

# Bedford Audubon: Working Across the Hemisphere to Link Habitat Conservation Across the Americas

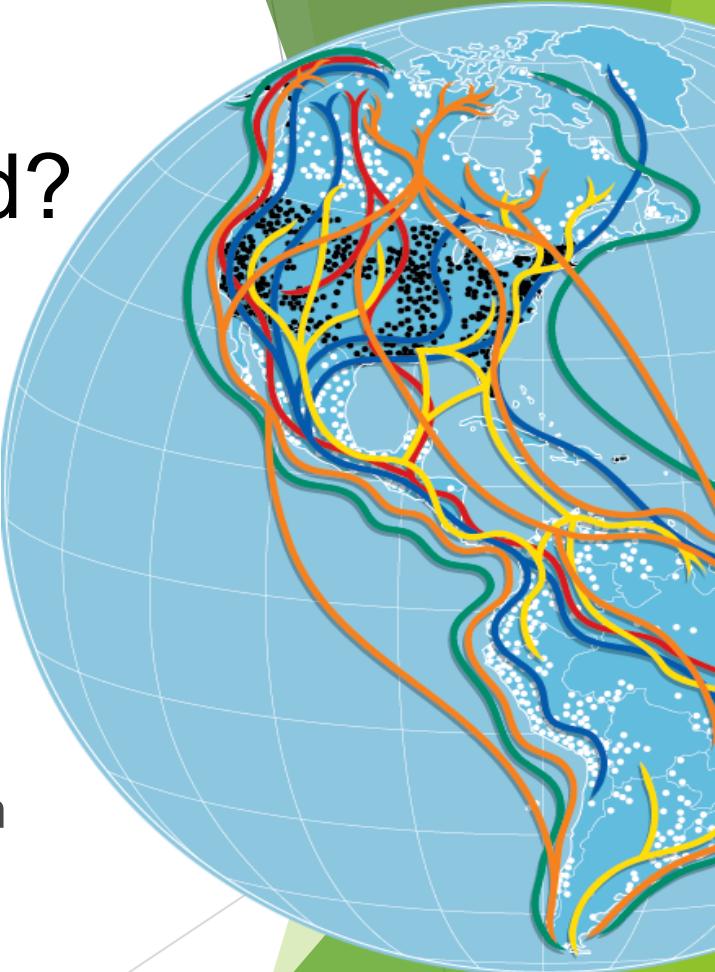


Presented by John Hannan  
Board President

Bedford Audubon

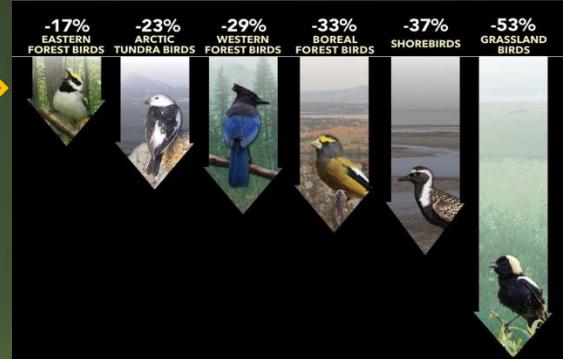
# How Do Birds Link Our World?

- At least half of North America's breeding birds spend more than 50% of their lives in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- These 4.7 billion birds, together with the resident birds they join each year, are a critical piece of the ecosystems we depend upon for water, food and economic benefit.
- Thus, we share responsibility for conservation of these birds and their habitats.





2.9 billion birds gone since 1970



Recently, scientists sounded the alarm on the huge loss of our migratory birds. We must act now to save the birds and habitats!

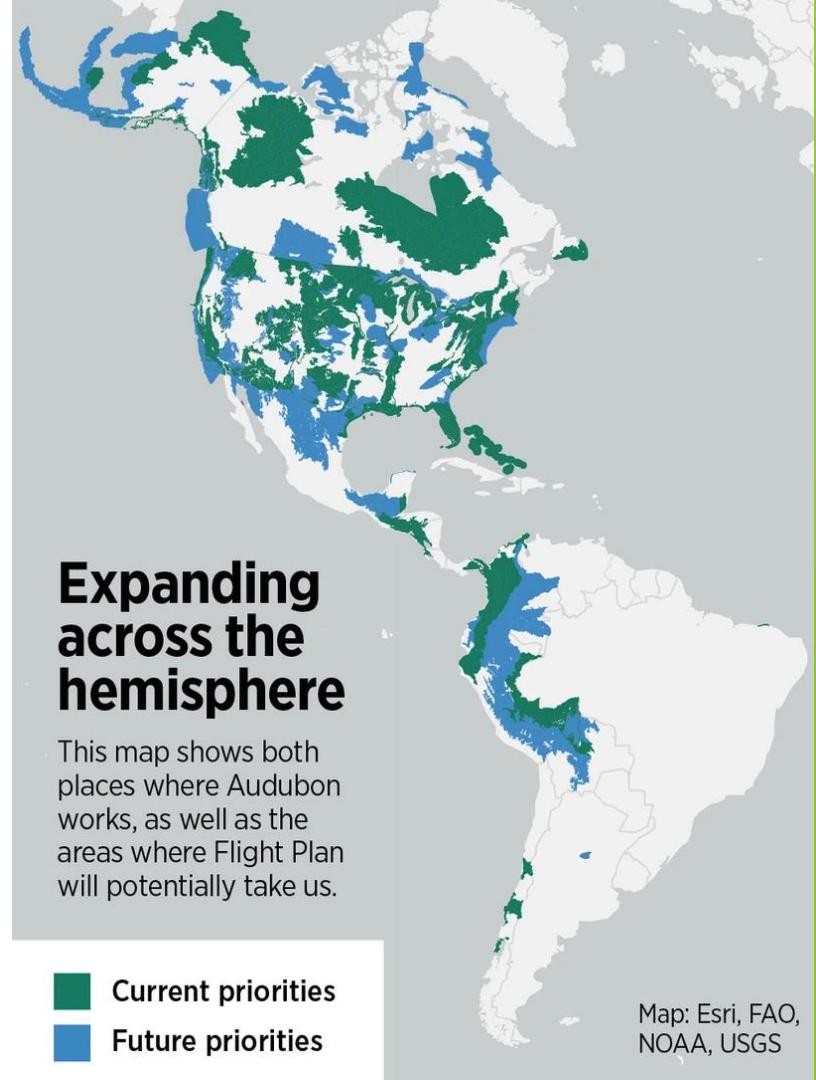


# Where Do We Start?

National Audubon's 2023–2028 strategic plan, the Flight Plan, has identified key ecoregions where Audubon will focus efforts. This Plan will:

- Conserve the most important sites and habitats - 3.7 billion acres across the Americas
- Save and restore the most threatened species - 227 species in long-term decline across the US
- Promote ecological sustainability – Supporting Bird-friendly enterprises
- Empower communities so they can protect their natural resources – Sharing resources at all levels

Current priorities reflect current capacities and the remainder are set to be future priorities as capacity is developed.



# Where Do We Start?

## Conserva Aves:

Establish more than 80 new protected areas from Mexico to Chile on 4.9 million acres while improving management of an additional 4.9 million acres ensuring new protected sites for every Endangered and Critically Endangered bird species.

## The Americas Flyway Initiative:

IDed and working on 30 key land and seascapes for birds, covering 4.9 million acres across the Americas:

Both initiatives include strong partnerships that;

- ❖ Target priority habitat for priority species
- ❖ Utilize a Variety of Habitats & Conservation Tools
- ❖ Recognize Humans are Part of the System
- ❖ Are critically important for Full-Life Cycle Conservation
- ❖ Have conservation solutions already identified.



# Where did Bedford Audubon Start?

## International Wood Thrush Project:

- In 2014, Bedford Audubon joined with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, National Audubon and Forsyth Audubon to track where locally nesting Wood Thrushes were wintering.
- This species' population has plummeted over the past 40 years.
- 22 2nd-year male Wood Thrushes were fitted with geolocators so we could discover their wintering locations, migratory pathways, and how best to protect them across the Flyway.
- Recaptured birds showed at least two had wintered in eastern Nicaragua in one of ABC's Birdscapes!
- This allowed us to focus on exactly what communities in Nicaragua could be partnered with.



# What are we doing now?

## Education of our members and the public:

From trip reports, lectures, to webinars and in-person events with our international partners, we are making the public aware of how important cross-border conservation and science partnerships are for any of the migratory bird species they enjoy watching while they spend time in region.



The Bedford Audubon Board of Directors invites you to a special evening celebrating our hemispheric bird connectivity — from New York's hayfields to Argentina's pampas.



Friends of Bedford Audubon  
Spring Reception  
June 12 - 7 pm  
Bedford Audubon's Bylane Farm  
35 Todd Road, Katonah NY

Please join us for an evening among friends celebrating our bird conservation work and hear from our special guest, Aves Argentinas' Executive Director, Hernán Casafas, how birds like the Bobolink connect our work and habitats across the hemisphere.

Hors d'oeuvres - Drinks - Dessert



# What are we doing now?

## Direct collaboration and connecting with partners:

Our international birding trips meet partner organizations who are working directly with National Audubon's Americas team like Panama Audubon or are part of the BirdLife partnership (which Audubon is part of) to learn about the projects and provide financial and/or volunteer support for the projects.

Aves Argentina (Argentina)

Aves y Conservacion (Ecuador)

Calidris (Columbia)

Panama Audubon (Panama)

Their work includes:

- ❖ Preserving their countries' most important bird habitats
- ❖ Protecting endangered species
- ❖ Monitoring migration of millions of birds, supplying the data needed for full life-cycle conservation
- ❖ Building conservation communities across their countries



# What are we doing now?

Supporting chapters interested in participating in international work:

- ❖ Sharing our work and experiences with international partners
- ❖ Meeting with and presenting to chapters to help expand our network's capacity to do international collaborations.
- ❖ Helping connect chapters with potential partners

Aves Argentina (Argentina)

Aves Honduras (Honduras)

Finca Contaros (Costa Rica)

Calidris (Columbia)

Panama Audubon (Panama)

Partnership ideas include:

- ❖ Supporting an IBA or Private Reserve
- ❖ Assisting in monitoring efforts
- ❖ Donating funds to purchase equipment
- ❖ Visiting partners to build long-term cross-border relationships that expand understanding and capacity of both organizations



# What will you experience?



# How You Can Help Right Now?

Think about what you purchase everyday:

Become aware of labels:

- Bird Friendly Coffee
- Responsibly sourced chocolate
- Bird Friendly Beef
- Bird Friendly Maple Syrup
- Organic Cottons
- And many more...



# Spread the Word, We Need Everyone Working with Us

