

# Hemispheric Bird Conservation Project Opportunities

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April 27, 2026 - It's often a good idea to target conservation actions toward species that are officially "listed" as it provides widely accepted scientific justification for conservation actions, it can make getting funding and support easier, and overall easier to move forward.

**About the [IUCN Red List](#).** The world's most comprehensive information source on the global extinction risk of species. It is an appropriate list benchmark against which to gauge species warranting western hemispheric conservation action by NAS pilot partnerships between chapters and people managing vulnerable sites that birds use across countries.

The species below are listed by NYS Ornithological Association as NY native birds. An asterisk (\*) indicates [NY nesting birds per NYSOA](#).

**About Connecticut.** My research lies in NY. Though the same approach can be taken in CT by cross-referencing birds listed by the [Connecticut Ornithological Association](#) with at-risk birds on the [CT SWAP list](#) and vulnerable species on the IUCN Red List as I did here for NY.

## Western Hemispheric Migratory Bird Conservation Action

Birds that migrate through USA, Canada, Mexico, Central America. To me, these would be the species for NAS to consider making pilot partnerships between chapters and international conservation organizations.

Common Name	NY Nest	NY SWAP	IUCN 2024	Notes
Chimney Swift	*	2025	VU-D 2018	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Chuck-will's-widow	*	2025	NT-D 2020	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Eastern Whip-poor-will	*	2025 HP; SC	NT-S 2021	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Eastern Meadowlark	*	2025; HP	NT-D 2020	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Blackpoll Warbler	*	2025	NT-D 2018	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Cerulean Warbler	*	2025; SC	NT-D 2021	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Golden-winged Warbler	*	2025; SC	NT-D 2018	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*	2025 HP; HP	NT-D 2017	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Black Rail	*	2025; E	EN-D 2021	Red Watch List; Tipping Point

## Western Hemispheric Shorebird Conservation Action

Many shorebird species are in serious trouble on the IUCN Red List and in the [State of the Birds 2025 report](#).

Substantially, 17 shorebirds require conservation action on a western hemispheric scale – but exactly where in the hemisphere? To me, these are top priority species for NAS to consider pilot partnerships between chapters (particularly on Long Island or the Great Lakes for instance) with international



conservation organizations in countries to be identified where shorebirds most need conservation actions. In NY, these imperiled shorebird species stop over on Long Island more than other areas, although Killdeer can be found in other parts of NY, and the Buff-breasted Sandpiper is an uncommon visitor to LI, for example, but it requires habitat protection in other parts of NY state (to be identified) where NAS can align chapters there with international partners on a pilot program specific to the Buff-breasted Sandpiper. For that and other at-risk shorebird species, NAS can also consider leveraging its partnership with the [Western Hemisphere Shorebirds Reserve Network](#) in a pilot program with chapters.

Common Name	NY Nest	NY SWAP	IUCN 2024	Notes
Piping Plover	*	2025 HP; E	NT-I 2020	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Red Knot		2025 HP; T	NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Ruddy Turnstone		2025	NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Short-billed Dowitcher		2025; HP	VU-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Black-bellied Plover		2015	VU-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Buff-breasted Sandpiper		2015; HP	VU-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Greater Yellowlegs		2015	NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Hudsonian Godwit		2015	VU-D 2024	Red Watch List; Tipping Point
Marbled Godwit		2015	VU-D 2024	Yellow Watch List
Semipalmated Sandpiper		2015; HP	NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Dunlin			NT-D 2024	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Least Sandpiper			NT-D 2024	
Lesser Yellowlegs			VU-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Long-billed Dowitcher			NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
Stilt Sandpiper			NT-D 2024	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point
White-rumped Sandpiper			VU-D 2024	Yellow Watch List
Killdeer	*		NT-D 2024	

## North American Bird Conservation Action (USA, CAN, MEX)

Species that require conservation action, but not on a western hemispheric scale as they do not migrate beyond USA, Canada or Mexico in the western hemisphere.

Common Name	NY Nest	NY SWAP	IUCN 2024	Notes
Loggerhead Shrike	*	2015; <b>E</b>	NT-D 2020	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Horned Grebe			VU-D 2018	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Black Scoter			NT-D 2021	Yellow Watch List; Tipping Point
Long-tailed Duck			VU-D 2018	Orange Watch List; Tipping Point

## USA/Canada Conservation Action

These birds do not migrate beyond the USA and Canada, and one, the Salt Marsh Sparrow is endemic to the USA. They are on the IUCN Red List, because they require conservation action to ensure they do not become “globally” endangered or extinct within USA/Canada.

Common Name	NY Nest	NY SWAP	IUCN 2024	Notes
Rusty Blackbird	*	2025; <b>HP</b>	VU-D 2020	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Saltmarsh Sparrow	*	2025; <b>HP</b>	EN-D 2020	Red Watch List; Tipping Point
Bicknell's Thrush	*	2025; <b>SC</b>	VU-D 2020	Red Watch List; Tipping Point
King Rail	*	2025; <b>T</b>	NT-D 2021	Orange WL; Tipping Point
Common Grackle	*		NT-D 2018	Common Bird in Steep Decline
Snowy Owl			VU-D 2021	Previously Watch List

Those are not the only species in decline, but the above are those 35 species in MY that are internationally recognized as having extinction risks if population research and conservation actions are not taken. They are the birds that would appreciate our help if possible.

However, other species that aren't listed above can also be considered for western hemispheric conservation actions too. For instance, the American Kestrel is an IUCN “Least Concern” globally. However, it is in substantial decline regionally in the Northeast USA including NYS. So, I for one would at least like to know what areas of the Kestrel's hemispheric migratory path impacts the Kestrel's population growth in the Northeast, and what actions can be taken - and where - to help this iconic raptor in the Northeast.

Thank you for your care and concern.

## Definitions

### IUCN Definitions:

1. **EN:** Endangered
2. **VU:** Vulnerable
3. **NT:** Near Threatened
  - **D:** Decreasing population
  - **I:** Increasing population

### [NY State Wildlife Action Plan \(SWAP\)](#) Definitions:

The NY State Wildlife Action Plan identifies species of greatest conservation need and identifies the sites and habitats they require and prescribes plans of action to address the threats to ensure conservation action for such species and their habitat sites, before they become too rare or costly to restore.

- **2025:** Listed on the draft 2025-35 NY State Wildlife Action Plan as Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SPGCN).
- **2025 HP:** Listed on 2025 Swap as High Priority SGCN to help DEC staff, local municipalities (counties, cities, towns) and NGO partners to direct their funding, time, and other resources toward conducting urgent population research and habitat management for HP species.
- **2015:** Had been listed on 2015-25 NY SWAP but were delisted for 2025-35. I filed public comments with NYS DEC that there had been no recovery AFAIK sufficient to delist these species in 2025. I requested but did not receive DEC's justification for delisting them.

### [NYS Conservation Law](#) Definitions:

1. **E: Endangered.** A native species in imminent danger of extirpation or extinction in NYS. Species meet one or both of the criteria specified in section 182.2(e) of 6NYCRR Part 182.
2. **T: Threatened.** A native species likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future in NYS. Species meet one or both of the criteria specified in section 182.2(z) of 6NYCRR Part 182.
3. **SC: Special Concern.** Not endangered or threatened yet warrant attention and consideration as defined in Section 182.2(v) of 6NYCRR Part 182.
4. **HP: High Priority:** Not Currently Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern under NYS conservation law.