

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture



Lower Mississippi Valley

J O I N T V E N T U R E

www.lmvjv.org

Austin Klais

Who is the LMVJV?

- self-directed, non-regulatory private, state, and federal conservation partnership
- that exists for the purpose of sustaining bird populations and their habitats
- through implementing and communicating the goals and objectives of relevant national and international bird conservation plans



What does the LMVJV do?

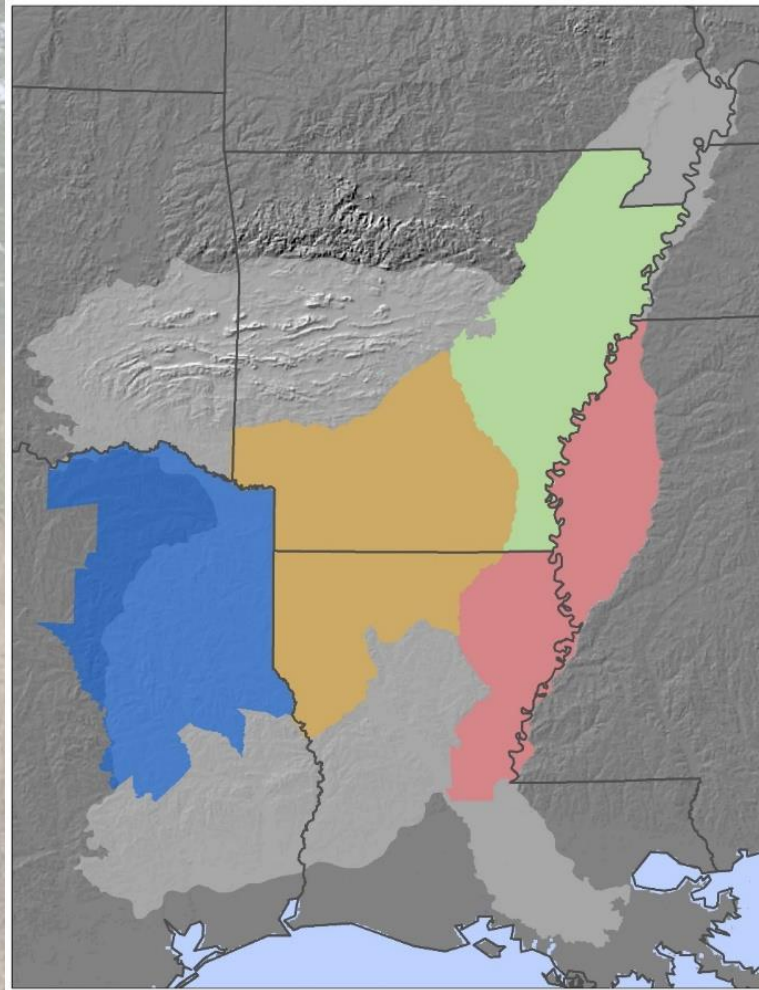
- **Functions as the forum in which private, state, and federal conservation community develops**
- **A shared vision of bird conservation for the Lower Mississippi Valley and West Gulf Coastal Plains/Ouachita's regions**
- **Cooperates in its implementation**
- **Collaborates in its refinement**

How?

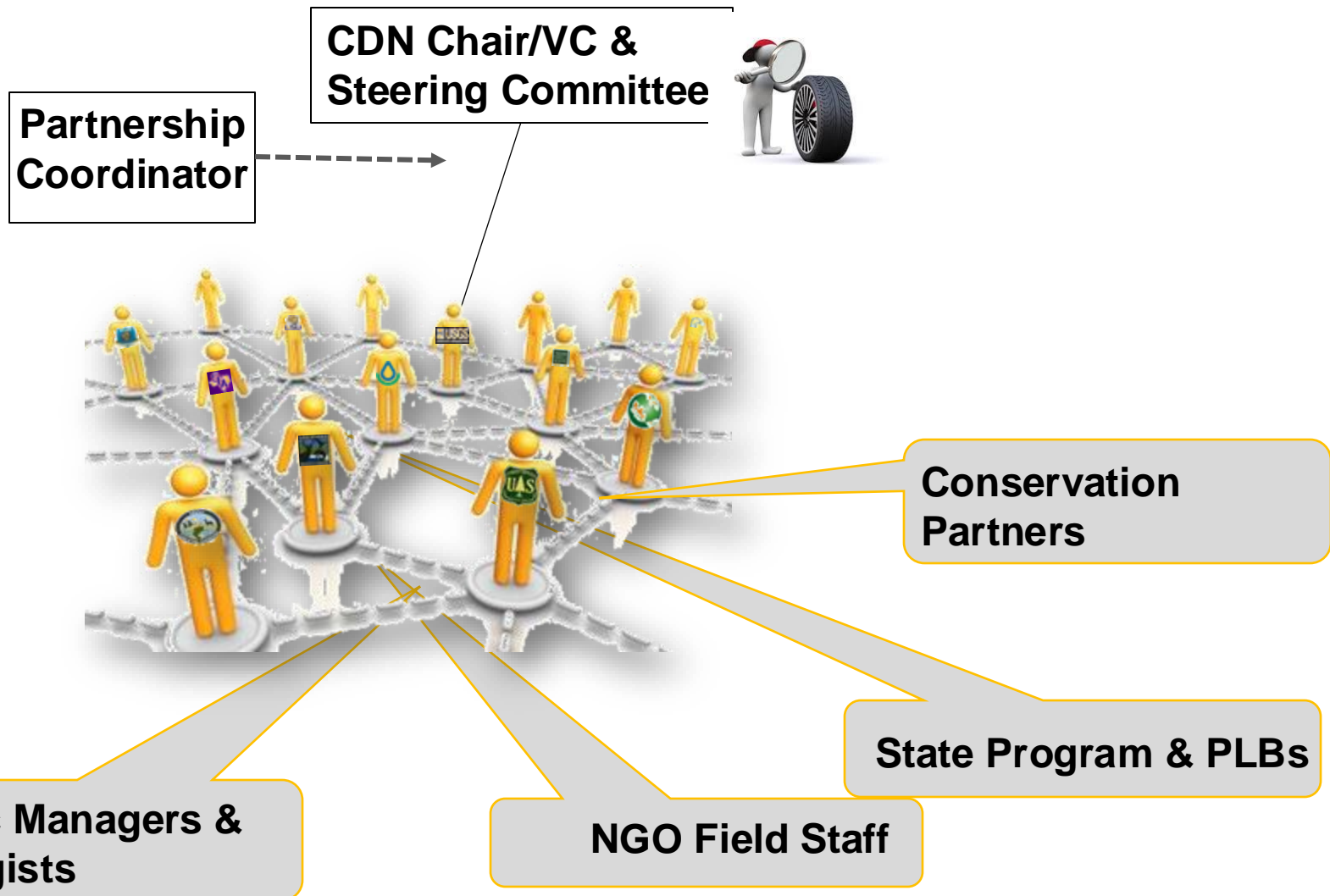
- Strategic habitat conservation
- Adaptive management
- In the end, only one of these five functional elements is the target



LMVJV and local CDNs



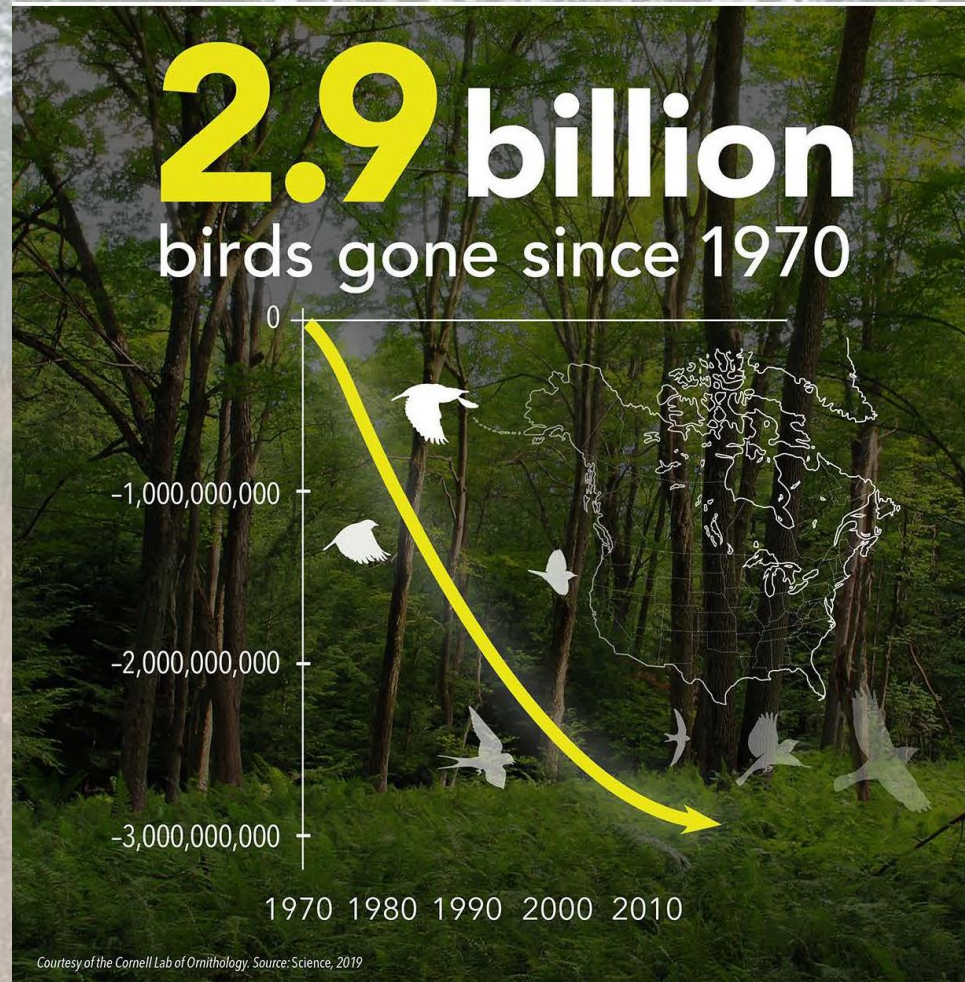
Conservation Delivery Networks



Conservation Delivery Networks

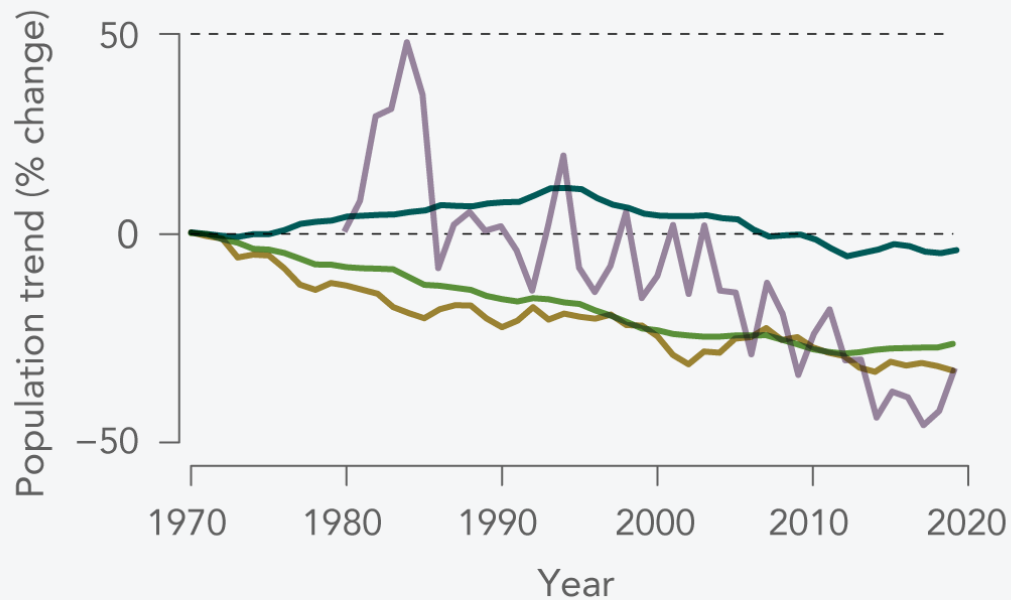
- ***Forum where agencies and organizations responsible for natural resource conservation coordinate on-the-ground delivery of otherwise independent efforts, prioritizing delivery actions that target high priorities for conservation.***

Why?

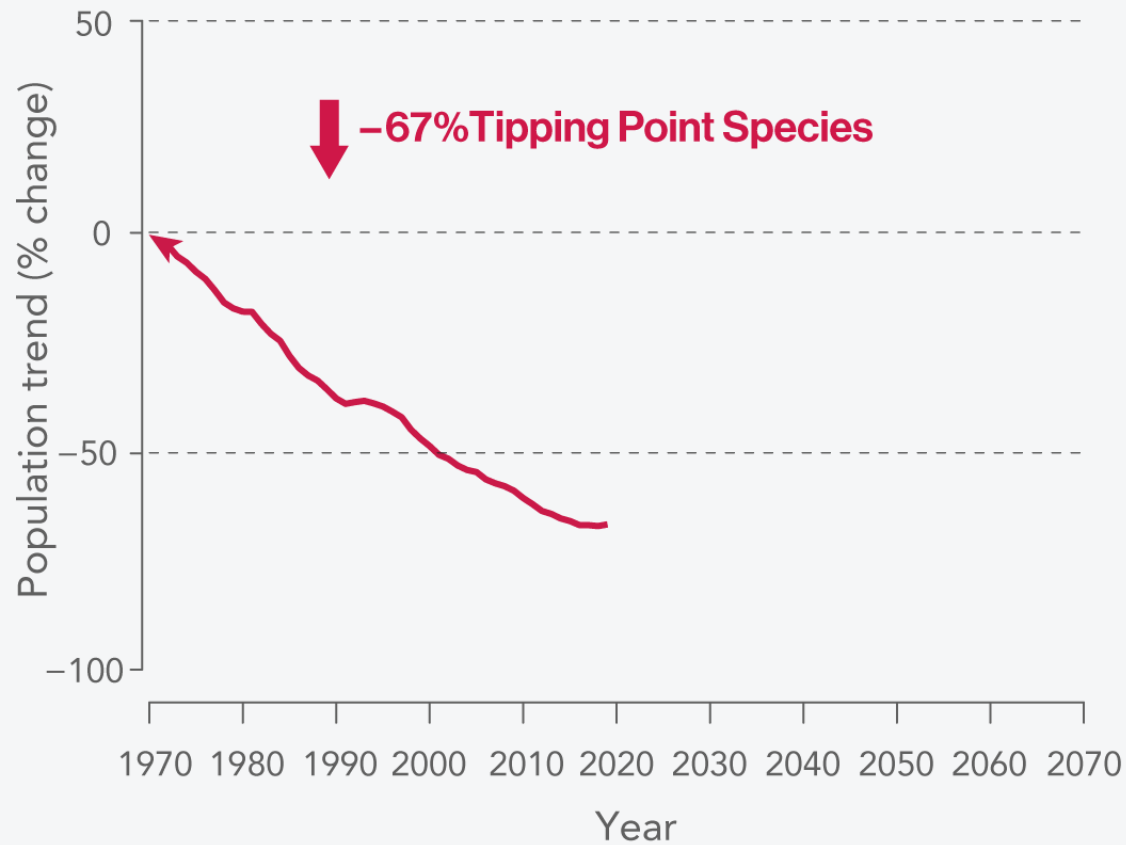


Birds are declining in nearly every habitat...

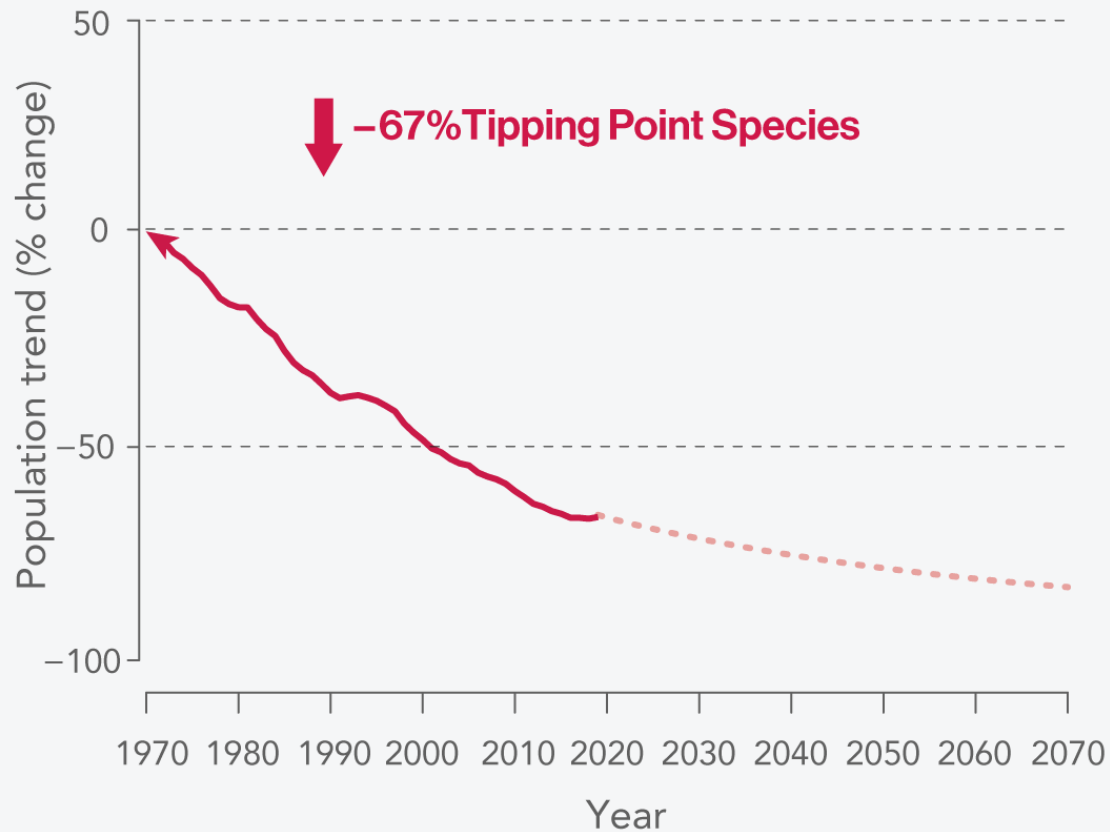
- 33% Shorebirds
- 5% Western Forest Birds
- 27% Eastern Forest Birds
- 34% Grassland Birds



...birds that have lost more than half of their populations in the past 50 years...



...and are on track to lose *another* half in the next 50 years, if nothing changes.



SPECIES OF CONTINENTAL CONCERN

Table 1. PIF WATCH LIST FOR CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES AND CANADA

Species	Vulnerability Factors					Loss	Urgency Half-Life (years)	Continental Threat	Regions of Highest Importance		Primary Breeding Habitat
	PS	Distribution		Threats	PT				Breeding	Wintering	
	BO	ND	TS	TN							
RECOVER: Red Watch List - Species with extremely high vulnerability due to small population and range, high threats, and range-wide declines (19 species)											
Gambel Sage-Grouse						> 50%		R, E, CI, U, D	16	16	Sagebrush
Lesser Prairie-Chicken						> 50%		A, R, E, CI	18, 19	18, 19	Grassland
California Condor						> 50%		Ca, D, E	32, 16	32, 16	Chaparral
Red-cockaded Woodpecker						79%	38*	F	27, 25	27, 25	Eastern Forest
Ivory-billed Woodpecker						uncertain		F, U	27, 25, 26, 31	27, 25, 26, 31	Eastern Forest
Red-crowned Parrot						> 50%		H, T	36	36	Tropical Dry Forest
Black-capped Vireo						15-50%		R, U	35, 20	MX-P	Desert Scrub
Florida Scrub-Jay						> 50%		U, A, D	31	31	Eastern Forest
Bicknell's Thrush						15-50%		T, F, CI	34	34	Boreal Forest
Bendire's Thrasher						85%	18	R, A, U, E, CI	33, 16	33	Desert Scrub
Le Conte's Thrasher						87%	27	R, A, U, E, CI	33	33	Desert Scrub
Bachman's Warbler						uncertain		F	27, 25, 26	CU	Eastern Forest
Golden-winged Warbler						60%	34*	F, T, U	32, 33, 28	CA, PA, HN, NE	Eastern Forest
Golden-cheeked Warbler						> 50%		T, F, U	20	NI, HN, MX-H	Western Forest
Bachman's Sparrow						72%	24	F	27, 31	27, 31	Eastern Forest
Saltmarsh Sparrow						94%		CI, U	30	27, 30	Coastal Saltmarsh
Tricolored Blackbird						> 50%	> 50	A	32	32	Wetland
Black Rosy-Finch						95%		CI	10, 9	16	Alpine Tundra
Brown-capped Rosy-Finch						95%		CI	16	16	Alpine Tundra
PREVENT DECLINE: "R" Yellow Watch List - Species not declining but vulnerable due to small range or population and moderate threats (12 species)											
Flammulated Owl						uncertain		F, CI, U	34, 16, 10		Western Forest
Lucifer Hummingbird						uncertain		CI	35	MX-H; MX-P	Desert Scrub
Gray Vireo						none	> 50	T, F, D	16, 34	MX-B	Western Forest
Island Scrub-Jay						uncertain		F, D	32	32	Western Forest
California Gnatcatcher						uncertain		U	32	32	Chaparral
McKay's Bunting						uncertain		CI	5	5	Arctic Tundra
Colima Warbler						uncertain		F	35	Me-H	Mexican Pine Oak
Kirtland's Warbler						none		T, F	32	35	Eastern Forest
Hesslow's Sparrow						uncertain	> 50	A, U	24, 22	25, 26, 27	Grassland
Nelson's Sparrow						uncertain	> 50	CI, A, U	7, 11, 6, (14)	37, 27	Wetland
Seaside Sparrow						none	> 50	CI, U	37, 30, 27	37, 27	Coastal Saltmarsh
Audubon's Oriole						uncertain		F	36	36	Tropical Dry Forest
REVERSE DECLINE: "D" Yellow Watch List - Species with population declines and moderate to high threats (55 species)											
Mountain Quail						19%	> 50	CI, F	32, 15, 5	32, 15, 5	Western Forest
Scaled Quail						67%	8	R, A, CI	35, 18	35, 18	Desert Scrub
Greater Sage-Grouse						67%	> 50	F, R, D, A, CI, I	10, 17, 9	10, 17, 9	Sagebrush
Sooty Grouse						52%	> 50	F	5	5	Western Forest
Greater Prairie-Chicken						> 50%	> 50	A, E, R, I, H	19	19	Grassland
White-crowned Pigeon						15-50%		T, H	31	31	Mangrove
Band-tailed Pigeon						60%	> 50	F, T	5, 32, 34	CO	Western Forest
Mangrove Cuckoo						15-50%		U, T	31	31	Mangrove
Black-billed Cuckoo						66%	33*	T, F, U	12, 13, 23, 28	VE, MX-P, EC	Eastern Forest
Whiskered Screech-Owl						15-50%		F, U, CI	34	34	Mexican Pine Oak

SEE WATCH LIST TABLE AT A GLANCE FOR DEFINITIONS (page 5)

Species	Vulnerability Factors					Loss	Urgency/ Half-Life (years)	Continental Threat	Regions of Highest Importance		Primary Breeding Habitat
	PS	Distribution BO ND TR TN	Threats PT						Breeding	Wintering	
Snowy Owl						64%		CI	3	11	Arctic Tundra
Spotted Owl						15-50%		F, CI	34, 5, 32, 15	34, 5, 32, 15	Western Forest
Long-eared Owl						92%		F, U	(widespread)	22, 35, 33, 18, 9, 34, 15	Forest Generalist
Eastern Whip-poor-will						67%		F, T, Co, U, CI	24, 29, 27, 25	31, NI	Eastern Forest
Mexican Whip-poor-will						15-50%		T, F, Co, CI	34	MX-H, GT	Mexican Pine Oak
Black Swift						94%	16	CI	5, 10	38	Western Forest
Rufous Hummingbird						60%	34	CI, F	5	26, 37, 36	Western Forest
Allen's Hummingbird						83%	17	CI, U	32, 5	32	Chaparral
Elegant Trogon						15-50%		T, F	34	MX-P, MX-H	Mexican Pine Oak
Lewis's Woodpecker						67%	> 50	F, CI	9, 16	32, 15, 16, 34	Western Forest
Red-headed Woodpecker						68%	> 50	F, U	22, 29, 27, 26, 24	26, 27, 25, 24	Eastern Forest
Arizona Woodpecker						15-50%		T, F, CI	34	34	Mexican Pine Oak
Gilded Flicker						58%	33	R, U	33	33	Desert Scrub
Green Parakeet						15-50%		T, H	36	36	Tropical Dry Forest
Olive-sided Flycatcher						78%	24	T, F, CI	4, 10, 5	CO, EC, VE	Boreal Forest
Pinyon Jay						84%	19	F, R	16, 9	16, 9	Western Forest
Yellow-billed Magpie						49%	11	D	32	32	Western Forest
Chesnut-backed Chickadee						51%	46	F, U	5	5	Western Forest
Mexican Chickadee						15-50%		F	34	34	Mexican Pine Oak
Oak Titmouse						53%	40	F, U	32	32	Western Forest
Black-capped Gnatcatcher						15-50%		A, R, U	34	34	Desert Scrub
Wrenth						24%	> 50	U	32, 15	32, 15	Chaparral
Wood Thrush						59%	31	F, T, U, E, I	28, 29, 27, 24, 13	32, GT, HN, MX-C	Eastern Forest
California Thrasher						58%	34	U	32	32	Chaparral
Sprague's Pipit						73%	27	A, R, E, I	11	36, 37, 35, 21, 34	Grassland
Chesnut-collared Longspur						85%	21	A, R, E, I	11, 17	35, 34	Grassland
McCombs's Longspur						86%	> 50	A, R, E, I	11, 18, 17, 10	35, 21, 18, 34, 19	Grassland
Prothonotary Warbler						34%	> 50	T, U, F	26, 27	PA, CR	Eastern Forest
Virginia's Warbler						38%	> 50	T, U, F	26, 34	Ma-P	Western Forest
Connecticut Warbler						51%	> 50	T, F	6, R, 12	CO	Boreal Forest
Kentucky Warbler						25%	> 50	T, F, U	24, 25, 27, 28	32, GT, HN, MX-C	Eastern Forest
Cape May Warbler						79%	> 50	T, F	6, 16, 14, 7	36, 35, 34	Boreal Forest
Cerulean Warbler						73%	36	T, F, F, H	26	CO	Eastern Forest
Prairie Warbler						54%	> 50	T, F, U	27, 29, 28, 24, 25	35, CU, Hip	Eastern Forest
Grace's Warbler						52%	> 50	T, F, CI	34, 36	32, GT, HN, MX-H	Mexican Pine Oak
Canada Warbler						52%	> 50	T, F	8, 12, 14	CO	Boreal Forest
Rufous-winged Sparrow						15-50%		R, A, U	33, 34	33, 34	Desert Scrub
Black-chinned Sparrow						61%	> 50	R, U	35, 32, 34	34, 35	Chaparral
Five-striped Sparrow						15-50%		R	34	MX-P	Tropical Dry Forest
Beldi's Sparrow						72%	> 50	A, R, E	11	34	Grassland
Le Conte's Sparrow						61%	43	A, U, CI	6, 7, 11	25, 21, 20, 37	Grassland
Harris's Sparrow						61%		A, U	3, 7	25, 21	Arctic Tundra
Bobolink						59%	48*	A, U	11, 13, 12, 17, 14, 23	30	Grassland
Cassin's Finch						68%	> 50	F	10, 9, 15	26	Western Forest
Evening Grosbeak						92%	38*	F	24, 12, 9, 10, 5	6, 8	Boreal Forest

Priority Bird Plans

- Identifies priority bird species
- Identifies key habitat characteristics
- Population goals
- Key Management
- Decision support tools

Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture SHOREBIRD PLAN SUMMARY 2019



MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY Forest Breeding Landbird Planning Summary

Bottomland hardwood forest historically dominated the Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV), but by the early 1970s, less than 20% of the MAV remained forested. Because most of the priority and other important breeding bird species within the region are dependent on forested wetlands, these habitats are of greatest conservation concern to the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture partnership. Accordingly, with roots in the 1999 Landbird Conservation Plan for the MAV originally developed in collaboration with Partners in Flight, the LMJV has developed a suite of planning and design tools to facilitate focused, effective approaches to breeding landbird conservation in the MAV. These tools include:

- quantitative population and habitat objectives
- forest protection priorities
- forest restoration priorities
- descriptions of desired forest conditions (stand scale and landscape scale) for wildlife.



MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY WATERFOWL STEPDOWN STATE SUMMARIES 2015



WEST GULF COASTAL PLAIN AND OUACHITAS FORESTED WETLAND CONSERVATION PLAN SUMMARY 2017



Forested wetlands, including bottomland hardwood forest and riparian areas, occur along the Arkansas, Ouachita, Sabine, Neches, and Red Rivers as well as in other river flood plains of the West Gulf Coastal Plain and Ouachita (WGCP/O) Bird Conservation Region. These wetlands represent a unique and important habitat in the region, which supports area-sensitive breeding birds, such as Audubon Parula, Kentucky Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Prothonotary Warbler, and Red shouldered hawk.

Maintaining the structure and integrity of these forested wetlands may have conservation implications that extend well beyond the WGCP/O due to their importance for birds migrating to and from Mexico, the West Indies, Central and South America. Threats to bottomland areas include conversion to agriculture (cropland) stands or impoundment, protection of floodwater, oil, or gas, and reservoir creation. Certain areas are important for emerging development, which places additional demands on water supplies.

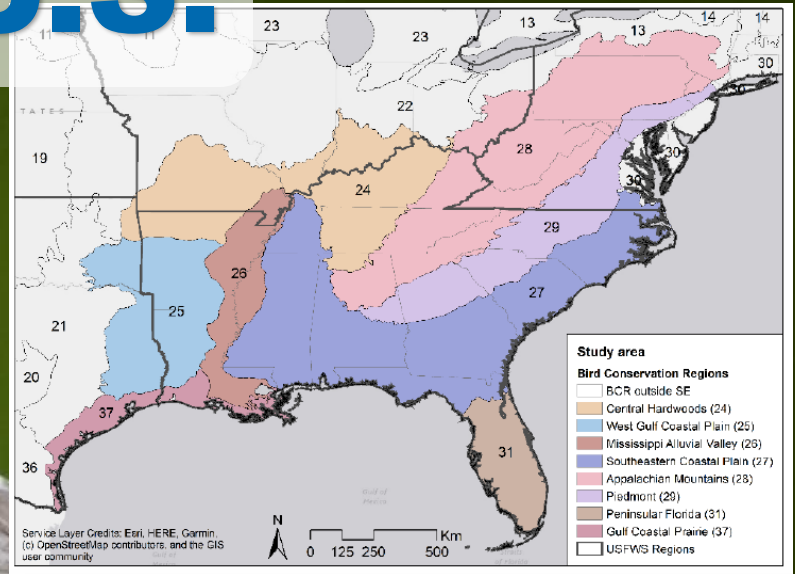
WEST GULF COASTAL PLAIN/OUACHITAS Open Pine Landbird Plan Summary 2011



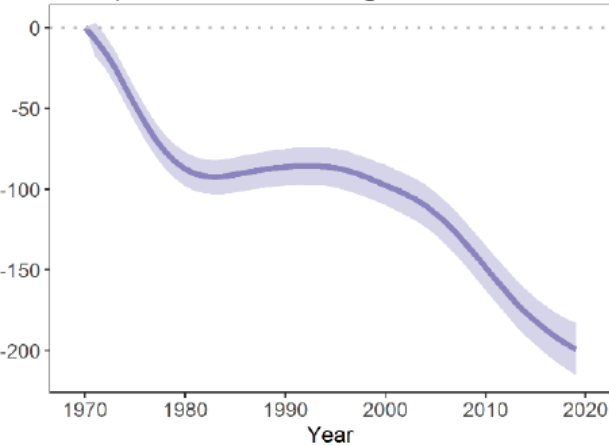
Open pine habitat is important for priority bird species and other wildlife, making conservation of this habitat a high priority in the region. Open pine is defined as "forest that is greater than 80% pine, with canopy cover between 25 and 40%." Native open pine stands composed of longleaf pine (*Pinus palustris*) or shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*) once predominated in much of the Southeast, but the longleaf pine ecosystem, and shortleaf pine acreage has declined by 50% over the past 50 years. Much of the potential open pine habitat on private lands in Texas and northern Louisiana is dominated by stands (predominantly loblolly pine) maintained at high stem densities.

Open pine systems are threatened by conversion to plantations of other pine species, land speculation, development, or conversion to pasture. With fire suppression and habitat conversion, many of the bird species dependent upon open pine have markedly declined.

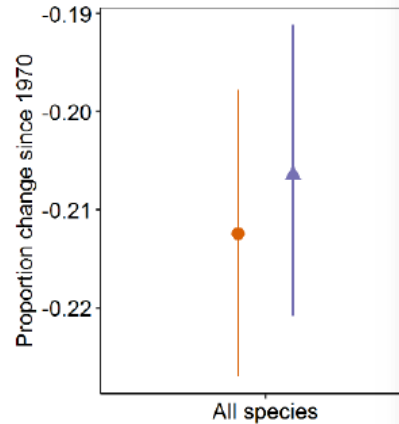
Southeastern U.S.



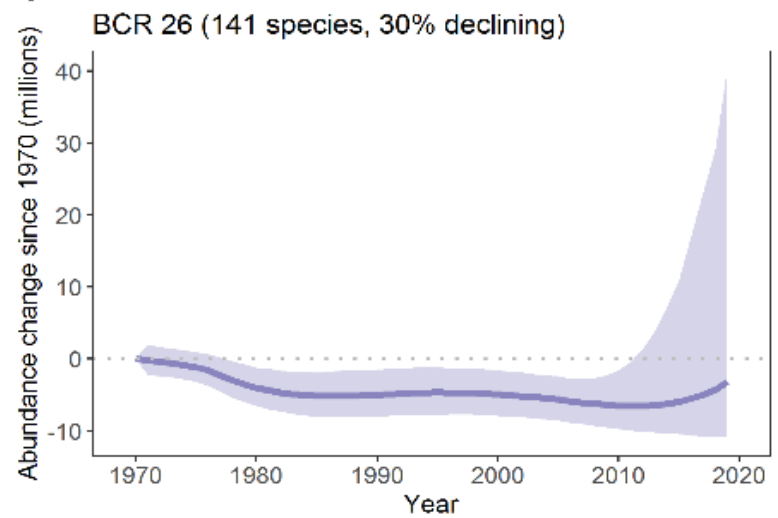
141 species, 50% declining



F



C



Mississippi Alluvial Valley (MAV)

BCR 26 (96 species)

Mississippi Alluvial Valley

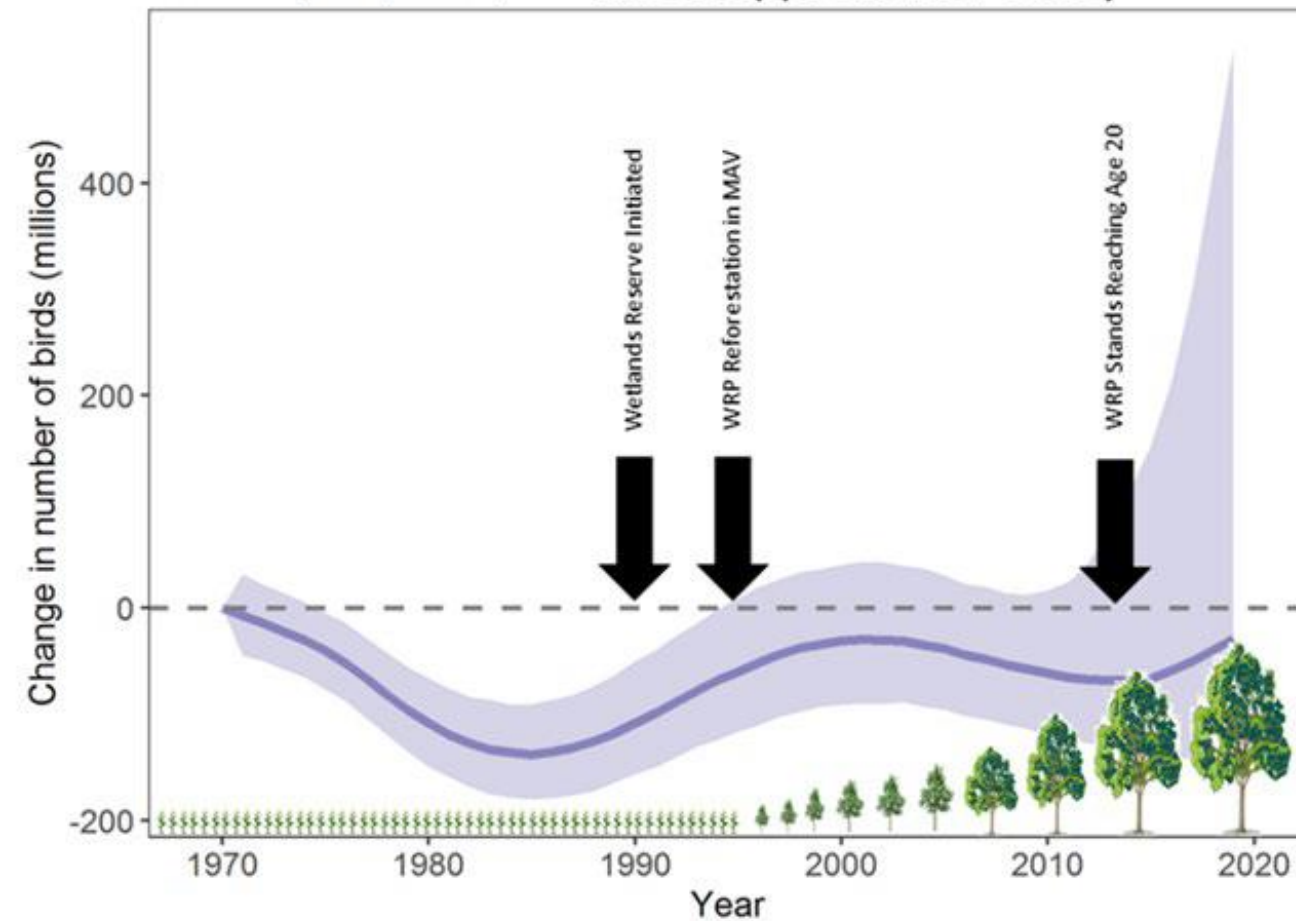
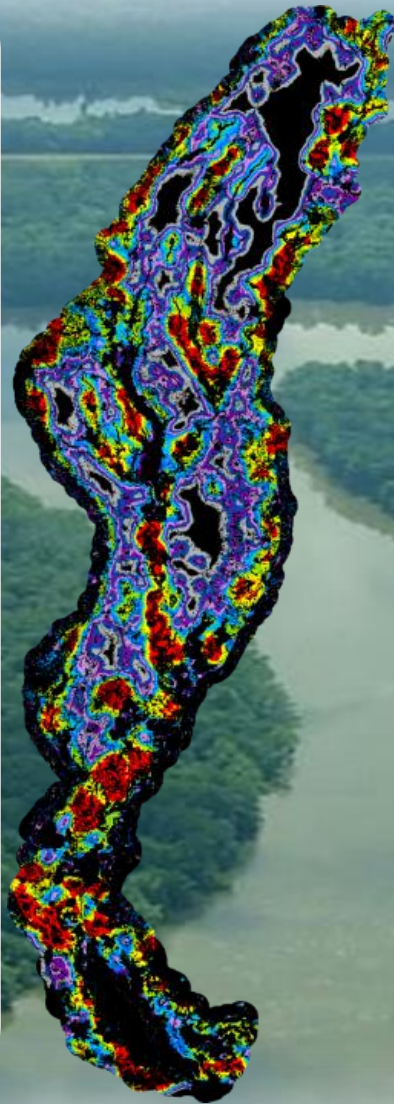


Photo: Kentucky Warbler /
James Childress



Partners in Flight
Bird Conservation Plan
for the
Mississippi Alluvial Valley
(Physiographic Area # 05)

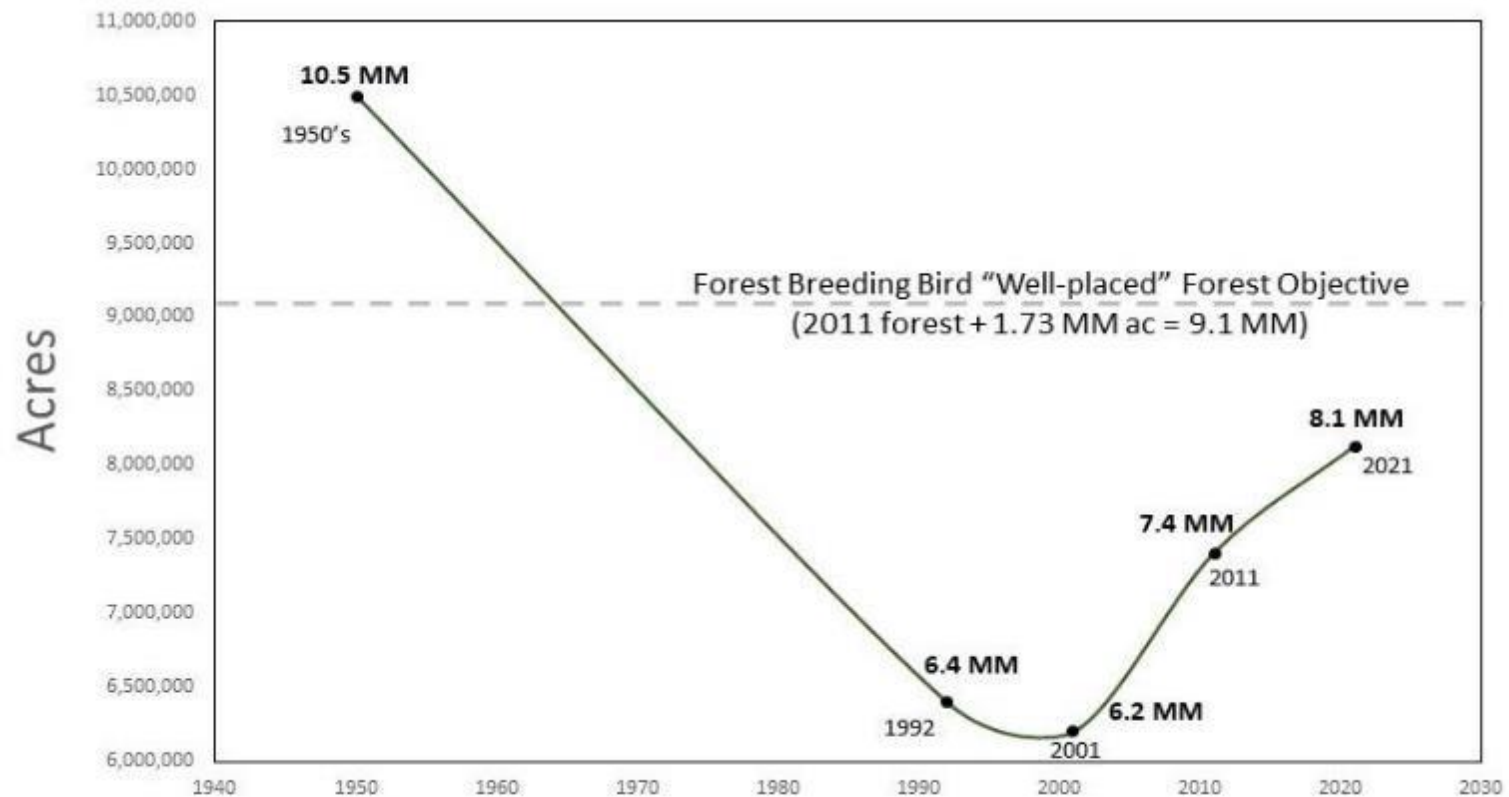


Version 1.0
September 1999

Written by: Daniel Twedt, David Pashley, Chuck Hunter, Allen Mueller, Cindy Brown,
and Bob Ford



MAV Restoration Goal



Consider
Your
Objectives

Open Pine Woodland

Basal Area Target : 40 - 60 sq ft/acre

Open Pine Priority Bird Species
NEED specific habitat features!

If your objective is to manage for Open Pine Woodland bird species, mature pine stands should be thinned to a basal area **below 60 sq ft/acre**.

For Open Pine Woodland birds to thrive, ALL of their habitat needs should be met including: nesting, over wintering, and foraging.

Red-cockaded Woodpecker (Betty Rizzotti); Brown-headed Nuthatch (ABC); Bachman's Sparrow (Greg Lavaty); Red-headed Woodpecker (Karl Krueger)

Red-Cockaded
Woodpecker
40-60 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



Brown-headed Nuthatch
20-60 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



Bachman's Sparrow
< 60 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



Red-headed Woodpecker
40-60 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)

Consider
Your
Objectives

Pine Savannas

Basal Area Target : 15 - 30 sq ft/acre

Open Pine Priority Bird Species
NEED specific habitat features!

If your objective is to manage for Pine Savanna bird species, mature pine stands should be thinned to a basal area **below 40 sq ft/acre**.

For Pine Savanna birds to thrive, ALL of their habitat needs should be met including: nesting, over wintering, and foraging.

Henslow's Sparrow (Lev Frid); Northern Bobwhite (Jim Giocomo); LeConte's Sparrow (Ian Maton); Prairie Warbler (Ray Hennessy)

Henslow's Sparrow
< 40 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



Northern Bobwhite
< 40 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



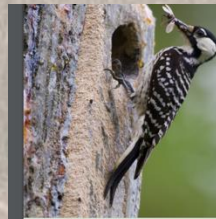
LeConte's Sparrow
< 40 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)



Prairie Warbler
< 40 Basal Area
(sq ft/acre)

AR-LA CDN Open Pine Landscape Restoration RCPP 2319 Purpose

- **Objective 1 open pine habitat on 30,000 acres of private lands**
 - 9,600 acres of management practices planned FY22 (2,150 land acres)
 - 20,700 acres of management practices planned FY23 (2,810 land acres)
- **Objective 2 open pine habitat on 30,000 acres contribution**
 - 61,056 acres management contributed
- **Project will benefit**
 - Priority birds
 - T&E species
 - SWAP SGWN





MAV Challenges & Opportunities

- **Hydrology changes**
- **Forest stand condition**
- **Forest management**

WGCPO Challenges & Opportunities

- **Prescribed fire**
- **Landowner barriers**
- **Economic trade-offs**

- **Bird response metrics**
- **Testing of assumptions**