

## 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.

### ***The North American Wetlands Conservation Act***

Since the passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act in 1989, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has awarded 10 grants under the act totaling more than \$6 million for projects in Georgia. Agencies, organizations and private landowners have contributed more than \$38 million towards these projects which will ultimately protect nearly 49,000 acres of wetlands and other significant migratory bird habitats.

### ***Joint Venture Partners Work to Conserve the Altamaha River Basin***

The Altamaha River Basin is the second largest watershed on the eastern seaboard and drains more than one-quarter of the state of Georgia. Conservation of bottomland forests in the Altamaha River corridor is critical to meeting objectives for numerous priority species of landbirds, shorebirds, and waterbirds, guided by national bird conservation initiatives such as Partners in Flight, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, the United States Shorebird Conservation Plan, and Waterbird Conservation for the Americas, and more specifically through the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. These national and regional plans have been combined with the efforts of local conservation groups, making habitat acquisition and management a priority in the lower Altamaha River.

NAWCA and National Coastal Wetlands Grants have been the key funding component in the protection of major properties along the Altamaha River: Moody Forest, Penholoway Swamp, Clayhole Swamp, and Sansavilla Wetlands. Other protected and managed properties in the network of conservation areas include Moody Forest Natural Area (NA), Griffin Ridge Wildlife Management Area (WMA), Sansavilla WMA, Bullard Creek WMA, Big Hammock WMA and NA, Altamaha WMA, Altamaha River Cooperative Scenic Easement, Altamaha-Rayonier NA, Hofwyl-Broadfield State Historic Site and The Nature Conservancy's Carr's Island Preserve.

The Altamaha River Basin is recognized as a Western Hemispheric Shorebird Reserve Network site and as an Important Bird Area by both Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy, portions of the Altamaha River basin are included in a network of lands protected by the state and The Nature Conservancy. Major partners are the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, The Wildlife Conservation Fund, International Paper, Georgia-Pacific, Ducks Unlimited, The Environmental Resources Network (TE.R.N.), and the National Wild Turkey Federation.

### ***An International Program to Protect Neotropical Migratory Birds***

A Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant was awarded in 2002 to the Avian Research and Conservation Institute in Gainesville, Florida to work with migratory bird specialists in Brazil to protect known Swallow-tailed Kite communal roosts in Brazil. The joint venture considers conservation of the Swallow-tailed Kite a high priority for conservation. The most significant seasonal populations of Swallow-tailed Kites in the U.S. are found in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida.

A separate grant in the amount of \$10,000 was awarded to the University of Georgia Research



Foundation, Inc. to research and manage Louisiana Waterthrush in the Georgia Piedmont. The grant was matched by more than \$30,000 in non-federal contributions. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grant program was established in 2000 to support international efforts to conserve migratory birds.

### ***The South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative***

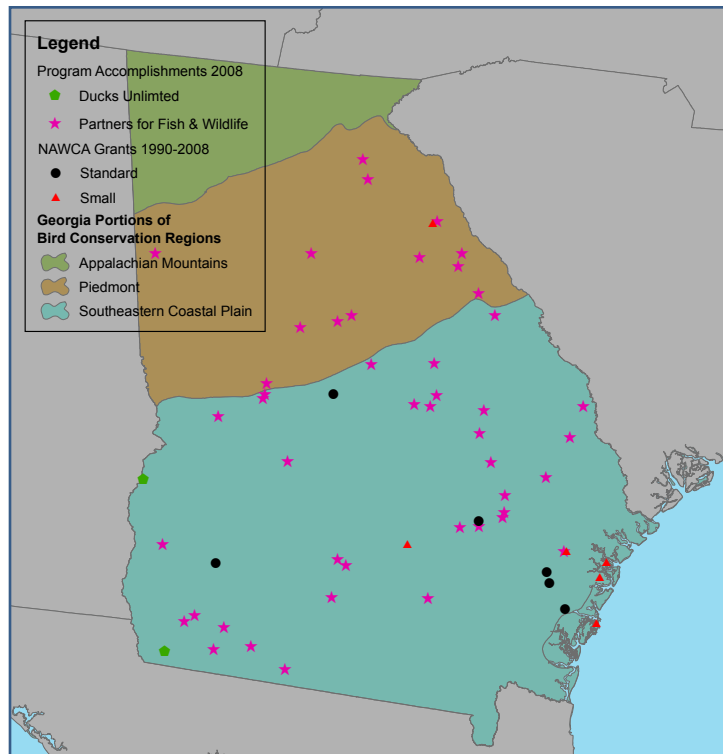
Georgia is one of five states involved in the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative ([www.acjv.org/sambi.htm](http://www.acjv.org/sambi.htm)) established in 1999 by the joint venture to conserve all native bird species within the southeastern Atlantic United States coastal plain. This regional initiative under the North American Bird Conservation Initiative to comprehensively manage migratory birds includes the states of Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. It serves as a model for similar programs within the joint venture, as well as in Canada and Mexico.

### ***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 approach would be piloted in the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) region. Specifically, this project would



*SAMBI boundary*



*Map and figures only account for partner data submitted.*

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.

### **Partner Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2008**

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 18,863

### **NAWCA Accomplishments Fiscal Years 1990-2008**

Grant dollars: \$6 million

Match: \$38 million

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 49,000

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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, National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S.D.A. Forest Service, U.S.G.S. Patuxent Wildlife Research Center



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January 2009