

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture

Partners working together for the conservation of native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway region of the United States.

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) is a partnership of federal, regional and state agencies and organizations focused on the conservation of habitat for native bird species in the Atlantic Flyway of the United States from Maine south to Puerto Rico. The joint venture coordinates planning and delivery of bird habitat conservation, resulting in more effective and efficient conservation and the ability to focus limited resources on continental, national, flyway and regional bird conservation priorities.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Since the passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in 1989, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has awarded 21 grants under the act totaling more than \$6.1 million for projects in Florida. Agencies, organizations and private landowners have contributed more than \$20.6 million towards these projects which will ultimately protect over 61,840 acres of wetlands and other significant migratory bird habitats.

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants Program

National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grants have also significantly contributed to habitat conservation in Florida. Over 8,000 acres of maritime forests, barrier islands, and other coastal habitats critical for breeding, migratory, and wintering birds have been conserved at important sites such as Indian River Lagoon, Pelican Island, Tampa Bay, Tarpon Bay, and McIlvane Marsh.

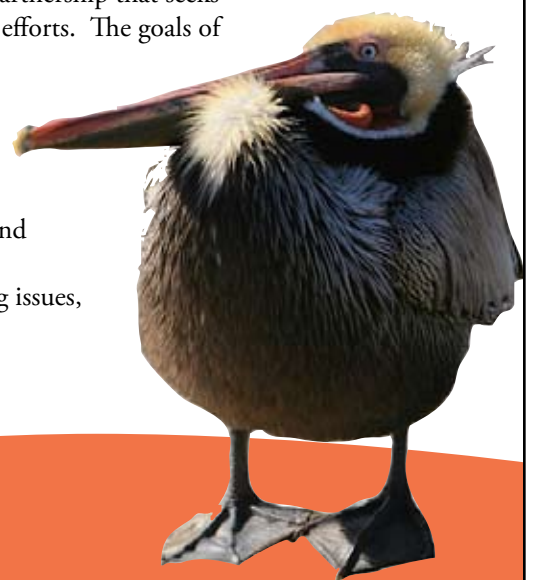
An International Program to Protect Neotropical Migratory Birds

In Florida, two Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants have been awarded to address the conservation of neotropical migratory birds: Gulf Crossings Technical Assistance Project, and Phase 2 - Avian International Monitoring Network. Funds were granted to provide partners in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean the means to provide a network of communicating and delivering coordinated research, monitoring, outreach, and education activities necessary to conserve migrant species in the Western Hemisphere. Partners contributed over \$500,000 in matching fund to approximately \$88,000 awarded in this new program.

The Florida Bird Conservation Initiative: Implementing "All Bird" Conservation

The Florida Bird Conservation Initiative (FBCI) was formed as a voluntary public-private partnership that seeks to promote the sustainability of native Florida birds and their habitats through coordinated efforts. The goals of FBCI are to:

- 1) Promote the conservation and restoration of bird populations and habitats deemed to be most vulnerable or in need of conservation attention.
- 2) Ensure the continued sustainability of bird populations and habitats that are presently secure.
- 3) Improve coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders to more effectively align and leverage resources in support of mutual priorities and objectives.
- 4) Increase awareness and support among the public and conservation community regarding issues, challenges and opportunities related to the conservation of birds.



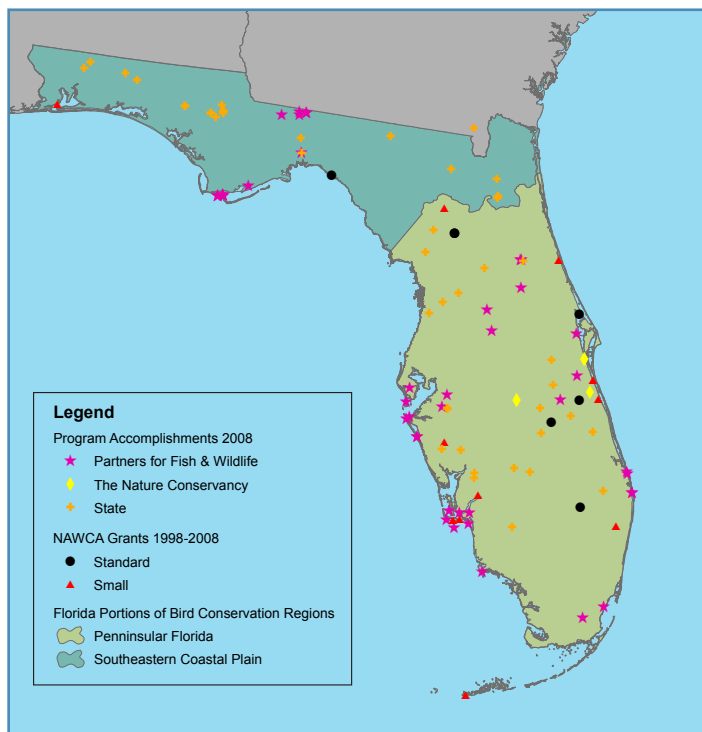
The FBCI consists of a two-prong approach which includes a website and a statewide partnership and steering committee made up of state and federal agencies, avian non-profit organizations, and stakeholders. Launched in May 2008, the website serves as a clearinghouse of information to support avian conservation efforts by biologists, researchers, public and private land managers/owners, grant writers, policy-makers, educators, and outreach coordinators. FBCI has an active listserv with over 145 participants, which functions as a panel for discussions, a means for information exchange and, in general, improves communication among those working with birds in Florida. The statewide partnership functions to facilitate and improve communications concerning avian conservation. Within the partnership, a steering committee serves as a resource to address avian issues and needs and to guide Florida's overall avian conservation strategy. The idea of FBCI is to blur the lines between organizations and create a super-organization by bringing together scientists, birders, land managers, and citizens to advance bird conservation. To learn more about FBCI got to http://myfwc.com/CONSERVATION/FLBirdConservation_index.htm.

SAMBI Planning Region Pilot for Landscape Conservation Design Project

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) selected and funded an Atlantic Coast Joint Venture project on Landscape Conservation Design for a Multistate Conservation Grant in September 2007. The three-year project, "Designing Sustainable Landscapes for Bird Populations in the Eastern United States", was developed by North Carolina State University, Auburn University and ACJV staff and partners. This project will provide a framework and methodology for the ACJV to conduct integrated conservation design at large spatial scales, and would apply to seven bird conservation regions (BCRs), three existing joint ventures (Atlantic Coast, East Gulf Coastal Plain, and Appalachian Mountains) and 22 states, with eventual application nationwide. Complete implementation of this



SAMBI boundary



Map and figures only account for partner data submitted.

Partner Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2008

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 72,196

NAWCA Accomplishments Fiscal Years 1990-2008

Grant dollars: \$ 6.1 million

Match: \$ 20.6 million

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 61,840

approach would be piloted in the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) region. Specifically, this project would develop and implement a framework and tools to direct habitat conservation efforts on a diverse landscape for priority habitats and associated species. Already significant progress has been made through developing initial species-habitat models and land cover change modeling. Partner workshops have been conducted for all five SAMBI states with partners providing valuable information on species selection and habitat characteristics to be used modeling this complex landscape. Once completed, this project will enhance the capacity of partners to deliver habitat conservation over a complex landscape that has been targeted for priority conservation actions to sustain bird populations in the eastern United States.

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Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partners:

Connecticut, Delaware, Florida,
 Georgia, Maine, Maryland,
 Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
 New Jersey, New York, North
 Carolina, Pennsylvania, Rhode
 Island, South Carolina, Vermont,
 Virginia, Puerto Rico,
 Ducks Unlimited, Inc.,
 Wildlife Management Institute,
 The Nature Conservancy,
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
 National Park Service,
 U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S.G.S.
 Patuxent Wildlife Research Center



www.acjv.org

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