

The Southern Wings Program

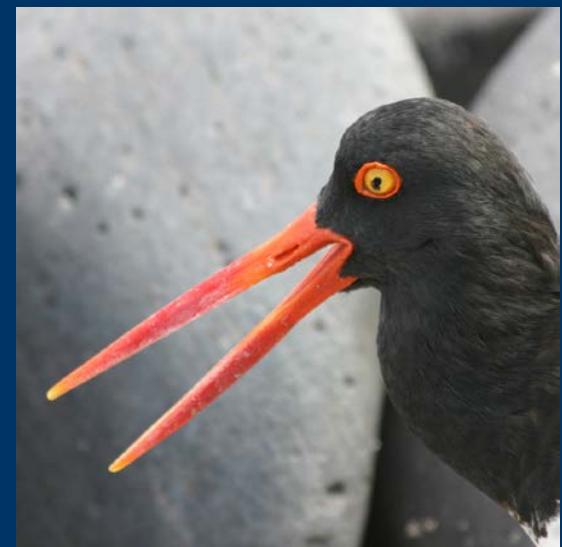


A Partnership of State
Fish and Wildlife Agencies



Goal and Objective

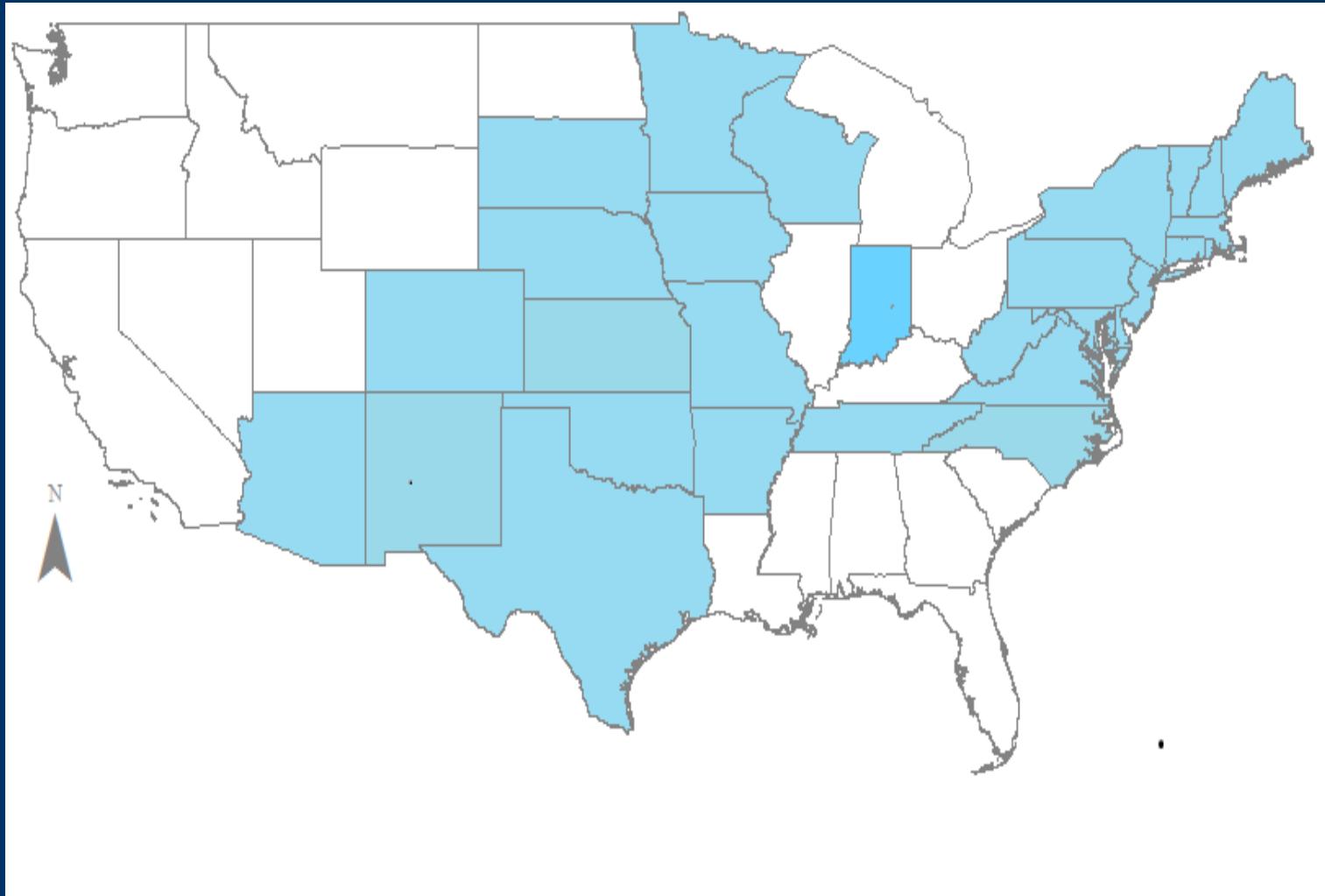
- **Goal:** State Fish and Wildlife Agencies contribute \$2 Million per year to the annual lifecycle conservation of shared priority birds in the Western Hemisphere
- **Mission:** Encourage and facilitate state fish and wildlife agency participation in conservation projects for shared priority birds in Mexico, Central America, South America and the Caribbean.



American Oystercatcher by Deb Hahn



29 Participating States





What Are They Doing?

- State agencies & their in-state partners have contributed over:
 - \$890,000 US dollars
 - \$550,000 in-kind



US Based Partners

- National Audubon Society
- Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- Birdlife International
- American Bird Conservancy
- Vermont Center For EcoStudies
- Iowa Ornithologists' Union
- Iowa Audubon Society
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Partners in Mexico

- Pronatura Noreste/Noroeste
- Amigos de Sian Ka'an
- National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP)
- Ecologia Rural Mexicana
- Universidad Autonomo de Nuevo Leon,
- National Forestry Commission (CONAFOR)
- Fondo Mexicano Forestal (FMF)
- Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM)
- Universidad Estatal de Sonora



Grassland Conservation in Northern Mexico

- Valles Centrales – NM, AZ, &
Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory
- El Tokio – IA, SD, NE, OK, Pronatura Noreste,
& American Bird Conservancy

AMERICA'S BIRD HABITATS

CONTINENTAL LANDS AND INLAND WATERS



GRASSLANDS

Populations have stabilized at low levels after decades of decline.

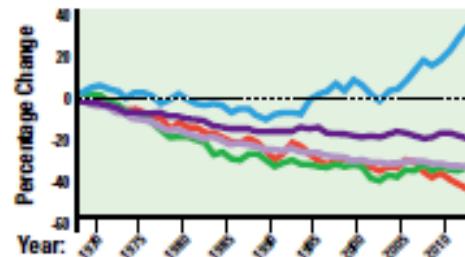
Since 1968, the grasslands indicator for 24 obligate breeding birds declined by nearly 40%, but the decline flattened out beginning in 1990. This recent stabilization noted in the 2009 report continues today, reflecting the significant investments made in grassland bird conservation. Reductions in Farm Bill conservation funding, however, threaten those investments.

Eastern grassland birds (such as Eastern Meadowlark and Bobolink) have continued a steady and precipitous decline, associated with declines in pasturelands due to changing dairy farming practices and suburban sprawl.

A sub-group of shortgrass prairie-nesting birds in the Western Great Plains also declined from 1968 to 2009.

BIRD POPULATION INDICATORS IN FIVE INLAND HABITATS

● Grasslands ● Aridlands ● Eastern Forests ● Western Forests ● Wetlands



See Our Approach for description of bird population indicators.

Conservation works!

Rangewide grassland bird conservation depends on conservation provisions in the Farm BILL. For example, Henslow's Sparrow and Upland Sandpiper benefit from the Conservation Reserve Pro-



ARIDLANDS/ GRASSLANDS

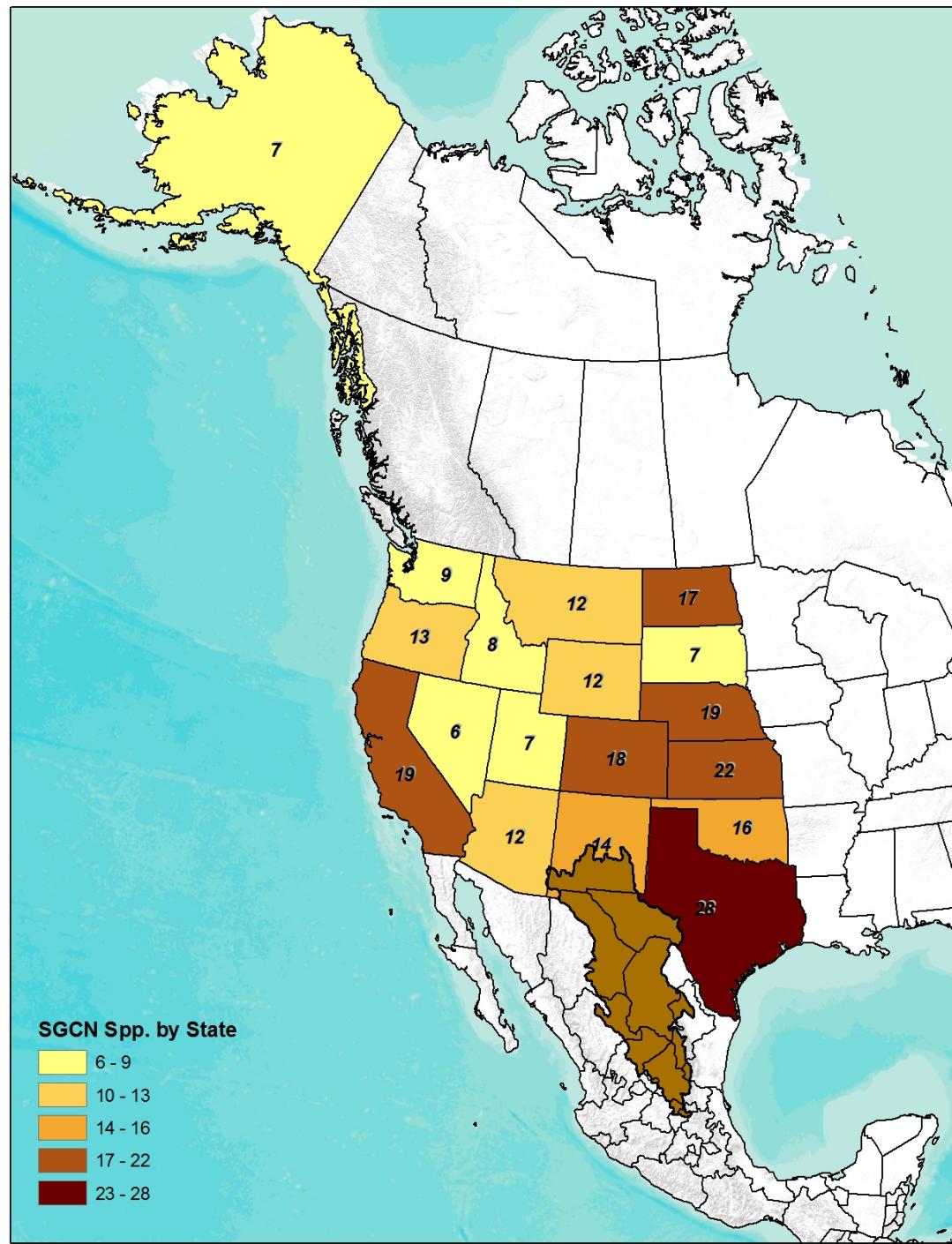


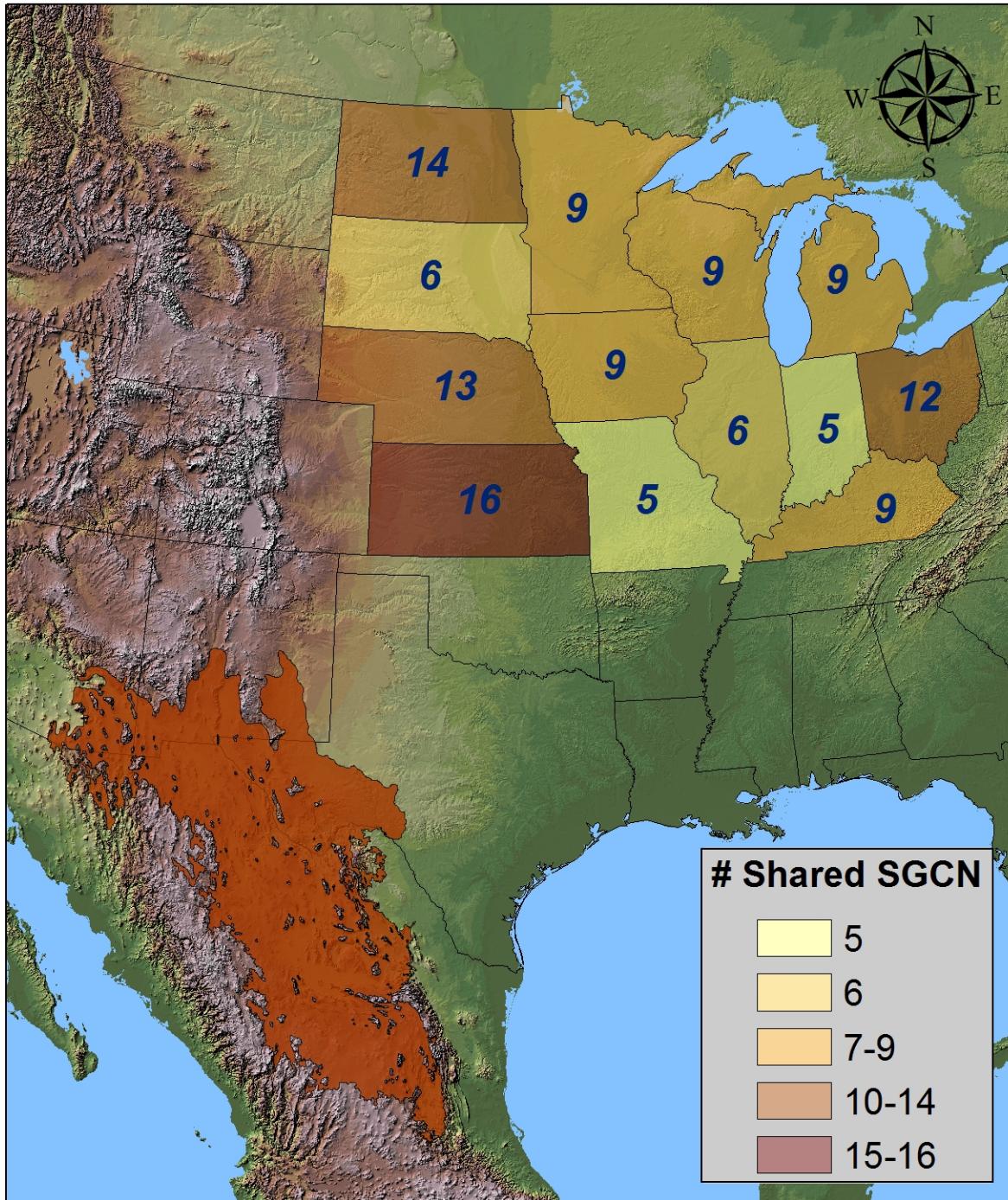
Thirty Watch List species are specialized birds of grasslands, deserts, sagebrush, and chaparral—some of the most neglected and maligned habitats in America. These are places where development, intense agricultural production, and energy extraction are primary land uses.

Among the most threatened species are Greater and Lesser prairie-chickens, and Greater and Gunnison sage-grouse. These spectacular dancing birds still perform their spring breeding rituals across 10 states in the Midwest and West.

Cooperative conservation habitat initiatives are enticing ranchers and farmers to help keep these iconic American birds on the land. Conservation efforts on private working lands must be coordinated with improved management across vast western public lands to reverse the declines notably of prairie-chickens and grouse, but also thrashers, sparrowrows, and longspurs.

GREATER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN BY GARRY VON







EI Tokio Grasslands Conservation

- IA, NE, OK, & SD are involved
- Restoration, management, & protection in Grassland Priority Conservation Areas





- Supported 2 conservation easements in Saltillo (~ 66,700 acres)
- Secured an agreement & implements a management plan for ~4,000 acres of quality LBCU habitat in the La Hediondilla ejido
- Restoring ~100 acres of native grassland in the El Cercado area



- Management = restoration, water control, & fencing

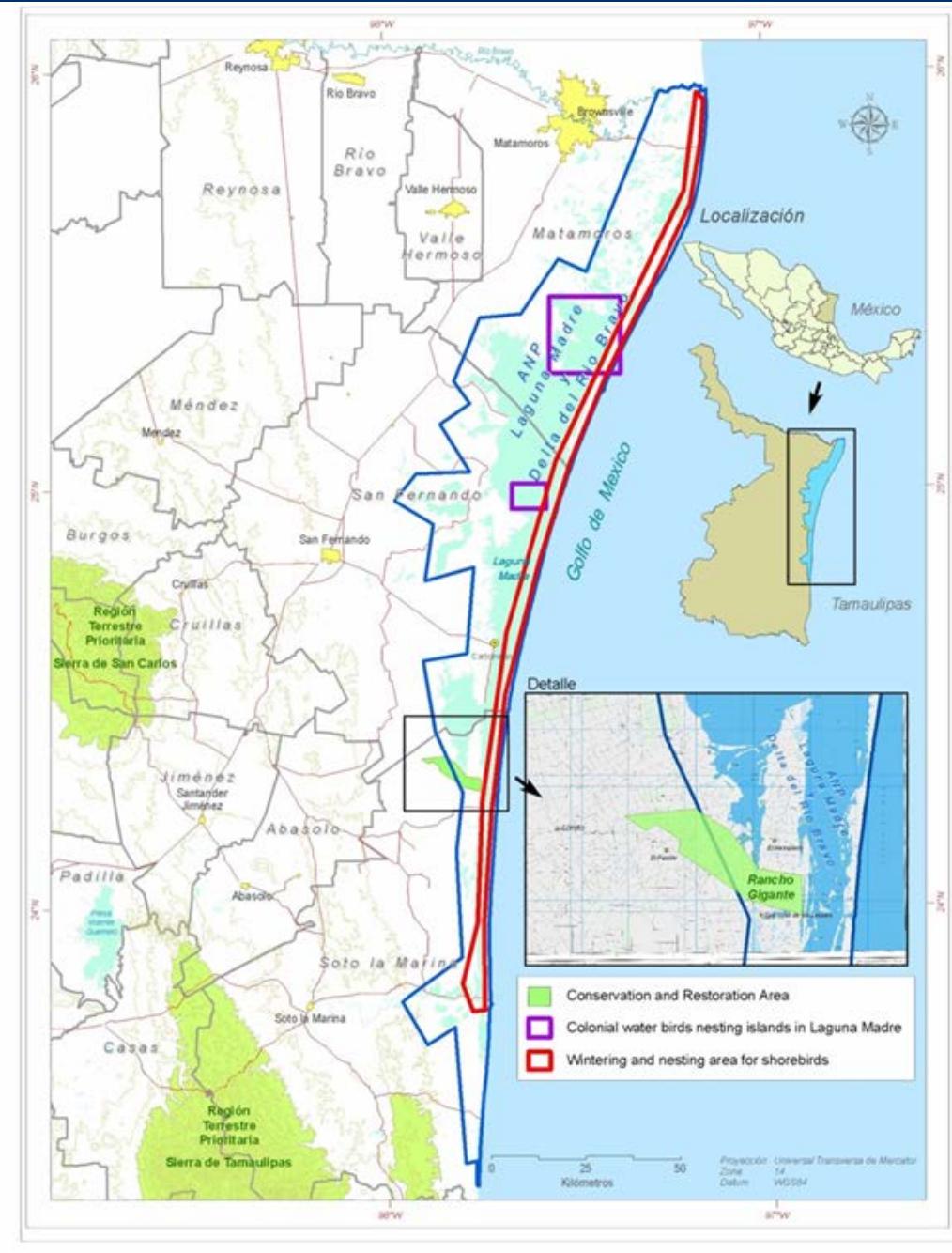


- Building grassroots support is critical to conservation success



Protecting Stopover & Wintering Habitat at Laguna Madre

- Texas Parks & Wildlife
- Pronatura Noreste
- National Commission of Protected Areas (CONANP)
- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- Rio Grande Joint Venture



The Sierra Madre Occidental important wintering/stopover habitat for 10+ AZ priority species (breeding habitat for extant populations of TBPA)



Photo credits: Javier Cruz Nieto

Western Yellow Billed Cuckoo

- Universidad Estatal de Sonora
- Arizona Game and Fish Department,
- Southern Sierra Research Station (SSR)
- Reserva Monte Mojino-REMM



Golden Eagle Conservation

- Pronatura Noroeste A.C
- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas (CONANP).





Monitoring and Guide Training in Mixteca Poblana region

- Complete the bird list for the Mixteca Poblana region
- Train local residents as guides for birdwatchers



Contact Information

Contact Information

Deb Hahn

dhahn@fishwildlife.org

Skype: deb_hahn

www.fishwildlife.org

(focus areas, southern
wings)



By Steve Maslowski