

South Carolina

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

South Carolina's diverse and unique habitats include the largest remaining virgin stand of blackwater bald cypress-tupelo gum swamp in the world, estuarine-emergent wetlands, bottomland hardwood, riverine swamp, emergent marsh, oxbow lakes and large stands of hardwood and mixed-pine forests. Many species of waterfowl, shorebirds, wading birds, and songbirds use one or more of these critical habitats at some time during their nesting, staging, migration, or wintering cycle. The North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) has been used extensively in South Carolina. From 1990-2008, sixteen Standard and twenty-one Small NAWCA grants have been approved for South Carolina, providing \$19.5 million in NAWCA funds and leveraging over \$91 million in matching funds. These grants have resulted in the protection, restoration, and enhancement of nearly 164,800 acres of valuable wetlands and adjacent upland habitats important to migratory birds.

The South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative

South Carolina is one of five states involved in the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (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 (<http://www.nabci-us.org>) to comprehensively manage migratory birds includes the states of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia 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 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.



SAMBI boundary



Waterbird Monitoring Initiative

Originally developed in 1999 as a web site of the South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative to monitor waterfowl and shorebird populations in the South Atlantic States of NC, SC, GA and FL, the waterbird monitoring initiative (under development) proposes to expand this monitoring to the entire eastern United States. The web site will allow wildlife managers to enter waterfowl and shorebird survey data, providing the opportunity to monitor in real time, these bird populations in the eastern U.S. The site will also include an inventory of managed habitats, enabling managers to more effectively allocate funding and manage their lands to meet the seasonal needs of migrating birds.

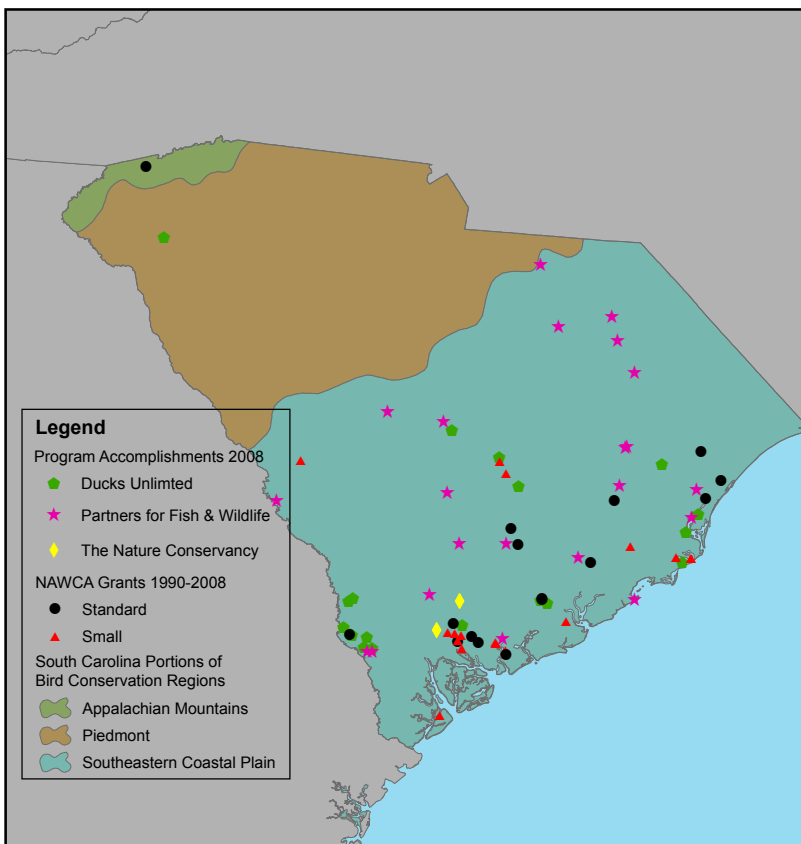
Northern Bobwhite and Grassland Bird Initiative

Focus areas and restoration projects for northern bobwhite and early-successional habitat associates have been developed in conjunction with numerous partners, including FSA, NRCS, U.S. Forest Service, South Carolina Forestry Commission, Quail Unlimited, National Wild Turkey Federation, South Carolina DNR, and the Clemson Cooperative Extension Service. Projects within these areas focus on restoration and maintenance of early-successional woodland and old-field habitats beneficial to Northern Bobwhite and other declining bird species, such as Loggerhead Shrike and Prairie Warbler. Projects are directed at achieving habitat enhancement goals set forth in the Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, completed by the Southeast Quail Study Group in 2002.

Painted Bunting Citizen Science Initiative

The Painted Bunting Observation Team (PBOT) is a team of citizen scientists that observes, records and catalogs sightings of Painted Buntings. The study is employing a citizen scientist approach to monitor Painted Bunting populations because this species is known to frequent backyard birdfeeders. Data collection and observations will help to determine the abundance and distribution of Painted Buntings at backyard feeders. This also involves the coordinated capture, mark-recapture and resight

monitoring of color-banded buntings. Scientists will use the data to detect population patterns across the coastal-inland and suburban-rural landscapes; learn if there are differences in how males and females use feeders; and determine how important backyard feeders are as a food resource for the Painted Bunting. For more information visit <http://www.paintedbuntings.org>.



Map and figures only account for partner data submitted.

Partner Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2008

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 58,508

NAWCA Accomplishments Fiscal Years 1990-2008

Grant dollars: \$19.5 million

Match: \$91 million

Acres Protected, Restored, Enhanced: 164,800

Contacts:

Craig Watson, USFWS
ACJV, South Atlantic Coordinator
176 Croghan Spur Rd., Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
Phone: 843/727-4707 ext. 233
Fax: 843/727-4218
E-mail: Craig_Watson@fws.gov

John Frampton, Director
ACJV Management Board Member
State of South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 803/734-4007
Email: framptonj@dnr.sc.gov

Dean Harrigal
ACJV Waterfowl Technical Committee
State of South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 843/844-8957
Email: harrigald@dnr.sc.gov

Laurel Moore Barnhill
ACJV Non Game Birds Contact
State of South Carolina
Department of Natural Resources
Phone: 803/734-3886
Email: barnhilll@dnr.sc.gov

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



www.acjv.org

January 2009