

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS JOINT VENTURE

IMPACT REPORT



On the Cover
Cerulean Warbler
Photo by Lev Frid, Shutterstock



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Learn more about AMJV at
<https://amjv.org/> or scan the QR
code above





Mission and Vision


Our **mission** is to restore and sustain viable populations of native birds and their habitats in the Appalachian Mountains region through effective, collaborative partnerships.

Our **vision** is partners working together for conservation of native bird species in the Appalachian Mountains region to attain:



- Fully-functioning ecosystems with sustainable populations of the region's native avifauna, guided by state, regional, national, and international bird plans.
- Effective delivery of habitat conservation through adaptive management and guided by a conservation approach consisting of biological planning, conservation design, delivery of conservation actions, evaluation, and research.
- Success in capitalizing on funding opportunities relevant to partnership priorities.
- An engaged Management Board, representative of the diverse landscape and effective partnerships in the Appalachian Mountains.

Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture


SINCE 2020, OUR AMJV PARTNERS HAVE



CONSERVED OVER 551,600 ACRES OF HABITAT

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LEVERAGED \$30 FOR EVERY \$1 OF JOINT VENTURE FEDERAL FUNDING



DEDICATED OVER \$10 MILLION TOWARDS BIRD CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN OUR REGION.



The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture (AMJV) is one of 21 Migratory Bird Joint Ventures in the United States. We are a regional partnership of over 55 state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, and universities working to conserve habitat for birds.

As a self-directed partnership, our strength is in our ability to strategically deliver conservation actions at a scale and scope unachievable by any single agency or organization.



Focal Landscape Initiative

Focal Landscapes

The AMJV's Focal Landscape Initiative aims to identify the most important places in the region for conservation and concentrate resources in these areas to restore and sustain wildlife and their habitats through effective, collaborative partnerships. So far, AMJV has established six focal landscapes across our geography, encompassing over 10 million acres in eight states.

Southeastern Ohio

The mix of public and private ownership in this region makes it even more important to plan forest management across ownership boundaries and at the landscape-scale. AMJV is collaborating with the Ohio Interagency Forestry Team on a shared vision for supporting healthy and sustainable oak dominated ecosystems in the region.

Allegheny Highlands

24 representatives from 12 organizations attended AMJV's first partner workshop. Partners in attendance identified conservation challenges and priorities to advance landscape-scale planning and management in this region.

Greenbrier and High Alleghenies

AMJV and West Virginia Division of Natural Resources (WV DNR) hosted two meetings to establish a foundation for collaboration among stakeholders to implement, monitor, and evaluate the results of conservation actions outlined in the Conservation Focus Area plans developed by WV DNR. The meetings were attended by representatives from more than a dozen organizations.

Cumberland Mountains

AMJV is a partner in two projects led by Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS). Project partners will enhance more than 2000 acres of public and private forests to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Virginia Highlands

With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, AMJV and our partners coordinated efforts across ownership boundaries to write management plans for 7480 acres and implement 275 acres of habitat management activities to benefit Golden-winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and Wood Thrush.

Southern Appalachian High Country

In an effort to broaden the scope of conservation activities occurring in this region, AMJV is planning a series of listening sessions focused on building partnerships with new audiences, including local business owners, governments officials, and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Private Lands

Private landowners are vital stewards of our nation's landscapes and wildlife. Roughly 83% of land in the Appalachian Mountains is privately owned. In many cases private lands are working lands that provide a source of income and livelihood to landowners through farming, forest management, and other agricultural and recreational uses. Working lands can operate sustainably in ways that provide critical wildlife habitat while maintaining, and even enhancing, the land's productivity and value.



West Virginia landowner John Cobb meets with local foresters and wildlife biologists in his woodlands. Photo by Kyle Aldinger.

Since 2017, the AMJV Partnership has leveraged over **\$8 million** to help private landowners take advantage of financial and technical assistance opportunities.

Connecting with Private Landowners through Outreach

AMJV's outreach efforts help landowners take advantage of financial and technical assistance opportunities to create management plans for their woodlands. Sustainable habitat management can provide landowners with economic and ecological benefits.

- New income sources
- Maintaining working lands operations with certainty and minimal interruptions
- Ecological benefits such as healthier forests and improved water quality
- Improved recreational opportunities for hunting and wildlife watching
- Improved habitat for birds and bats that can reduce need for insecticides in crop production.

Outreach to Industrial Private Landowners

Working with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Weyerhaeuser, WV DNR, West Virginia University, and others, AMJV is developing guidance materials for industrial forest owners to improve the value of their lands for birds and other wildlife while providing sustainable forest products.

In 2022, our outreach efforts led to...



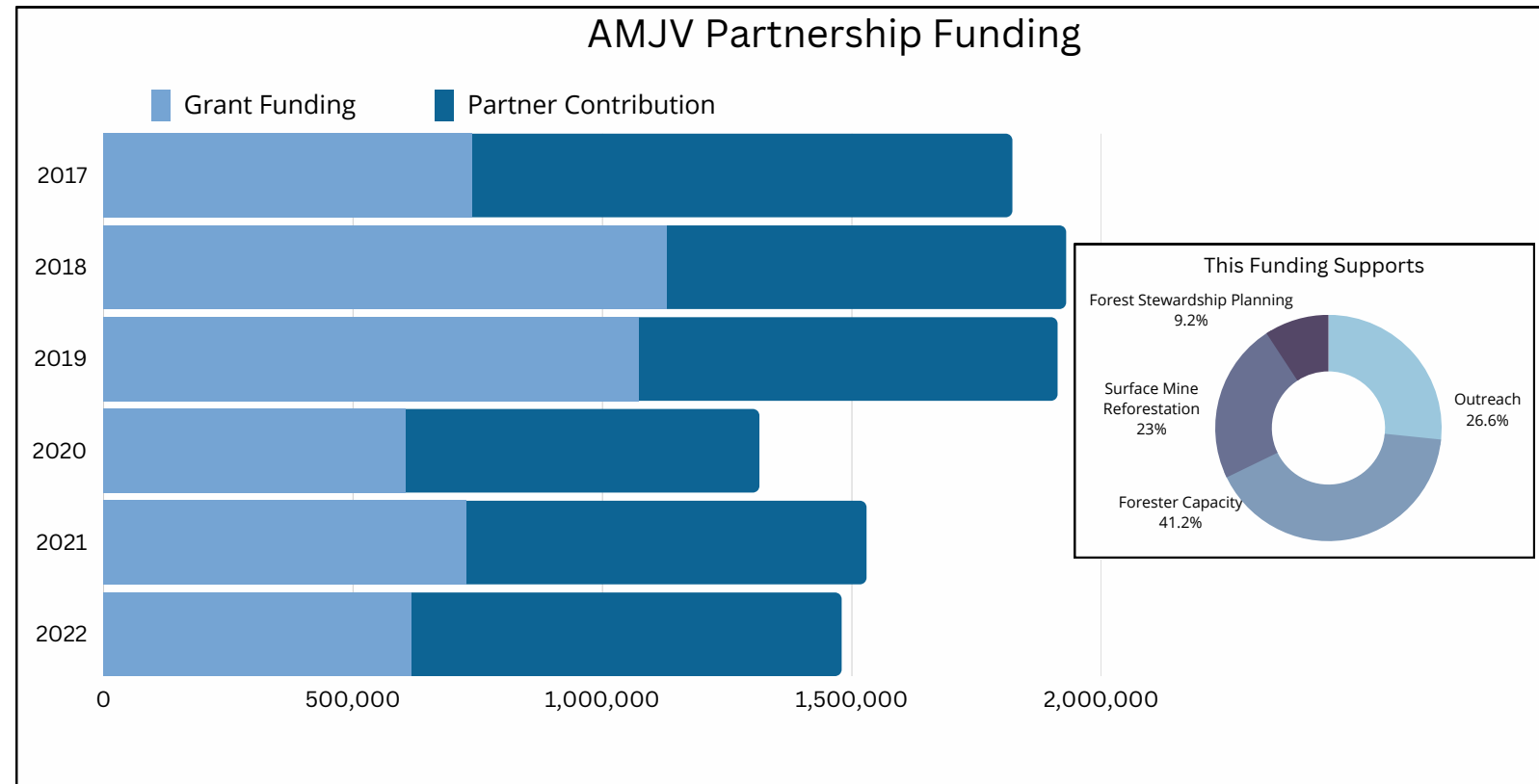
6,100 private landowners reached through direct mailings



Over 8,500 acres of wildlife habitat created

Economic Impact of Private Lands Programs

Farm Bill Conservation Programs do more than just improve habitat for wildlife. These programs create jobs and support the local economy and forest products industry.



The AMJV Partnership has brought over **\$10 million** into Appalachia through grant funding and partner contributions. These funds have built a framework for boosting private lands forestry that translates directly into opportunities for loggers, contractors, foresters, and other businesses.

“The forest products industry needs sustainable forests. These programs provide that pathway while benefitting wildlife and providing forest products to boost our local economy.”

- Mark Byler, General Manager, A.M. Logging LLC Millheim, Pennsylvania



Adaptive Management

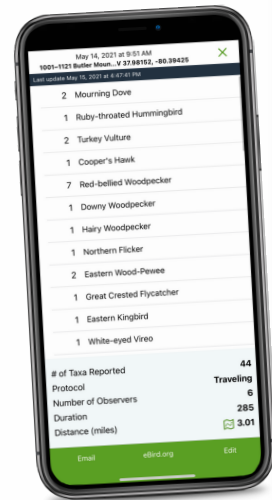
Measuring our Impact Through Monitoring

Monitoring allows us to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation actions to impact target species. Our ability to be adaptive relies on data from monitoring to inform our conservation decisions. The data we collect about how birds are using the habitat we create will be used to help improve planning of future projects.

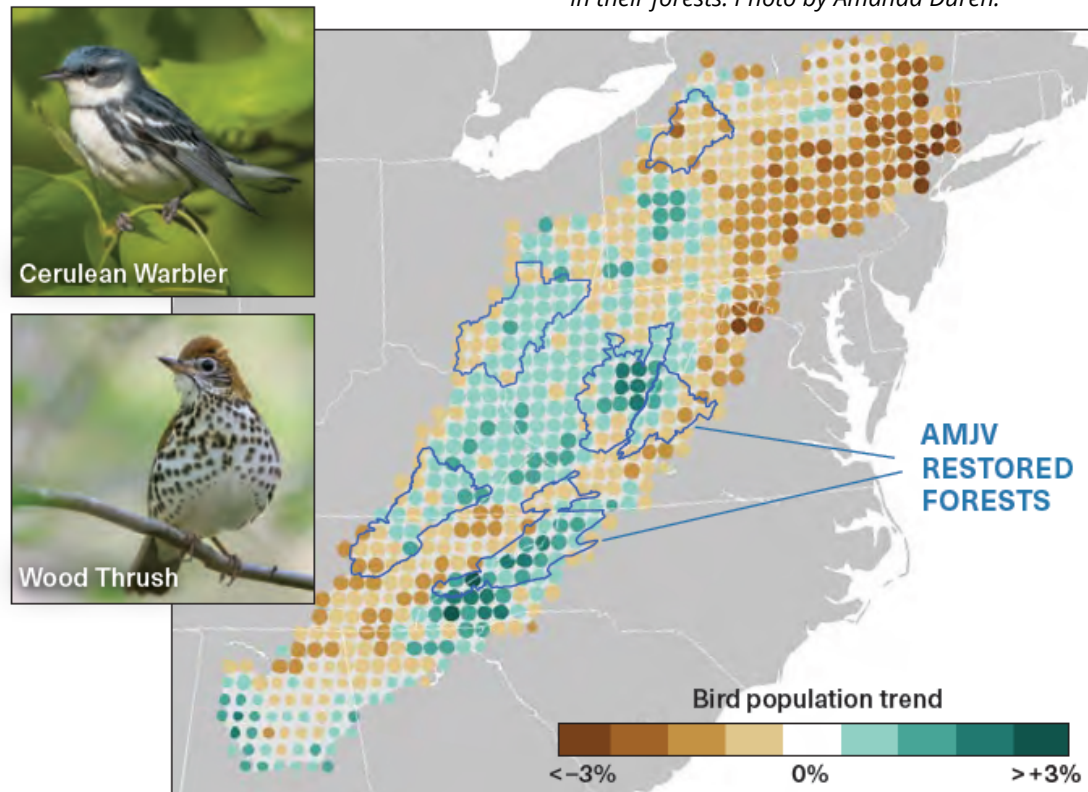
AMJV partners monitor sites where private landowners have managed their property to improve habitat for Golden-winged Warblers, Cerulean Warblers, and other wildlife.

Monitoring these sites allows us to share the impact of conservation actions with the industrial and family forest landowners who participate.

A recent study by Virginia Tech showed that landowners who participated in bird monitoring on their properties were more satisfied with their conservation projects (Lutter et al 2022).



A biologist and landowner look for birds during a site visit. Tools like eBird (pictured left) help scientists and landowners easily track the birds they see in their forests. Photo by Amanda Duren.

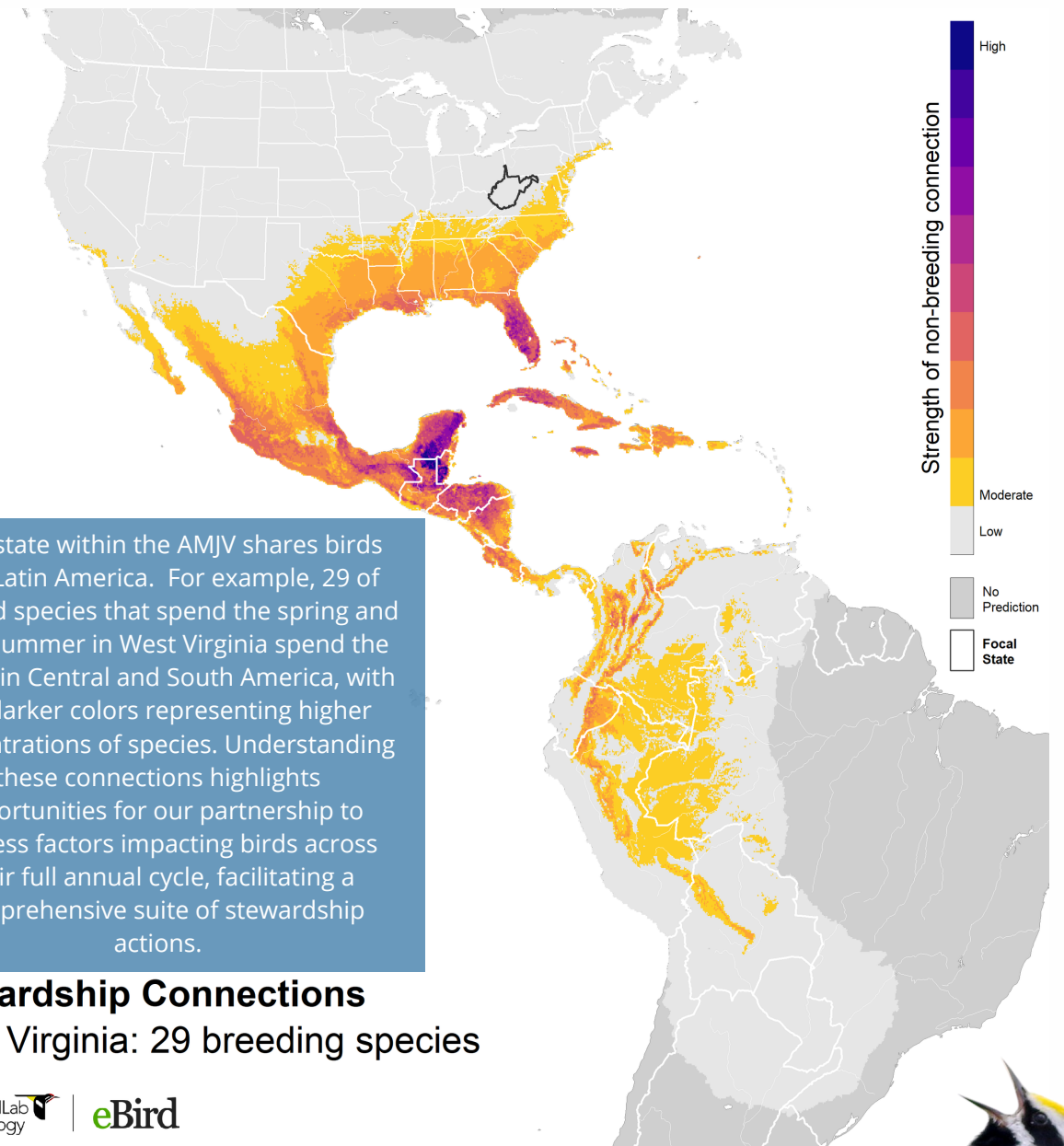


FOREST RESTORATION WORKS FOR BRINGING BACK BIRDS
In areas where the Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture has helped restore forests, data from eBird show remarkable increases in numbers of Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush. Source: Cornell Lab | eBird 2007-2019.

International Partnerships

Many of the birds that breed in the Appalachians spend the winter in Central and South America. While many of our priority birds are benefiting from protection and habitat improvements on the breeding grounds, habitat loss and degradation in Central and South America is still rapidly occurring.

Our partners are actively engaged in research and conservation efforts throughout Central and South America, and our partnership seeks to facilitate greater coordination, collaboration, and involvement in these international conservation efforts. This work, coupled with our conservation work in the Appalachians, will enable us to better achieve full annual cycle conservation for our priority species.



Each state within the AMJV shares birds with Latin America. For example, 29 of the bird species that spend the spring and early summer in West Virginia spend the winter in Central and South America, with the darker colors representing higher concentrations of species. Understanding these connections highlights opportunities for our partnership to address factors impacting birds across their full annual cycle, facilitating a comprehensive suite of stewardship actions.

Stewardship Connections
West Virginia: 29 breeding species



Fun Fact:

A Golden-winged Warbler tagged by researchers at the University of Tennessee in the North Cumberland Mountains in Spring 2022 was detected in Venezuela!
Golden-winged Warbler photo by Mike Parr.





Management Board

- Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources
- American Bird Conservancy
- American Forest Foundation
- Cornell Lab of Ornithology
- Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Wildlife Resources Division
- Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources
- The Nature Conservancy
- National Audubon Society
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- National Wild Turkey Federation
- North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission
- Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement
- Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife
- Pennsylvania Game Commission
- Ruffed Grouse Society
- Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
- U.S. Forest Service - Eastern and Southern Regions
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Northeast and Southeast Regions
- U.S. Geological Survey
- Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources
- West Virginia Division of Natural Resources
- Wildlife Management Institute

Thanks for supporting
Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture

