

Catalyzing Bird Conservation Across the Western Hemisphere

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grant program is a **catalyst for bird conservation and partnership development** throughout the Western Hemisphere, actively promoting the long-term conservation of neotropical migratory birds and their habitats.

NMBCA's competitive matching grants program:

- sparks **partnership-based conservation** through hundreds of public-private collaborations
- achieves **habitat protection** and other critical bird conservation in 36 countries
- provides seed money to **energize local on-the-ground conservation efforts**, and
- builds **conservation delivery capacity** in local organizations.

The **repeated success of NMBCA-inspired partnerships** benefits most of the **340+ neotropical migratory birds** that breed in the United States and Canada and winter in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Key Habitats and Species

NMBCA projects focus on priority areas and threats to Neotropical migratory birds, funding activities that will protect habitat and energize local conservation initiatives. For example, the conversion of grassland habitat to agriculture is a major reason the number of grassland birds (such as the long-billed curlew, pictured) is rapidly declining. Consequently, the conservation of this important ecosystem throughout the hemisphere is a **high priority** for the NMBCA grant program, which has supported two large-scale conservation efforts aimed at conserving grassland habitats.

The **U.S.-Mexico Grasslands Conservation Project**, the longest-running NMBCA-funded initiative, has leveraged \$1.9 million in grants with \$6.2 million in partner match to support habitat protection and bird population recovery efforts on tens of thousands of acres from the Rocky Mountain Front to the Chihuahua desert. NMBCA's involvement has resulted in:

- Long-term wintering bird **research and monitoring** to develop the first population baseline for birds in regional Chihuahuan grasslands.



Southern Cone Grasslands-Anibal Parera/Birdlife International



Long-billed curlew-Gary Kramer/USFWS

- **Community outreach**, including demonstration grazing projects and workshops, to train biologists and give livestock producers, range managers and conservationists the tools they need to enhance habitat for grassland birds.
- **New public-private alliances** that focus on grasslands conservation research and monitoring and growing the conservation capacity of partners.

The **Southern Cone Grasslands Alliance** has united farmers, researchers, conservationists, rural and urban residents, and government agencies to conserve critical and increasingly threatened grassland habitat in South America.

Below: The temperate grasslands of southern South America originally encompassed more than a million square kilometers, comprising one of the richest grazing areas in the world but also one of the most important grasslands for biodiversity conservation. Credit: Anibal Parera for Birdlife International.



Below: Bobolinks visit the grasslands of the Southern Cone region in large numbers. Credit: Anibal Parera for Birdlife International.



Above: With support from a NMBCA grant, the Southern Cones Grasslands Alliance created public support for biodiversity friendly agricultural systems and involved local producers for the first time in conservation. Credit: Anibal Parera for Birdlife International.

More than \$633,000 in NMBCA funding and \$2.6 million in partner contributions have supported this **large-scale, multi-national initiative**. NMBCA's involvement has resulted in:

- **Best management practices** that show private landowners how to help conserve the region's grasslands.
- **Landowner incentives**, funded with a \$750,000 donation from the Inter-American Development Bank, for farmers and cattle ranchers who conserve grasslands habitats.
- **Demonstration sites, toolkits, forums for landowners and community outreach** that increase the number of ranchers and other agricultural producers who support and promote "biodiversity friendly" land management practices.

Many other habitats and species throughout the Western Hemisphere have benefited from NMBCA grants.

More information

NMBCA goals include perpetuating **healthy bird populations**, providing **financial resources** for bird conservation initiatives, and **fostering international cooperation** for such initiatives. At least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States.

Since 2002, NMBCA partnerships have received **more than \$35 million** in grant funds to support **333 projects**. Partners have brought another **\$136 million in matching funds**, a partner-to-grant dollar match of nearly 4-to-1. To date, some **2 million acres of migratory bird habitat** have been positively affected.

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