

# 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 3.7 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

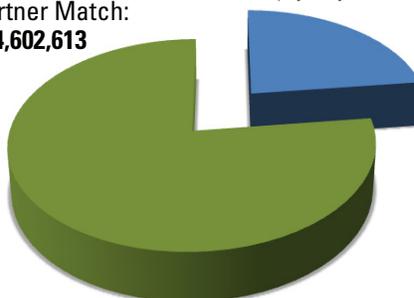
the U.S. border, at least 75 percent of the funding supports projects outside the United States. The grants program requires a partner-to-grant dollar match of 3 to 1. However it has achieved a **match ratio of nearly 4 to 1**, multiplying the program's on-the-ground investment at a rate that surpasses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

### 2015 Grants

2015 Projects: **27**  
2015 Countries: **18**

Partner Match:  
**\$14,602,613**

Grant Funds:  
**\$3,801,317**



### Program Impacts since 2002

**Grant Funding:** \$53,922,317  
**Matching Funds:** \$205,297,613  
**Match Ratio:** 3.8 to 1  
**Projects:** 478  
**Countries:** 36

# 2015 Projects



## 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

## Project Highlights

### *Saving Valles Centrales: Securing Grasslands Connectivity*

Grasslands provide important habitat for several species of neotropical migratory birds, such as Baird’s Sparrow, Lark Bunting and Sprague’s Pipit. In the Valles Centrales area of Mexico, grasslands are being converted to croplands at a high rate. This project will prevent further grassland loss by creating three private reserves of nearly 30,000 acres dedicated to sustainable cattle ranching.

### *Creation of the Community Reserve of Chinatú, Chihuahua*

Several Neotropical migratory bird species in the Sierra Madre Occidental region of Mexico are declining due to poor forest management. This project will protect more than 100 species of

birds, including the Rufous Hummingbird and Bell’s Vireo, by creating a community-managed forest reserve, reforesting degraded areas, and conducting community outreach on sustainable forestry practices.

### *Conservation Business Planning*

Two projects will develop hemisphere-wide comprehensive management plans for shorebirds in the Atlantic and Pacific flyways. These projects will unite smaller plans in more than 20 countries and increase international cooperation and best practices. These initiatives will protect many species of migratory birds, including Marbled Godwits, Snowy Plovers and Red Knots, throughout their migration routes.

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