

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 4.2 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:

- **sparkling 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

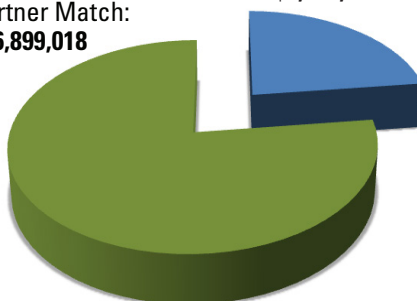
the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States. The grants program requires a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3 to 1. However it has achieved a **match ratio of nearly 4 to 1**, multiplying the program's on-the-ground investment at a rate that surpasses 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.

2016 Grants

2016 Projects: **32**
2016 Countries: **17**

Partner Match:
\$16,899,018

Grant Funds:
\$4,075,342



Program Impacts since 2002

Grant Funding: \$58,515,919
Matching Funds: \$221,915,059
Match Ratio: 3.8 to 1
Projects: 510
Countries: 36

2016 Projects



Project Highlights

Conservation of Buff-breasted Sandpiper in South America

The buff-breasted sandpiper (BBSA) is considered a species of global conservation concern due to its small and declining population, and loss/alteration of grassland habitats used during migration and wintering. This project will document habitat use and threats faced by BBSA during migration and wintering in South America, and to conduct conservation activities at wintering sites.

Conserving Golden-winged Warblers on Hump Mountain

The golden-winged warbler has experienced one of the steepest declines of any American songbird during the last 45 years, in large part due to a loss of viable habitat in critical areas.

This project will protect the 432-acre Hump Mountain Tract in Tennessee to eliminate an imminent threat of development.

Ensuring Conservation Status for the Last Unprotected Forests in Caribbean Guatemala

The forests within Guatemala's Caribbean Rainforest Corridor are a vital link in the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor and the Caribbean migratory flyway of Central America. This project will protect and manage remaining forests in cooperation with local communities and government agencies, and will continue monitoring bird populations and forest cover change in order to evaluate long term impacts of the project.

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 Painted bunting is another beneficiary of NMBCA funding.
Credit: USFWS

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