Audubon

Hemispheric forest conservation for impact

CHAD WILSEY, PHD

VP & CHIEF SCIENTIST

Cerulean Warbler | Matthew Malwitx

About Audubon

1.9M
members and supporters

800+
staff

415
community chapters

11
countries where Audubon works

15 state and regional U.S. offices

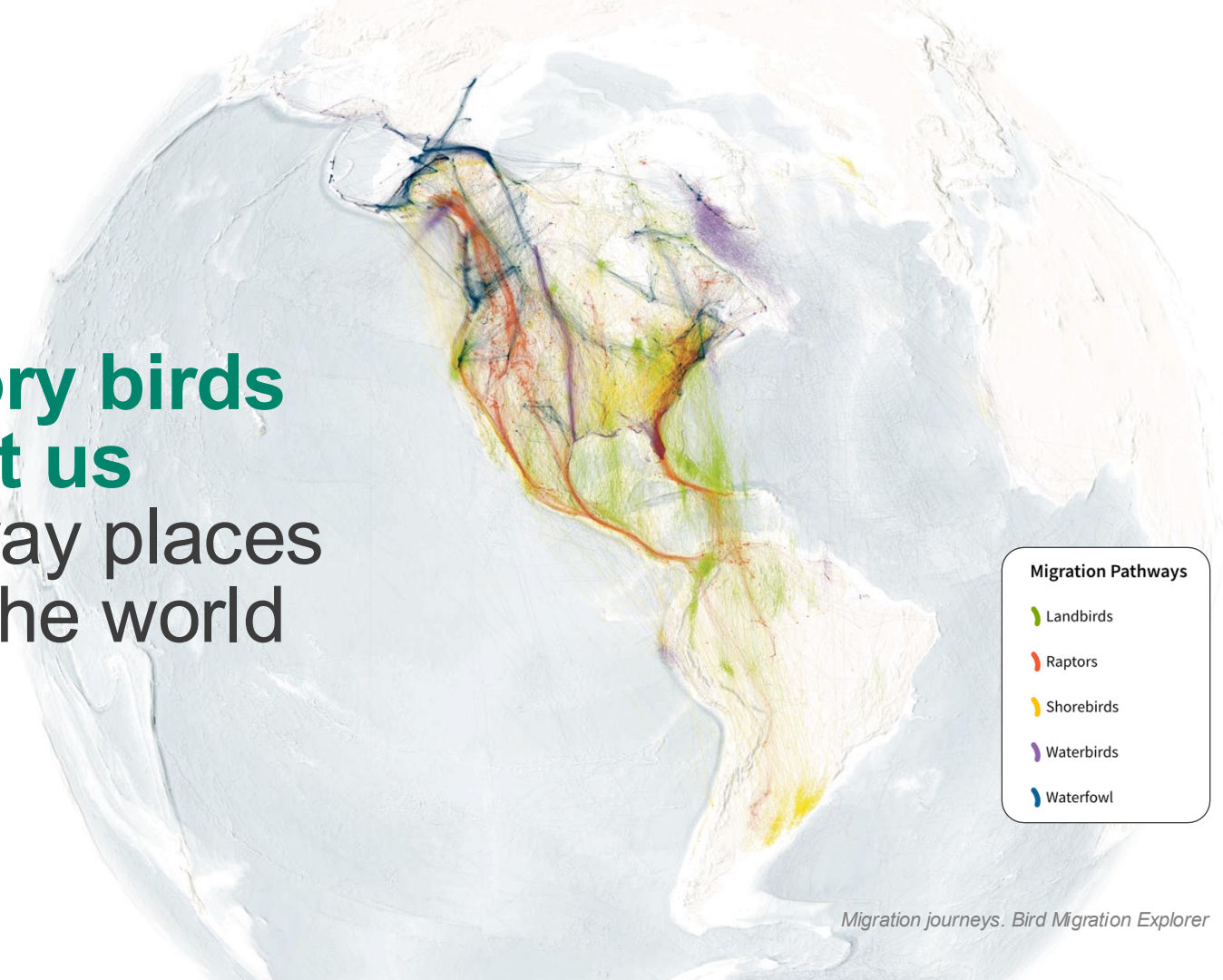
31 conservation action centers

29 sanctuaries

Chilean Flamingo. Photo: Peter Cavanagh

Hermit Thrush | Ann Kramer

Migratory birds connect us to faraway places across the world



Migration journeys. Bird Migration Explorer

An unprecedented partnership

Consolidation of data for 458 Species

Tracking
9,300 individuals of
184 species

Connectivity:
Banding, Motus, Genetics
4.2 million connections
386 species

Ebird Status
Abundance
& Ranges
443 species

Birdlife
International
Ranges
458 species

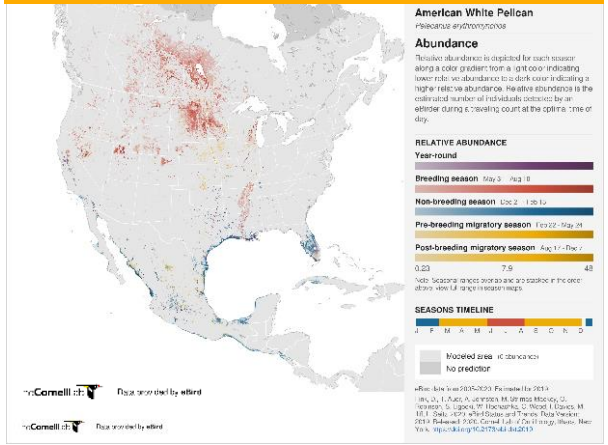
AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Data provided by numerous tracking data holders. Map produced by Audubon

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN

Data provided by USGS Bird Banding Laboratory, Motus, and Bird Genoscape Project. Map produced by Audubon

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN



Data and map provided by Cornell Lab of Ornithology

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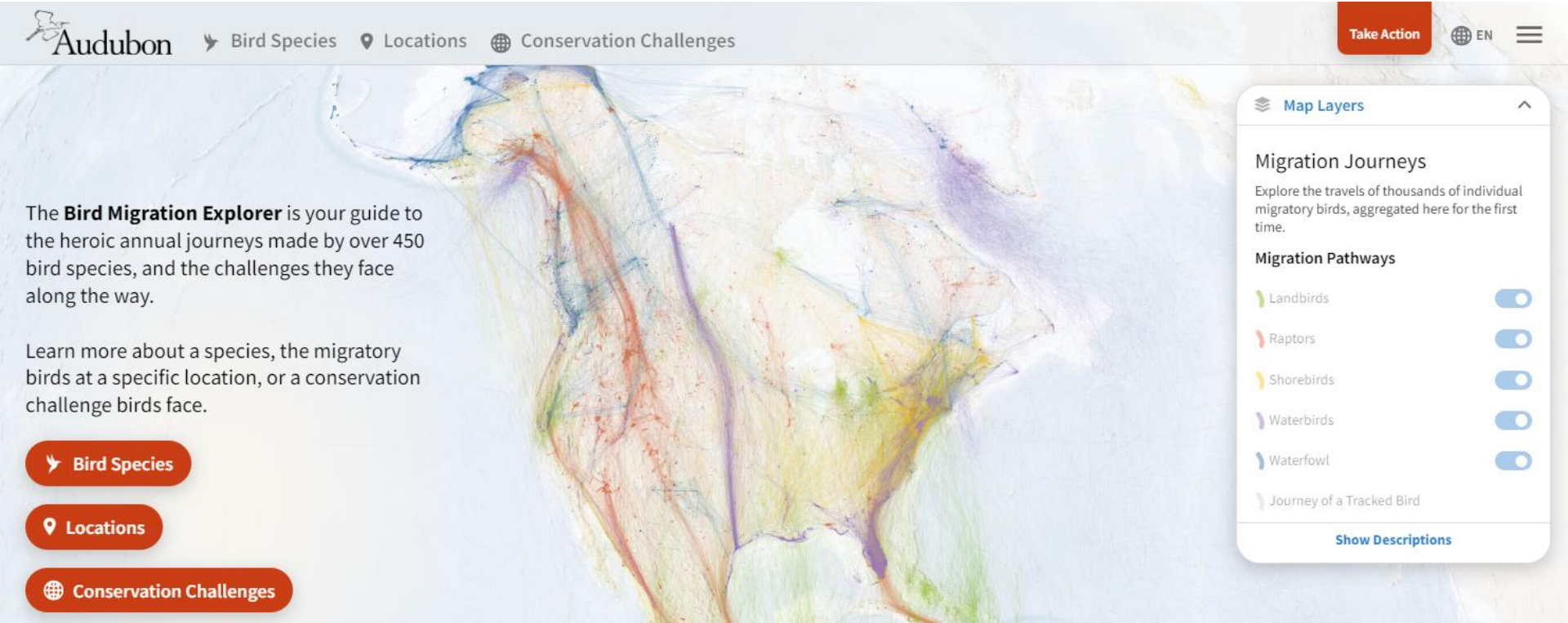
Bird Migration Explorer

(English) birdmigrationexplorer.org

ExplorAves

(Spanish) exploraves.org



Bird Migration Explorer Demo

Eastern Bluebird | Paul Lesko

Explore Locations →

Minneapolis, MN, USA

Search for a connected location

Data for tagged birds of 117 species

117 Tagged Bird Species

American Bittern

Botaurus lentiginosus

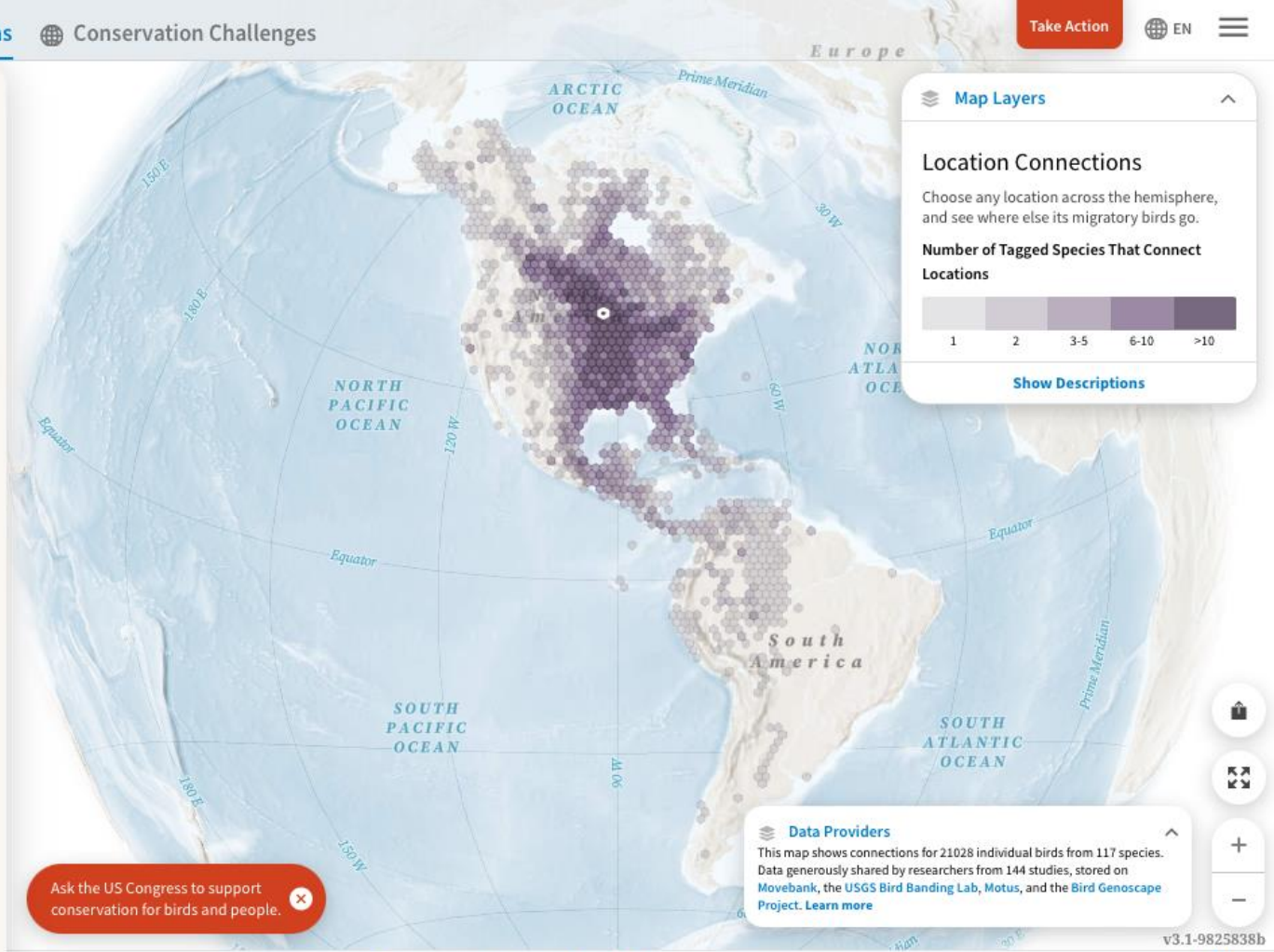
American Black Duck

Anas rubripes

American Coot

Fulica americana

Load all species



Map Layers

Location Connections

Choose any location across the hemisphere, and see where else its migratory birds go.

Number of Tagged Species That Connect Locations

1 | 2 | 3-5 | 6-10 | >10

Show Descriptions

Data Providers

This map shows connections for 21028 individual birds from 117 species. Data generously shared by researchers from 144 studies, stored on Movebank, the USGS Bird Banding Lab, Motus, and the Bird Genoscape Project. Learn more

Ask the US Congress to support conservation for birds and people.

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Swainson’s Thrush migration

Audubon

Audubon | Bird Species | Locations | Conservation Challenges | Take Action | EN

Explore Bird Species →

Swainson's Thrush

Catharus ustulatus

During the peak of migration, Swainson's Thrushes are often very common in woodlots and parks, lurking in the thickets, slipping into...
Show more

Conservation Statistics

5 Related Stories

3 Available Maps

Species Migration | Species Connections | Conservation Challenges

Map Layers

Species Migration

See where this species travels throughout the year.

- Individually Tracked Bird (High Precision)
- Individually Tracked Bird (Low Precision)
- Gap in Tracking Data
- Journey of a Tracked Bird
- Abundance of this Species

Show Descriptions

Data Providers

This map shows tracks for 405 individual birds. Data generously shared by researchers from 40 studies, stored on Movebank and Motus. Hemispheric weekly distribution data from eBird at the Cornell Lab. Seasonal ranges derived from eBird and data from BirdLife International and Audubon. Learn more

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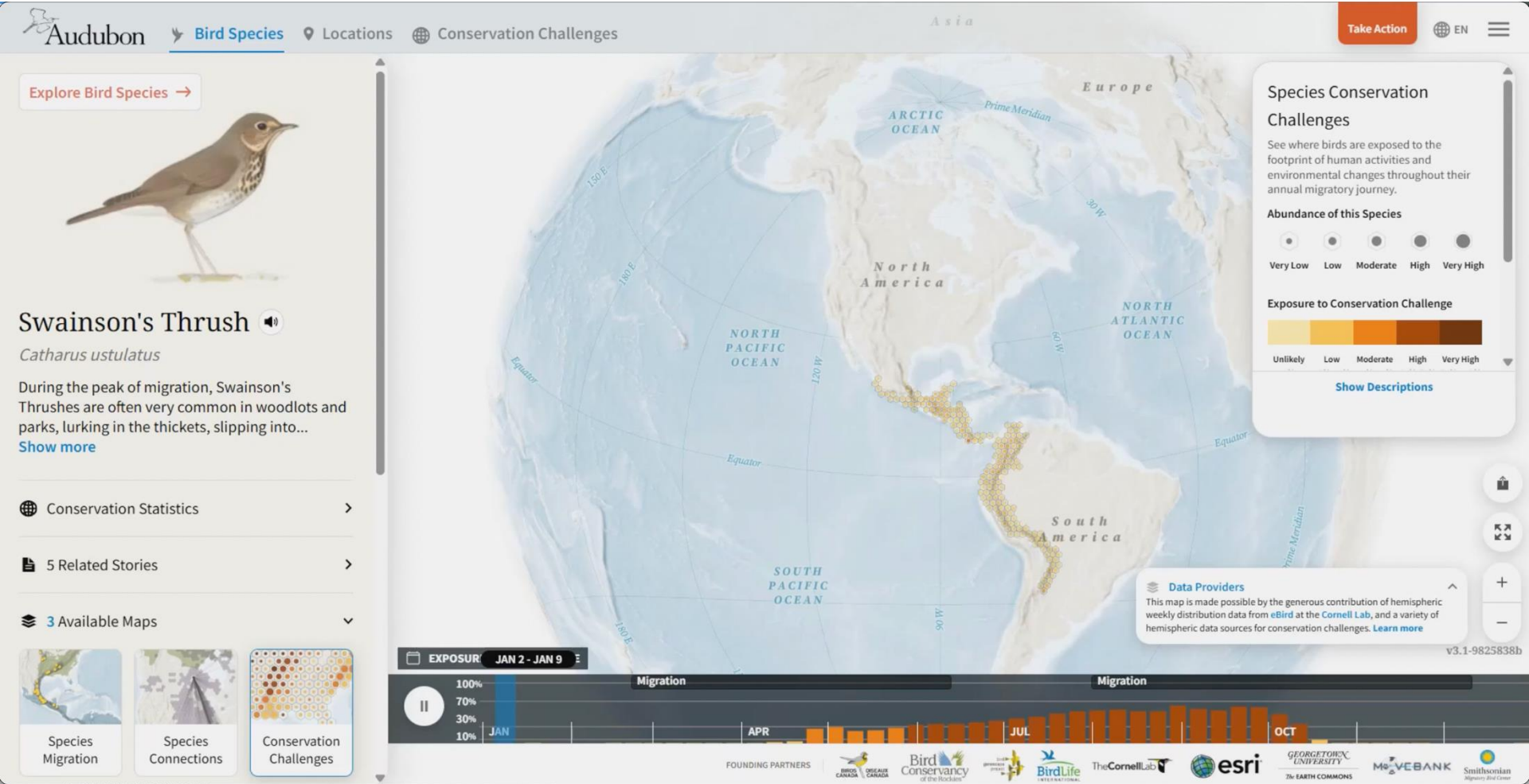
JAN 2 - JAN 9 | JAN | APR | JUL | OCT | Migration | Migration

FOUNDING PARTNERS

Swainson's Thrush & forest management

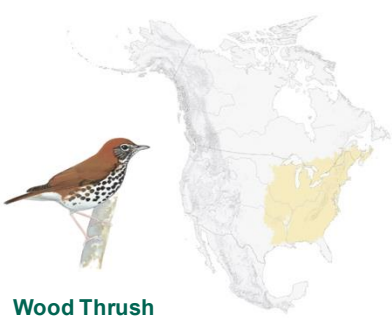


Mapping nature-based solutions

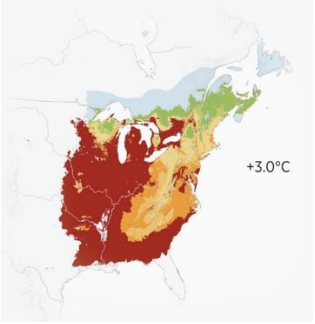
Wood Duck | Franklin Abbott

Climate Strongholds: Mapping Priority Areas for Birds under climate change

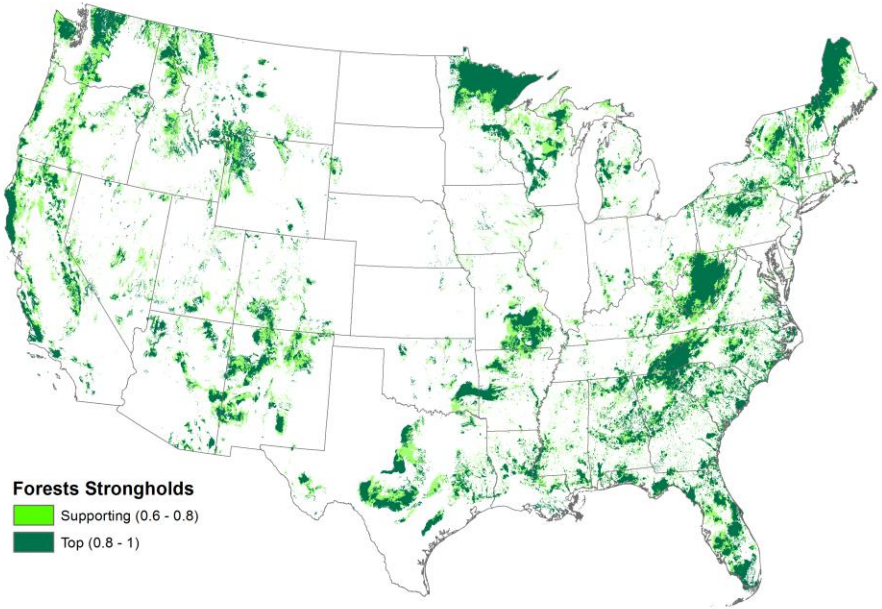
Projections



Wood Thrush



Forest Climate Strongholds: 287 forest bird species



Mapping priority areas for biodiversity and climate mitigation in forests

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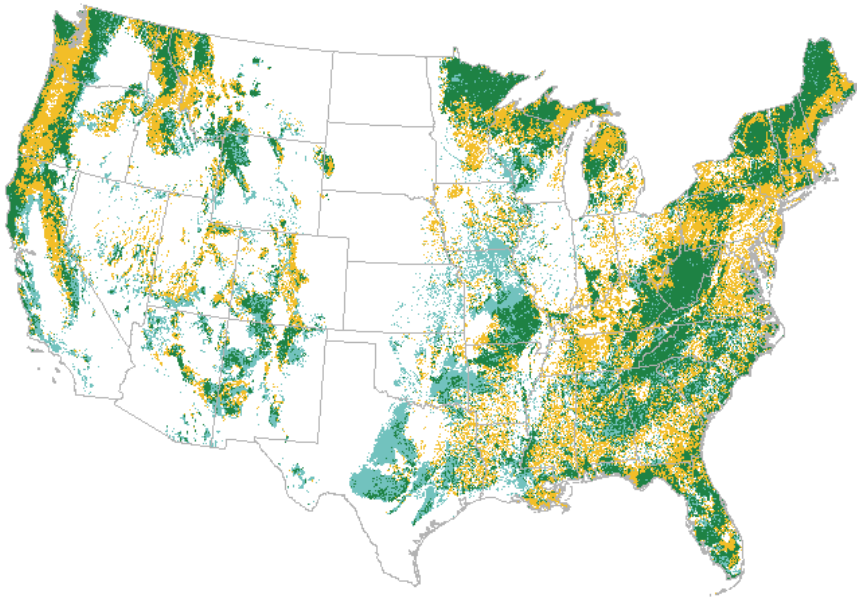
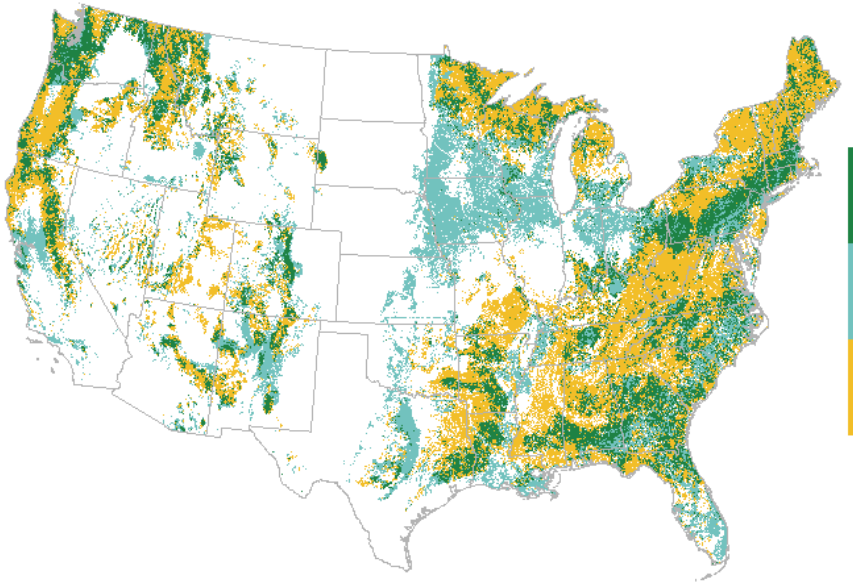
Maintain existing forests

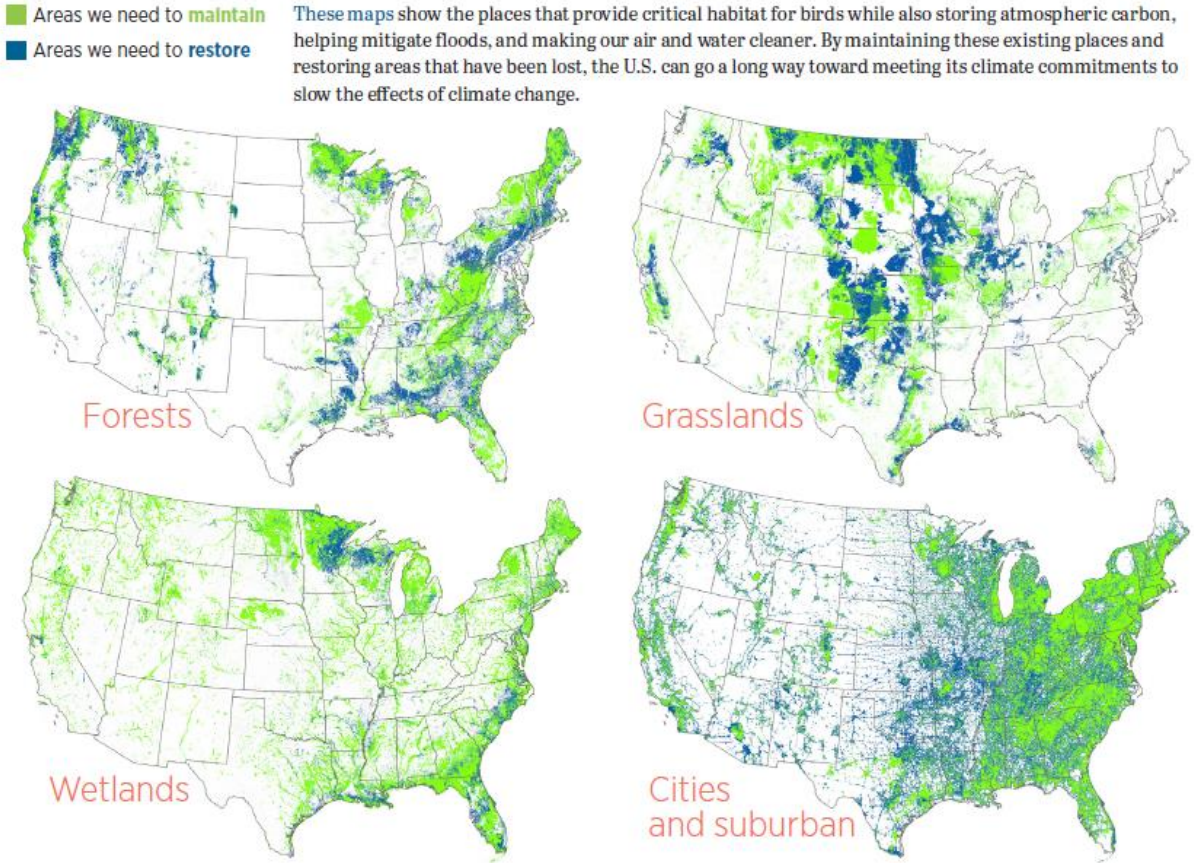
Restore degraded forests





Mapping priority areas for biodiversity and climate mitigation

Citation: Bateman, BL, J Grand, JX Wu, SP Saunders, C Koseff, and CB Wilsey. 2021. Natural Climate Solutions Report: Maintaining and Restoring Natural Habitats to Help Mitigate Climate Change. National Audubon Society: New York.



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Audubon natural climate solutions

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Sort by: Relevance

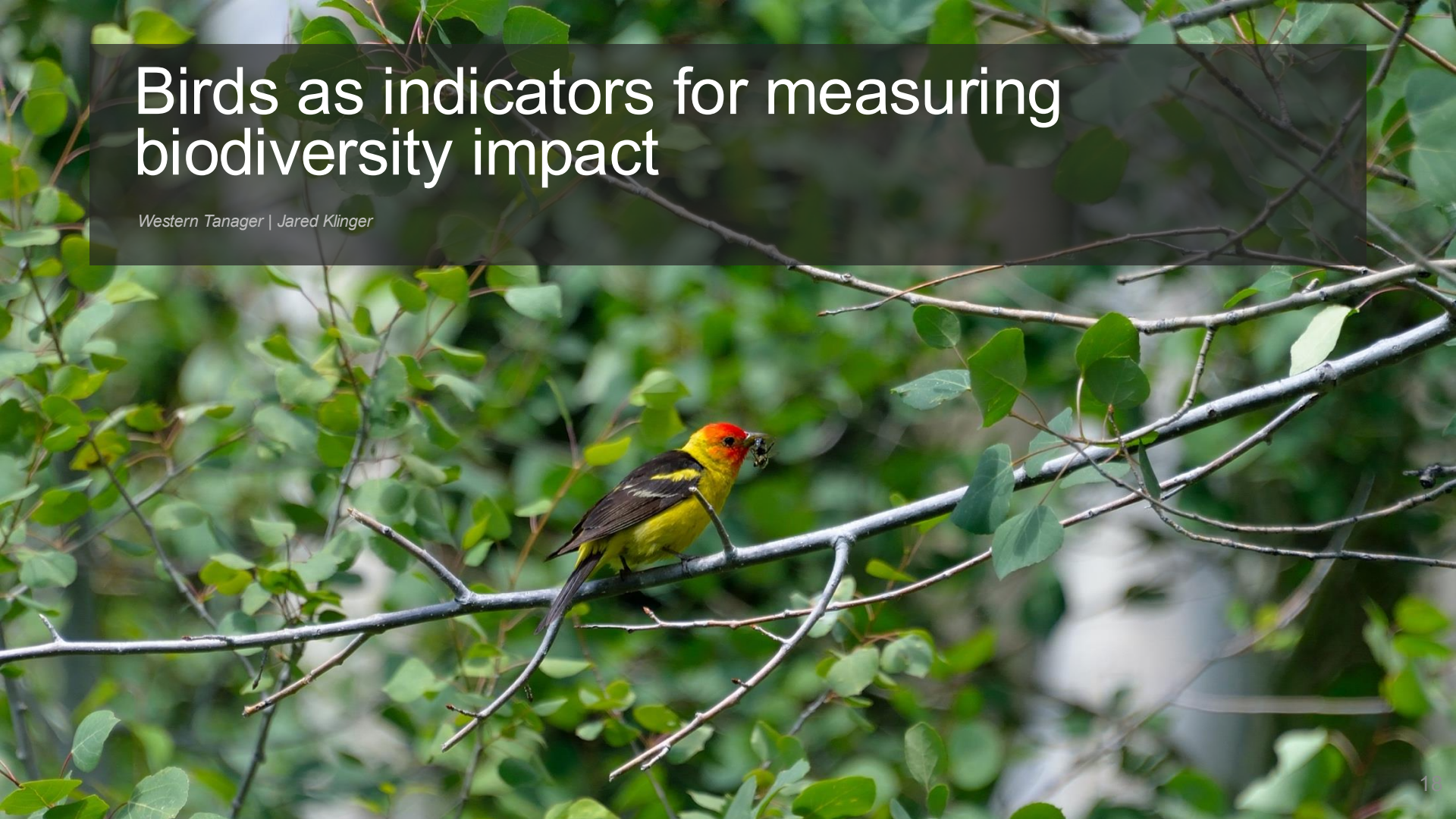
1 Results

USA Audubon Natural Climate Solutions 2021

Feature Service By shannon.reault@audubon.org_audubon

The USA Audubon Natural Climate Solutions 2021 includes seven ecosystem types prioritized to maintain and/or restore within the continental US. These areas represent both climate strongholds for birds and high carbon storage or sequestration value. Learn more and download Audubon's Natural Climate...

Birds as indicators for measuring biodiversity impact



Western Tanager | Jared Klinger

The Bird Friendliness Index: Making conservation accountable by measuring impacts of management actions.

Audubon

WHAT IS THE BIRD-FRIENDLINESS INDEX?

A metric that measures the abundance, diversity, and resilience of a bird community.

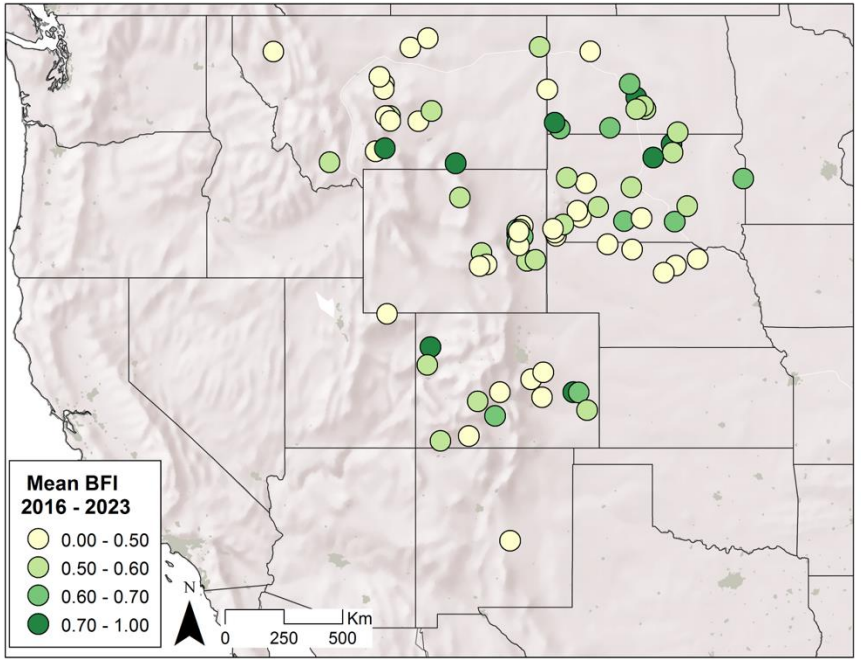
BFI = ABUNDANCE + DIVERSITY + RESILIENCE

WHAT DOES THE BFI TELL US?

Areas with higher abundance and more vulnerable birds support healthy communities.
High functional diversity means communities are more stable and resilient.

Audubon's Bird-Friendliness Index (BFI) shows that Conservation Ranching is benefitting grassland and aridland birds

Mean BFI on Conservation Ranches:
0.53 (0.52, 0.55)



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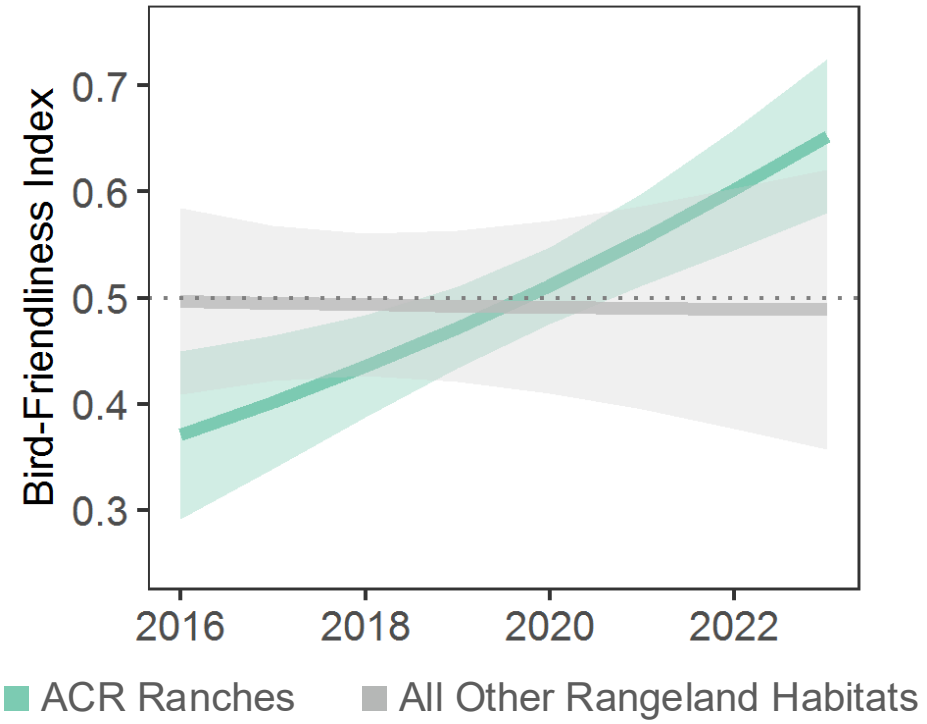
Audubon's Bird-Friendliness Index (BFI) shows that Conservation Ranching is benefitting grassland and aridland birds

8.4% BFI increase
on ACR ranches annually

76% BFI increase
on ACR ranches from 2016-2023



Bird-friendly forests

Swainson'sThrush | Mathew Malwitz

Audubon VERMONT

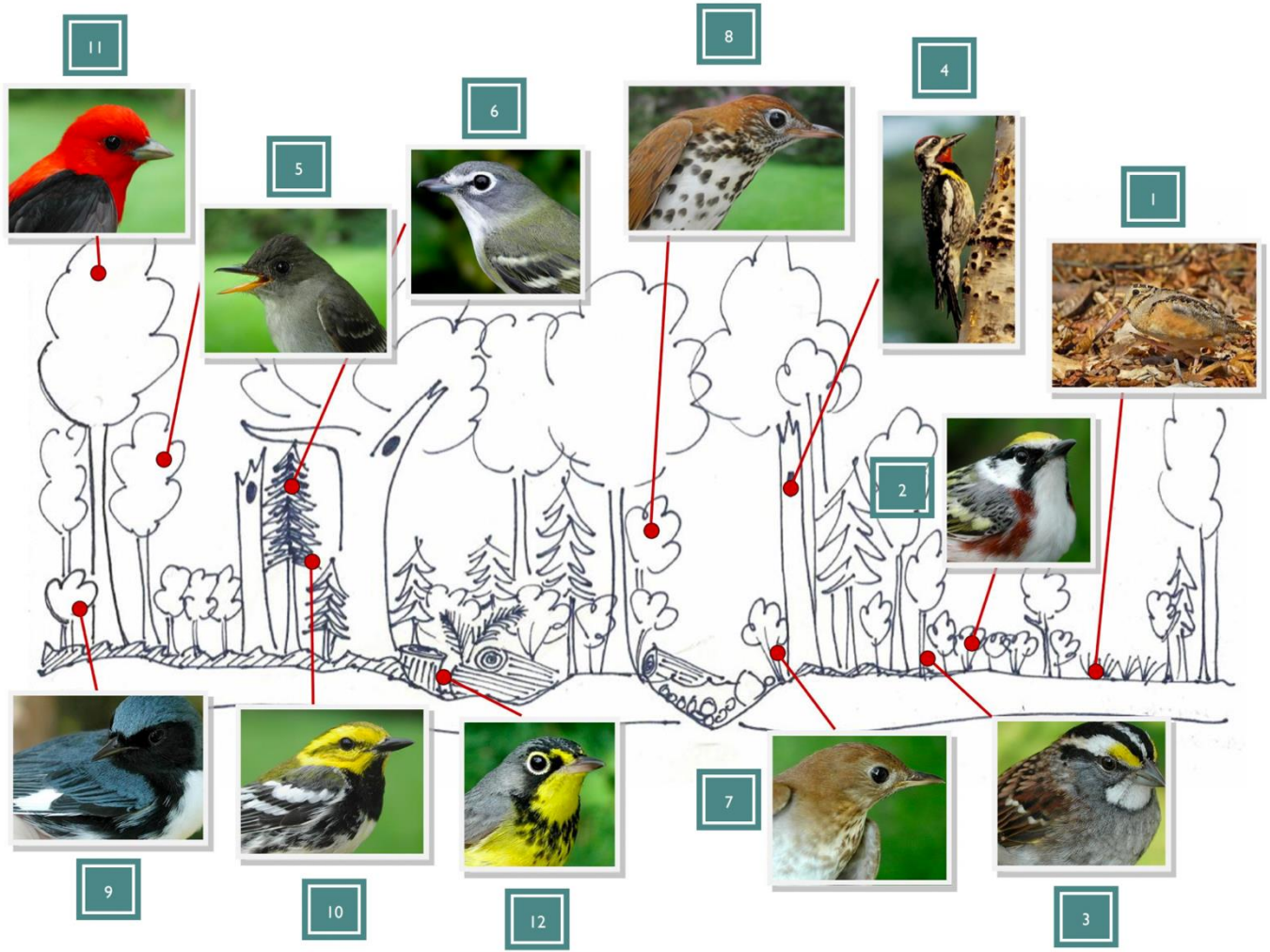
The Birder's Dozen

The Birder's Dozen is twelve of the 40 forest birds that the Audubon Vermont Forest Bird Initiative is working to protect. These twelve birds:

- Have a high percentage of their global breeding populations in our Northern Atlantic Forest.
- Use a variety of forest types and conditions for feeding and breeding. Most nest in complex, diverse mature forest habitats.
- Show serious, long-term declines in their global populations in the case of some species, including wood thrush and Canada warbler.
- Are simple to identify by sight or sound.

We encourage you to get to know the Birder's Dozen and to explore your woods to find out who is residing there!

Bird photos provided courtesy of the Powdermill Avian Research Center, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Charley Eisman & Roy Pilcher.



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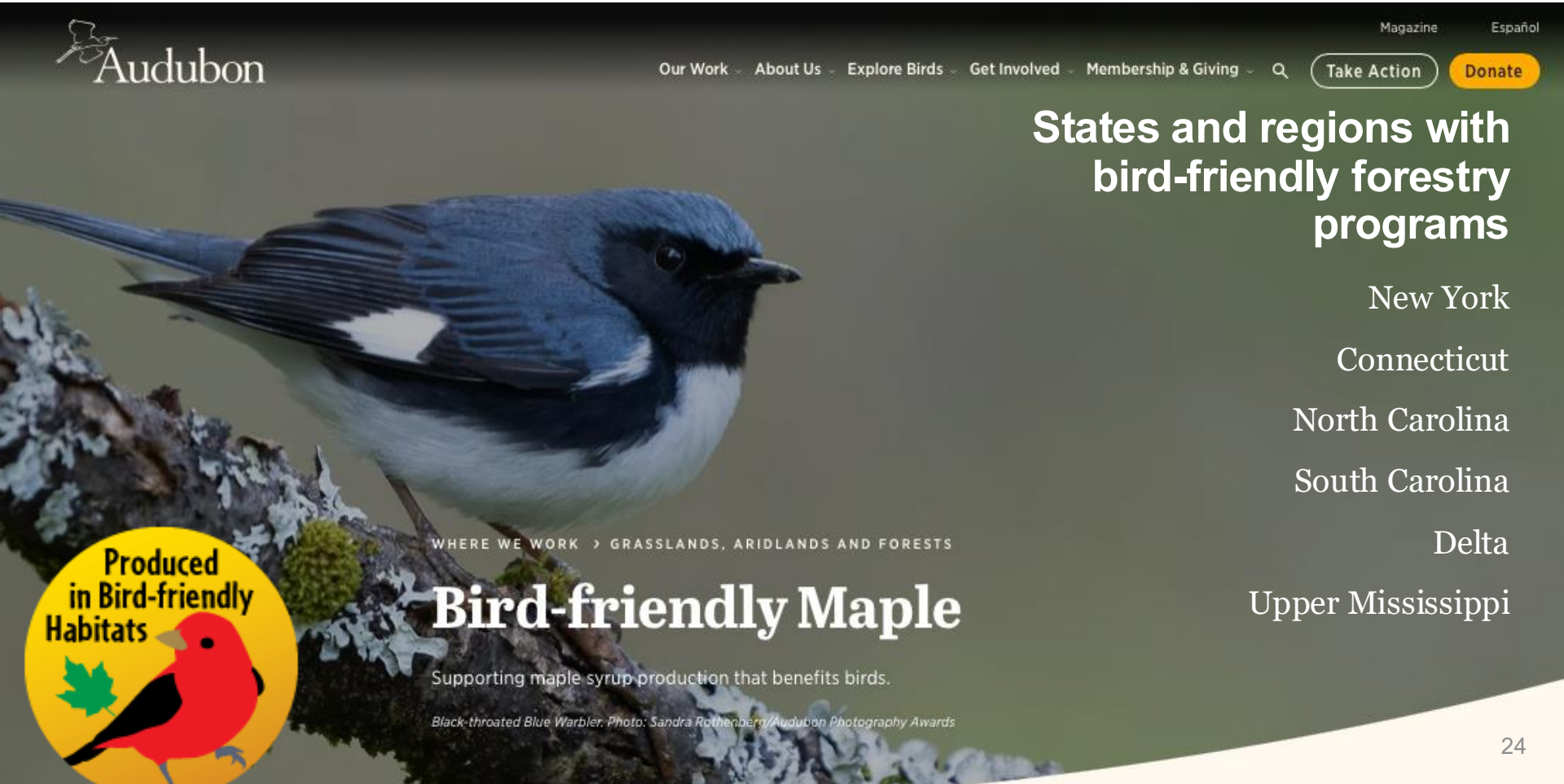


States and regions with bird-friendly forestry programs

New York

Connecticut

North Carolina

South Carolina

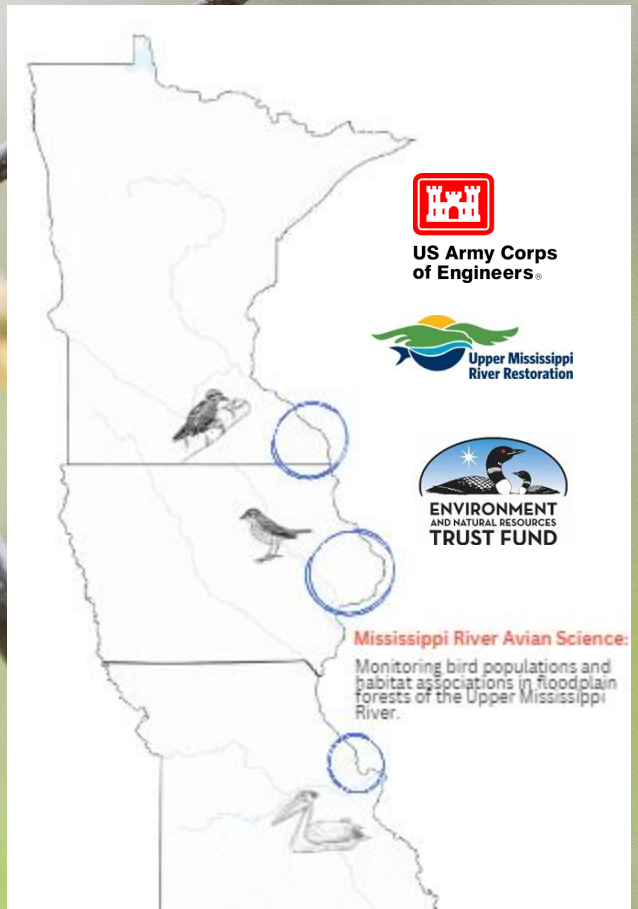
Delta

Upper Mississippi

Studying Bird Habitat Associations – Mississippi River Bottomlands

Audubon

In Development:
Bottomlands Forestry-for-Birds Manual



American Redstart | Mathew Malwetz, 2020

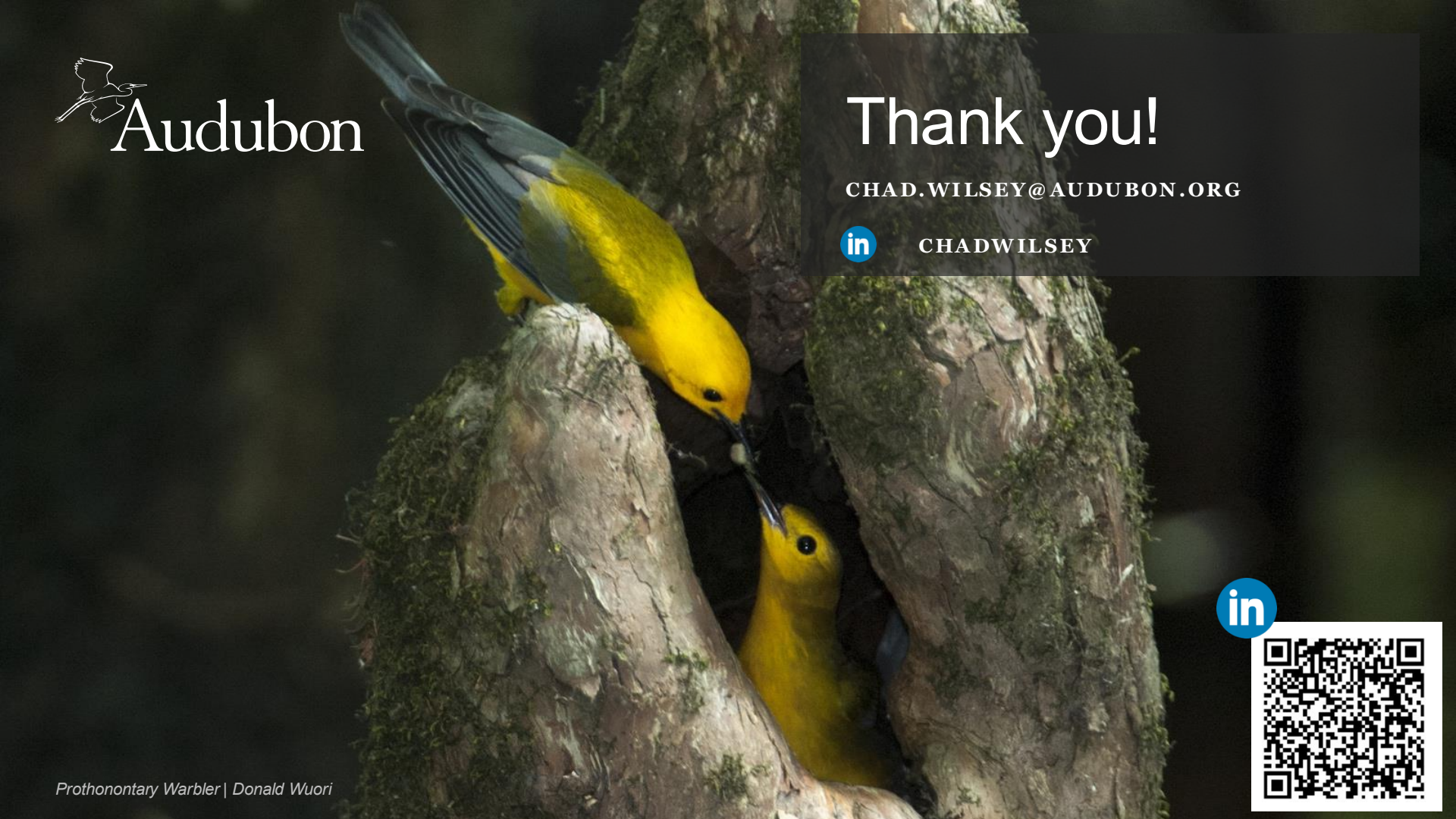
Key take-aways

Birds and maps are powerful tools for communicating the need for collaborative conservation across the hemisphere

Bird conservation aligns with nature-based solutions are a tool for climate mitigation

Birds are responsive indicators of conservation impact through metrics like the Bird Friendliness Index

Bird-friendly forestry is a mechanism for incorporating biodiversity outcomes into working lands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Thank you!
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Prothonontary Warbler | Donald Wuori