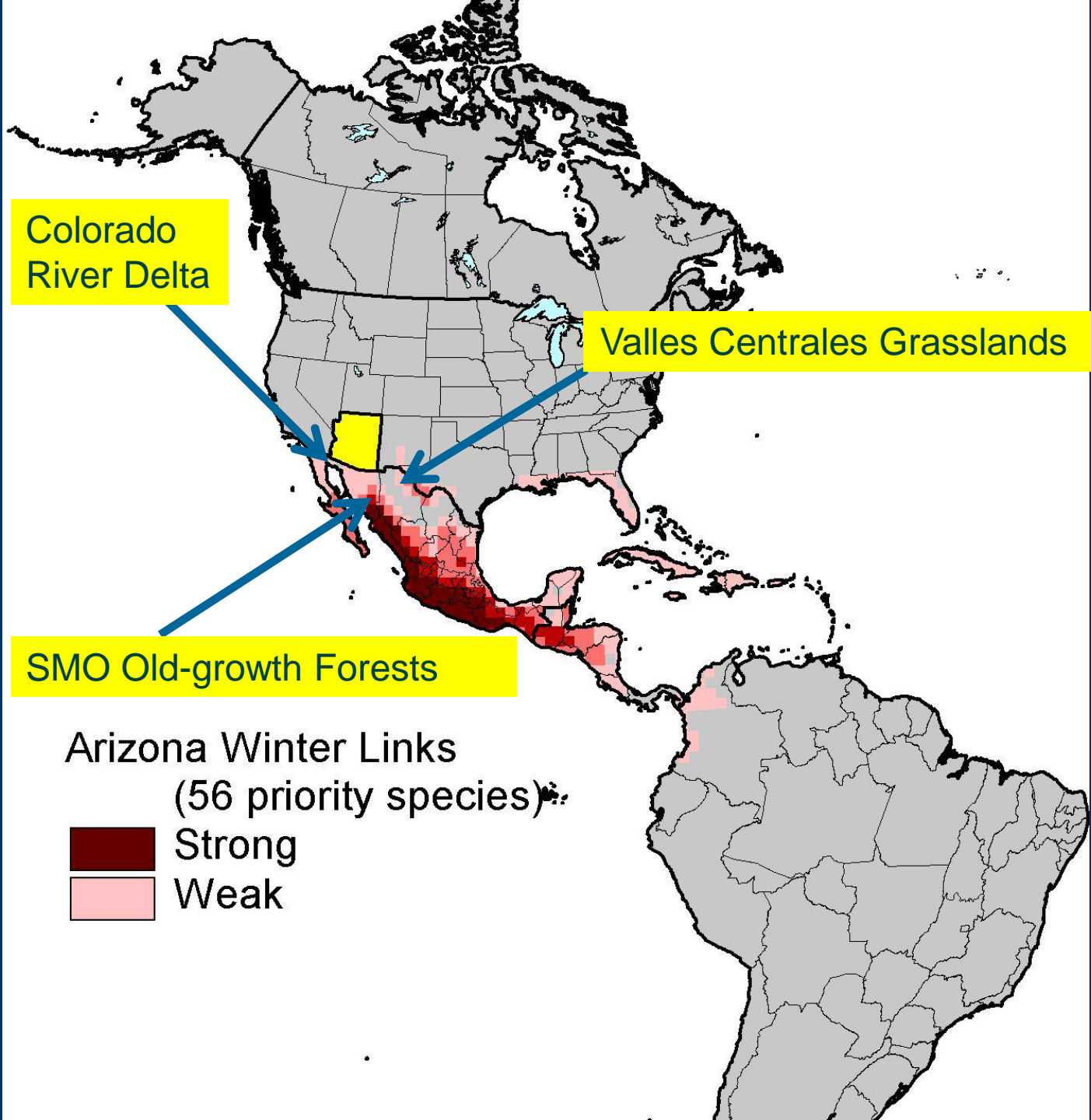
Population indicators for grassland birds show strong declines over the past 40 years



Western Meadowlark by Donald Metzger

- Local community involvement (Tanque Nuevo and Matehuapil ejidos) critical to successful conservation





The SMO provides important wintering/stopover habitat for 10+ species designated as AZ priority (and provides breeding habitat for extant populations of TBPA's)



Grace's Warbler
Virginia's Warbler
Red-faced Warbler
Cordilleran Flycatcher
Whip-poor-will
Elegant Trogon



Arizona in partnership with Pronatura Noroeste and ITESM has supported:



- Habitat Management
- Reforestation
- Bird monitoring
- Environmental Education
- TBPA management



Contact Information

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By Steve Maslowski