



PACIFIC BIRDS

HABITAT JOINT VENTURE



Conservation Report 2022-2023

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A pair of Arctic Terns
Photo: Kim Stark



Vision

A Pacific Region United for Bird Habitat Conservation:
By working together, we will ensure wild birds thrive in abundant and diverse habitats that we all help safeguard for future generations.

Mission

Creating the Ideal Environment for Bird Habitat Conservation

Land Acknowledgement

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture acknowledges that the lands on which we work are the traditional lands of many different Indigenous nations. The act of acknowledging these lands, and the signed treaties where applicable, is an act of reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples and an expression of respect and gratitude for the land. This action is to remind us that our places of work, where we live and where we gather are on the traditional lands of more than 350 Tribes, First Nations, and Indigenous Peoples, people who resided here since time immemorial and still presently do. It is also a recognition that all of us are accountable to these relationships on a daily basis.

Cover Photo:
Hawaiian stilts, or ae'o, at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge.
Photo: Laurel Smith, USFWS, Creative Commons

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Pacific Birds Staff and International Management Board on Vancouver Island, CA this September.
Photo: Monica Iglecia

Letter from the International Board Co-Chairs and Coordinators

Dear Pacific Birds Partners,

The last year has been one of growth and progress, marked by significant achievements across the diverse and multinational Pacific Birds service area, from Alaska to coastal British Columbia to Northwest California and across the Pacific to the Hawaiian Islands.

Pacific Birds welcomed talented new International Management Board Members and staff. Their expertise and passion enrich our ability to achieve conservation outcomes from leadership to implementation.

Programmatically, there is continued momentum for conservation. And while we celebrate the achievements over the last year, our vision for the future remains ambitious. Support for conservation has resulted in land securement, habitat restoration, conservation planning, partnership building, and much more. In British Columbia, partners invested nearly \$20 million into conservation activities. Expanded partnerships with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and funding opportunities like the America the Beautiful Challenge Grants are providing more capacity and resources to deliver conservation. Focused efforts coupled with increasing collaborations with National Estuarine Research Reserves are creating spaces to deepen relationships with Indigenous Communities.

The driving engine of Pacific Birds is the people, partners, and partnerships that leverage diverse skill sets to achieve more than is possible alone. None of these accomplishments would have been possible without your willingness to work collaboratively and to come together to harness opportunities. Pacific Birds remains dedicated to exploring new partnerships, deepening existing collaborations, and embracing innovative strategies to advance conservation goals. As we embark on the next year, we invite you to consider new and deeper ways of working with Pacific Birds.

With gratitude,



Nanette Seto

U.S. Co-Chair, International
Management Board



Blair Hammond

Canada Co-Chair, International
Management Board



Monica Iglecia

U.S. Coordinator



Andrew Huang

Canada Coordinator

Kawainui
Photo: Hawaii DLNR

New Members on the International Management Board

In 2023, we welcomed Hillary Page, Greg Green, and Joel Gerwein to the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture Board.



[Hillary Page](#) is the Director of Conservation, Nature Conservancy of Canada, where she plays a pivotal role in accelerating conservation efforts and establishing conservation lands in British Columbia.



[Greg Green](#) is the Director of Conservation Programs for Ducks Unlimited in the Pacific Northwest, where he provides guidance and staff supervision for on-the-ground conservation projects.



[Joel Gerwein](#) is the North Coast Program Deputy Manager and Regional Tribal Liaison for the California Coastal Conservancy, working in coastal wetlands and natural communities conservation for over 15 years.



Nancy Newhouse retired from the Pacific Birds Board in 2023. We thank her for her commitment to the Joint Venture, and for helping move forward conservation!



Pacific Birds Staff and International Management Board on Vancouver Island, CA this September.

Changes to Pacific Birds Staff



Natalie Myers recently joined Pacific Birds as the Communications and Marketing Coordinator. She brings her skills in communicating science and knowledge on behalf of conservation goals to Pacific Birds.



Thank you, Lynn Fuller!

After 16 years of working with Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, [Lynn Fuller retired in May 2023](#). Her work spanned across Pacific Birds, initially as the Alaska Partnership Coordinator, and most recently as the Communications Coordinator. We continue to thank her for her commitment to showcasing the importance of birds and their habitats through storytelling and for her endless knowledge of birds. Join us in helping wish her a happy retirement!



Common Merganser
Photo: Barry Troutman



Sara Evans-Peters, Individual Leadership Award

Congratulations to Sara Evans-Peters, Pacific Birds U.S. Assistant Coordinator, for her Partners In Flight Individual Leadership Award!

This award honors those who have made significant contributions to land bird conservation in the Americas. [Sara was recognized for her leadership in oak and prairie conservation in the Pacific Northwest](#), helping to catalyze and coordinate the conservation of essential habitats for oak-associated land birds.



2023 Dr. Fern Duvall Conservation and Collaboration Awardee: Raymond McGuire - “Nēnē Superman”

In 2022, we honored the incredible legacy of Dr. Fern Duvall with the first Pacific Birds Conservation and Collaboration Award. Fern helped shape Pacific Birds’ conservation efforts in Hawai‘i and was a generous mentor, gentle leader, and a trusted guide, particularly to young conservationists. The award recognizes the conservation efforts of individuals who embody the innovative, inclusive, humble, and collaborative spirit that Fern brought to conservation endeavors.

This year, we named the first recipient of the now eponymous Dr. Fern Duvall Conservation and Collaboration Award: [Raymond McGuire of the Department of Land and Natural Resources - Division of Forestry and Wildlife](#). Raymond’s colleagues nominated him for his extensive knowledge of waterbirds, ability to make others feel valued, and ability to handle difficult situations gracefully. The Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture review committee agreed that these characteristics embody those we wish to celebrate in the conservation community and reflect Fern’s spirit.

Raymond is a valued conservationist in Hawai‘i with a level-headed and focused commitment to the conservation of Nēnē and other native Hawaiian wildlife. His colleagues share that he is also a wonderful and generous teacher and an inspiration to local youth.

Raymond’s nomination highlighted his... “effort to involve youth and emerging professionals in conservation work gives us hope for future collaborations for the benefit of all native wildlife. In addition, Ray takes the time to engage with members of the public during wildlife releases, educating people on the value of conservation and inspiring others to do what they can for native species.”

Nēnē

Photo: Hob Osterlund



How Pacific Birds Creates An Environment for Bird Conservation

This year the Pacific Birds staff made a dedicated commitment to hone our service pillars and frame our conservation priority plans around those pillars. This included identifying which pillar each of our projects aligns with most, and how we are implementing service pillars through our work.

Service Pillars

Accelerate and Deliver Conservation

- ▶ Advance protection, restoration, and enhancement of habitats to support birds and people.
- ▶ Support and advance conservation incentives and policies that benefit birds, habitats, and people.
- ▶ Advocate for funding opportunities for conservation.

Promote Collaboration

- ▶ Identify and collaborate on strategies that meet the goals of multiple organizations and partners.
- ▶ Develop and sustain local, state, regional, and international partnerships.

Advance Knowledge and Planning

- ▶ Initiate and facilitate partner-driven conservation planning.
- ▶ Support applied research and effectiveness monitoring.
- ▶ Connect local planning to regional, national, and international objectives and strategies.

Build Capacity

- ▶ Grow capacity for partnerships that advance bird habitat conservation.
- ▶ Increase partner capacity to find, secure, and leverage funding.

Inform and Inspire

- ▶ Deliver inspiring content about birds, habitats, biodiversity, and people.
- ▶ Connect partners with opportunities, tools, and resources.
- ▶ Transfer technical research and knowledge.
- ▶ Share partner stories, successes, and lessons learned.
- ▶ Communicate collective conservation impact.

From left to right:

Taro patch at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, Photo: Helen Raine.

Tidal marsh at Cypress Island, WA, Photo: Laura Farwell.

Willamette Valley oak forest, Photo: Sara Evans-Peters.

Hawaiian Stilt, or ae'o, Photo: Bill Hebner



CONSERVATION PRIORITY

Oak and Prairie

2023 has been a big year for the Oak and Prairie staff and partners. We are close to completing the 2023 Oak and Prairie Business Plan, which will help guide investment in oak and prairie landscapes. Pacific Birds staff also helped support multiple successful grant applications, helped design a new website for the Oak Alliance, and supported the development of a campaign to highlight the value of oaks.

Oak Accord

The [Oak Accord](#) is a voluntary conservation agreement inspired by the vision of local landowners, vineyard owners, and forest owners who see the economic and environmental value of native oak habitats. Directed at vineyard owners and operators, the program aims to encourage them to protect and sustainably manage their oak habitat. In 2023, the Oak Accord was successfully restructured into a tiered entry approach to increase participation and geographically expanded to include the Umpqua Basin.

The Year of the Oak

The Year of The Oak is a budding initiative to help raise the profile of oak restoration and the importance of oak and prairie habitats for birds, wildlife, and people across the Pacific Northwest. Launching soon, the Year of the Oak will include a variety of outreach and educational opportunities, with the goal of catalyzing oak conservation going forward.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

In 2023, we entered an expanded agreement with [NRCS](#), which supports two new positions, increasing our conservation capacity in Oregon. These positions will help address scientific gaps, facilitate knowledge transfer, increase field capacity, and share relevant local and regional information with key partners. Additionally, two additional full-time oak partner positions will bring direct capacity to multiple counties in Oregon through a collaboration of Oregon NRCS and [Pheasants Forever](#) in partnership with Pacific Birds.

Oak woodland and flowers.

Photo: Bruce Taylor

Project Spotlight: Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) Sentinel Landscape Program

Unknown to many, JBLM is a hub of biodiversity – host to 90% of the remaining native oak prairie and woodlands in the Puget Sound, and multiple ESA-listed species, like the Oregon Vesper Sparrow (*Pooecetes gramineus affinis*). The Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program Challenge Grants [funded \\$2.4 million to Washington's JBLM Sentinel Landscapes to build prairie and working landscape resilience.](#)



Oregon Vesper Sparrow. Photo: Frank D. Lospalluto



Trip to the Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network project area. Photo: Monica Iglecia

America The Beautiful Challenge

[America The Beautiful Challenge](#) brings together funding from multiple federal and private sources to support large-scale projects, spanning both public and private lands. Pacific Birds staff helped secure \$5.3 million in funding through the America The Beautiful Challenge grant cycle in 2022, awarded to partners in Oregon and Washington to accelerate oak restoration and protection. Funded projects include:

- **Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network: Reducing Threats to Imperiled Oak Savannah and Woodland Ecosystems in the Upper Rogue Watershed**

This was submitted in partnership with the [Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife](#) and [Oregon Wildlife Foundation](#) and will be co-managed with Pacific Birds. The project will restore over 3,000 acres of oak habitat using prescribed fire, ecological thinning, weed reduction, and native understory planting. A central focus of the project is engaging with Tribes and Tribal communities with ancestral ties to the project area, to ensure Indigenous voices are heard and that culturally beneficial resources and subsistence First Foods are incorporated into restoration planning.

- **The Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation: Healing Land: Landscape Scale Reconnection of Culturally and Ecologically Important Pathways**

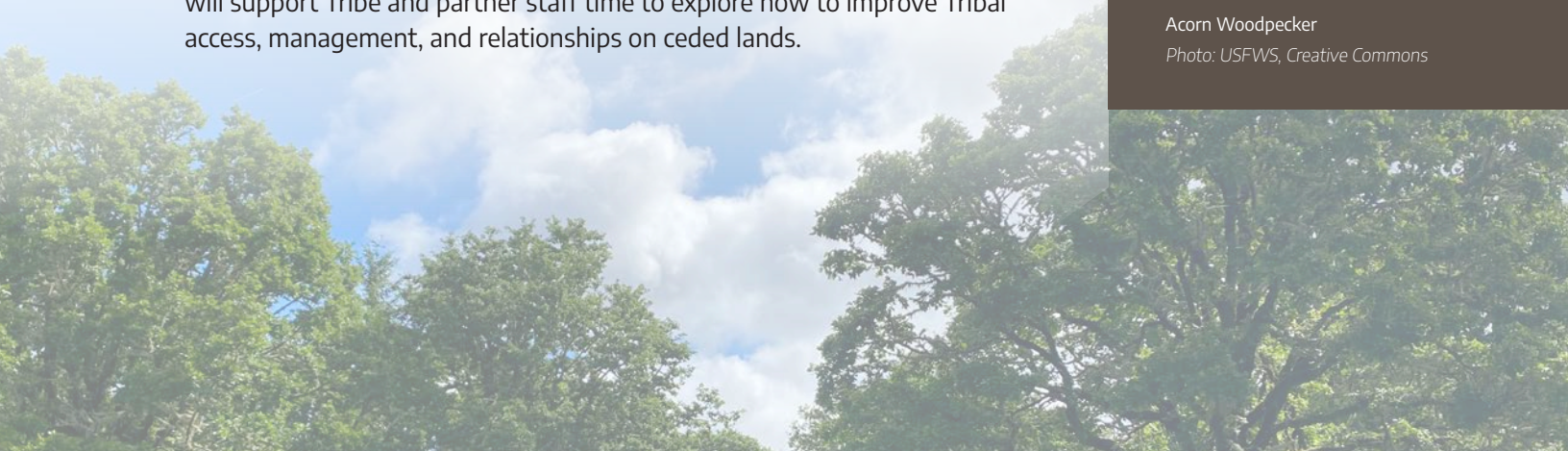
This will be awarded to the [Yakama Nation](#) with support from the [East Cascades Oak Partnership](#). Linking state, federal, and Tribal lands, this project will support Tribe and partner staff time to explore how to improve Tribal access, management, and relationships on ceded lands.



Click on the woodpecker to learn more about the benefits of oak habitats for bird species

Acorn Woodpecker

Photo: USFWS, Creative Commons



Oaks in Willamette Valley. Photo: Sara Evans-Peters



Marbled Godwits
Photo: Monica Iglecia

CONSERVATION PRIORITY

Coastal Wetlands

We've made great strides in 2023 toward completing a new Coastal Wetlands strategic plan and mapping out coastal priorities for the next 10 years. Working closely with partners from across the region, we have co-developed shared conservation strategies and actions for Pacific Coastal habitats. At the same time, we're working with partners on collaborative research projects to advance regional knowledge and planning for coastal wetlands. Partnership grants are supporting important initiatives from Humboldt Bay to Alaska, and our new video series on Alaskan coastal wetlands showcases the global importance of migratory hotspots in faraway places, for birds and people.

U.S.

National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative Catalyst Grant

With support from a 2023 [NERRS Science Collaborative grant](#), Pacific Birds is engaging four geographically distinct sites connected by shared migratory bird species and by a common interest in elevating Indigenous Knowledge and management practices. Project collaborators include Reserve staff and Indigenous community partners at [He'eia NERR](#) in Hawai'i, [Kachemak Bay NERR](#) in Alaska, [Padilla Bay NERR](#) in Washington, and [South Slough NERR](#) in Oregon. This team is working to adapt and refine strategies for integrating Indigenous Knowledge and conventional science for more effective and equitable estuary management, with shared benefits for birds and people. The year-long project will result in stronger collaborative relationships, place-based action plans, and a funding proposal to support longer-term research and implementation.

Historical Extent of West Coast Estuaries

In collaboration with researchers from the [Institute for Applied Ecology](#) and the [Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#), we are extending existing maps of the historical extent of estuaries in Oregon to include major estuaries on the outer coast of Washington and Northern California. These efforts are improving our understanding of the extent of historical tidal wetland loss by habitat type and will inform the development of Pacific Birds' habitat objectives for coastal wetlands.

Wigi Land Back Project

Building on previous partnership grants that helped facilitate the return of 46 acres of land to the [Wiyot Tribe](#), this new project will return an additional 357 acres, including 81 acres of wetlands along Humboldt Bay (Wigi in Wiyot) to the Wiyot Tribe. With support from a 2023 partnership grant, this historic project will help strengthen long-term conservation relationships between Indigenous, federal, state, and non-profit partners. Ongoing stewardship of the Samoa Dunes and Wetlands Conservation Area by the Wiyot Tribe and [Friends of the Dunes](#) will benefit the many bird species that rely on these habitats.

Alaska Coastal Wetland Video Series

In 2023, Pacific Birds supported the production and release of a video series highlighting three Alaskan coastal wetlands. Created by filmmaker Eden McCall, the series gives people a chance to experience remote coastal areas of enormous importance to birds and local communities. While difficult to visit in person, the series transports the viewer to Alaska by showcasing the incredible beauty and biodiversity of each area, and how the relationship between nature and people is at the heart of each community. To learn more, watch the videos below.

► [On the Delta – Cordova, AK](#)

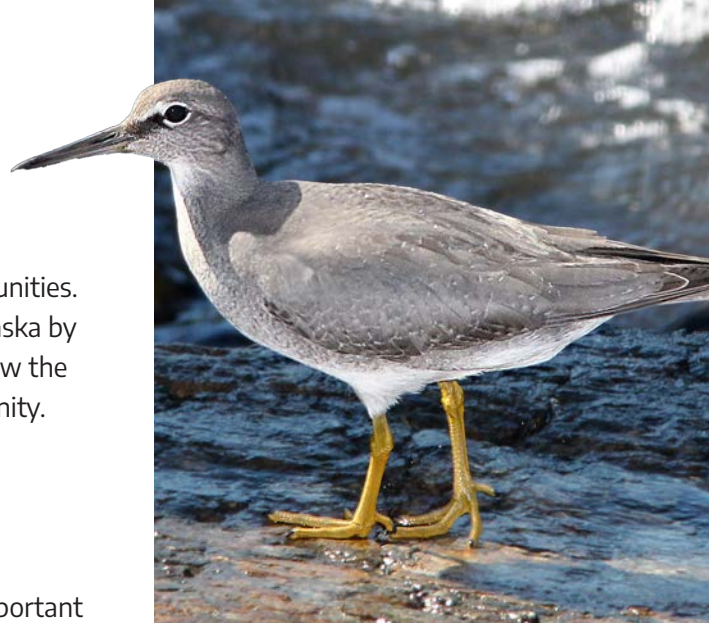
In the Copper River Delta, U.S. Forest Service employees maintain and monitor nest islands, small patches of nest habitat that are important for successful breeding of the Dusky Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis occidentalis*). Like so many coastal wetlands, the Delta is one part of a broad network of places connecting cultures and birds, throughout the Pacific Flyway.

► [With the Tides – Wrangell, AK](#)

“If you live in Wrangell, the [Stikine] River is knit into your soul – it’s part of who you are.” From the biofilm that birds like Western Sandpipers (*Calidris mauri*) eat to flowing rivers full of fish and the people who care about both – everything is interconnected. The Stikine River supports 22 species of shorebirds and more than 350,000 birds each migratory season. It’s also an integral part of the history, culture, and livelihood of local communities in Wrangell, Alaska.

► [Off the Land – Yakutat, AK](#)

For the final part of the series on Alaska’s coastal wetlands, we travel to Yakutat. Home to Alaska’s largest colony of Aleutian Terns (*Onychoprion aleuticus*), Yakutat is a vitally important place not only for terns, but for fish and other wildlife like Moose (*Alces alces*), and for the people who live there.



Curious where the Wandering Tattlers are wandering to? Click the image to learn more about this species

Wandering Tattler (*Tringa incana*)

Photo: Alan Schmierer, Creative Commons



This Dusky Canada Goose nest was found during monitoring by USDA Forest Service employees.

Photo: Creative Commons, USDA Forest Service, Nick Docken



Pedro Bay, AK.

Image courtesy: The Conservation Fund | © Bri Dwyer

Project Spotlight: Pedro Bay Rivers Project, The Conservation Fund, Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, and Pedro Bay Corporation

The completion of the [Pedro Bay River project in Bristol Bay, Alaska](#) protected over 44,000 acres on Iliamna Lake through three conservation easements. This protects important spawning habitats for millions of Sockeye Salmon (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) across three watersheds, essential habitats for other wildlife like bears and birds, and supports the needs of Alaska Native communities by maintaining cultural and subsistence resources.



Edith Point, North Mayne Island. Photo: Mayne Island Conservancy

British Columbia

Shoal Creek Estuary acquisition, Phase 2

Building on a previous acquisition, The Nature Trust of B.C. acquired another 160-acre parcel of land in the Shoal Creek Estuary, leading to a total of 320 acres protected. In addition to helping protect a critical stopover site for migratory birds, this acquisition will protect multiple species of conservation concern, including the Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*), Marbled Murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*), and Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*).

Edith Point

This year, the [Nature Conservancy of Canada](#) was thrilled to be entrusted with the care of an 86-acre property on Mayne Island, called Edith Point. Conservation of this habitat benefits overwintering waterfowl, seabirds, and other migratory waterbirds as they rest and refuel on the waterfront.

Bird monitoring of Joint Venture conservation sites

Pacific Birds' collaboration with the [Canada Intermountain Joint Venture \(CIJV\)](#) continued this year across southern B.C., as we worked to assess the efficacy and impact of habitat conservation work. We assessed how waterfowl and non-waterfowl have responded to our efforts and quantified the diversity and number of bird species at restored Joint Venture sites. Initial results indicate Joint Venture sites support a higher abundance and diversity of priority species than non-Joint Venture sites, such as the Ring-necked Duck (*Aythya collaris*), Long-billed Curlew (*Numenius americanus*), and more.

Long-billed Curlew
(*Numenius americanus*).
Photo: USFWS, Creative Commons

Project Spotlight: Saturna Island, The Nature Trust of British Columbia (B.C.)

Saturna Island is a lush, biodiverse island off the east coast of Vancouver Island. The [Nature Trust of B.C.](#) acquired a property on [Saturna Island in Spring 2023](#) that will help protect threatened Garry Oaks (*Quercus garryana*), in addition to wetland, grassland, and forest habitats that are essential for millions of birds that migrate along the Pacific Flyway.



Mt. Fisher Bluffs, Saturna Island



CONSERVATION PRIORITY

Hawai'i Wetlands

The top priorities in Hawai'i this year have been the development of a Strategic Plan for Hawai'i Wetlands and preparation for a statewide Wetland and Predator Workshop. We also worked to strengthen existing partnerships and convened partners to apply for National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Inflation Reduction Act, and NAWCA funding opportunities. Pacific Birds staff continued to support work on the 'Keep Cats Indoors' campaign and support outreach to the community. Some of our most successful projects this year include:

Moloka'i Wetland Partnership (MWP)

This year MWP completed a [Pacific Islands Climate Adaptation Science Center \(PI-CASC\)](#) wetland prioritization process. The initiative incorporated both traditional ecological knowledge and Western science to support the needs and preferences of the Moloka'i community and improve habitat for endangered birds and invertebrates. The results were published in [Drexler et al, 2023](#), and the findings were disseminated through two webinars and several meetings. The methodology developed with PI-CASC is being scaled up in the statewide Pacific Bird Hawai'i Wetlands Strategic Plan.

The PI-CASC outreach brought two new members to the partnership, [Sust'āinable Molokai \(SM\)](#) and the [Soil and Water Conservation District](#), and together the partnership finalized the "[Vision, Goals and Objectives](#)" document. Pacific Birds continues to support the Moloka'i Land Trust through the acquisition process for Punalau Pond.

He 'eia NERR.

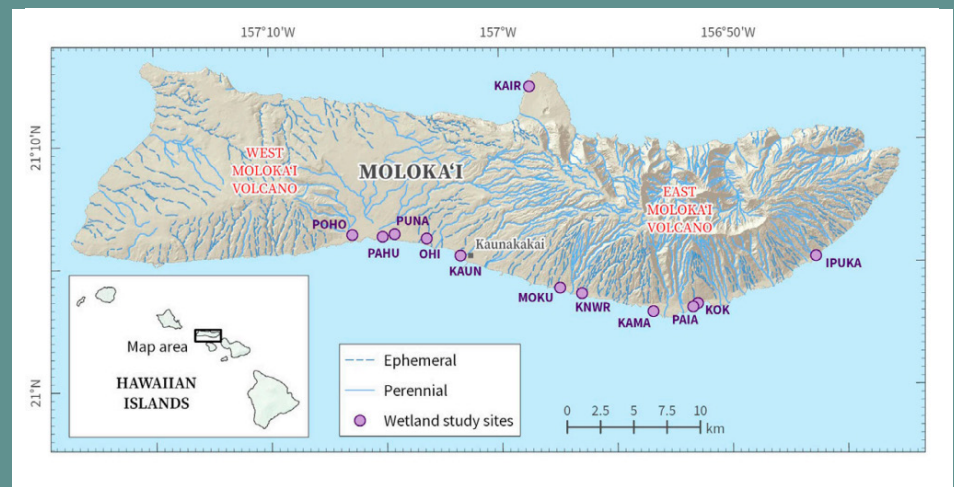
Photo: Helen Raine



'Alae 'ula – the Bird that Brought Fire

'Alae 'ula and gosling.

Photo: Alan Schmierer, Creative Commons



Wetland study sites included in Drexler et al. 2023 on Moloka'i

Hanalei Watershed

The [Hanalei Watershed Hui](#) and the [Sustainable Resources Group Intn'l](#) completed the [Hanalei Watershed Flood Study](#) this year. The study recommended prioritizing the removal of Hau bush and proposed the creation of additional waterbird habitat through shallow detention basins along the river. Pacific Birds supported outreach efforts, which included two public meetings and a poster on the benefits of the project to birds.

Mānā Plains Partnership

Wetland restoration is ongoing at Mānā Plains, funded by a grant from the Department of Defense [Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration \(REPI\)](#). The project will create 400 acres of open, floodable space and a buffer to reduce climate impacts on the Pacific Missile Range Facility. The project will provide additional waterbird habitat and restore part of what was once an extensive coastal plain.

Kaho'olawe Island

With support from Pacific Birds staff, the [Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission](#) continued grant writing work, receiving two federal grants totaling \$435k for restoration work on the island. The projects will create and improve waterbird habitat in line with Native Hawaiian values.

Recovery of the 'Alae 'ula

As a part of recovery efforts for the 'Alae 'ula, Pacific Birds staff and partners developed the [Prioritization of Conservation Actions for 'Alae 'ula](#). In addition, Pacific Birds worked alongside the [Division of Forestry and Wildlife \(DOFAW\)](#) to obtain and contract a feasibility study for the reintroduction of 'Alae 'ula to a third island.



Nēnē and Goslings.
Photo: Bill Hebner



Predator Control and Wetland Workshop

[The Predator Control and Wetland Workshop](#) was postponed due to the August wildfires and subsequent tragedies on Maui. This decision was not made lightly, but the Workshop Hui wanted to show respect for and sensitivity to the needs of the community. We are pleased to announce that the workshop has now been rescheduled for April 16th to 18th, 2024 in Kahului, Maui.

Planning for the Future:

New Conservation Priority Plans: Coming Soon

Previous conservation priority plans spanned from 2013 - 2023, helping guide the Joint Venture's work and move habitat conservation forward. As those plans come to an end, Pacific Birds is working with partners to prepare for the next 10 years. Learn about each plan below, and find the full plans once released on our website.



Young oak tree. Photo: Sara Evans-Peters

Prairie Oaks and People 2.0

Pacific Birds staff and partners are creating an updated business plan to recover imperiled oak and prairie ecosystems through directed funding, partner coordination, and collective action. The first edition of the [Business Plan \(2017\)](#) identified species conservation actions to save oak and prairie ecosystems. The second edition builds upon successes and defines how to use available and new resources to enact identified strategies on the landscape. Ultimately, the goal is to rebuild healthy and resilient prairie and oak ecosystems across the Pacific Northwest, by restoring 60,000 acres of habitat, downlisting 10 imperiled species, and building community over the next 10 years.

Coastal Wetlands Strategic Plan

This plan defines shared conservation strategies and actions, developed in collaboration with partners across the service area, to catalyze positive change for Pacific Coastal wetlands over the next ten years (2024-2034). The plan identifies focal habitats and key conservation strategies to address major threats to those habitats. In addition, the plan establishes bird population and habitat objectives for coastal wetlands within the Pacific Birds region.



Coastal delta, Kodiak Island. Photo: Steve Hillebrand USFWS



Wildlife Habitat and Sustainable Food. Art: T. Wolf

A Strategic Plan for Hawai'i Wetlands

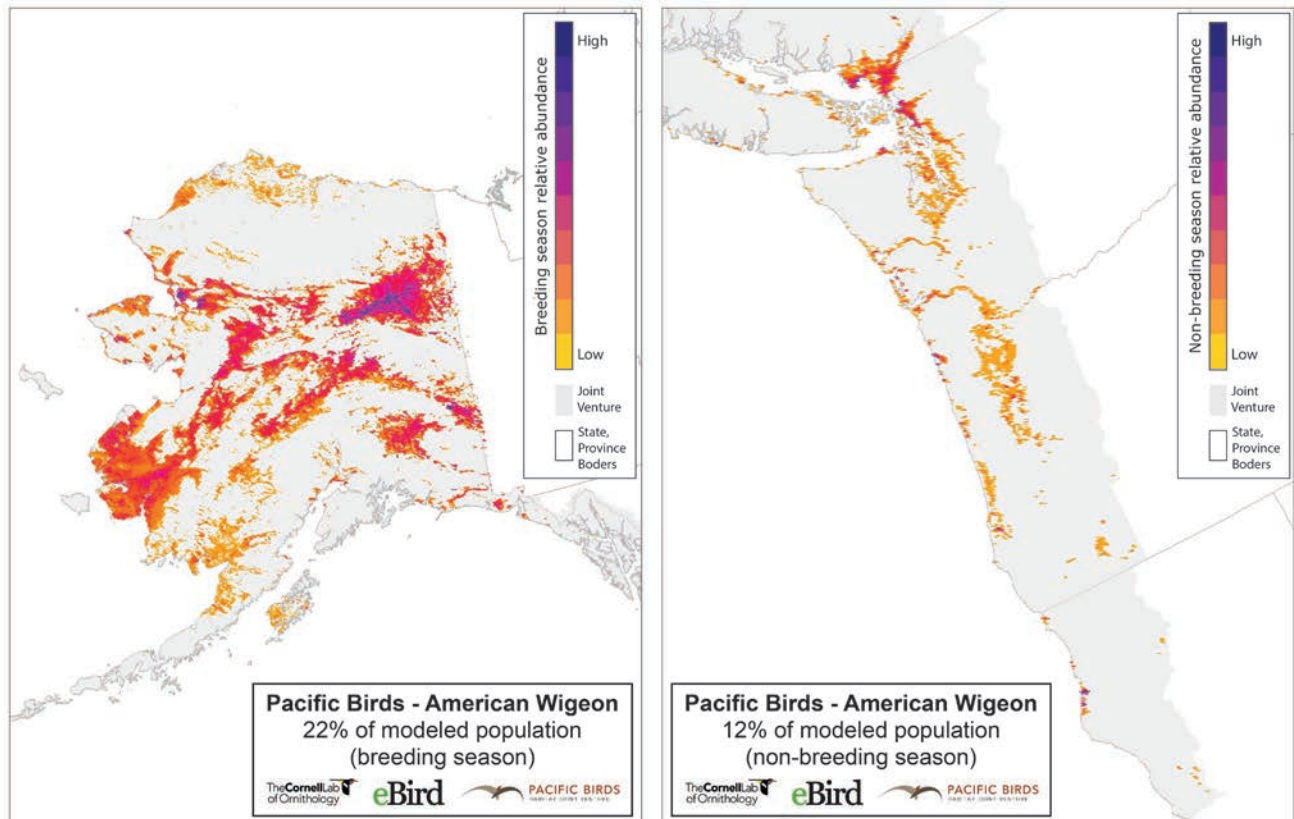
This plan will provide an update to the [Joint Venture's 2006 plan](#) using a new prioritization process that identifies key sites and actions to advance wetland and waterbird conservation. Each site featured in the plan includes a detailed site narrative, informed by an extensive data-gathering process, and multiple review sessions with support from our conservation partner [Hawaiian Islands Conservation Collective \(HICO\)](#). The plan will help Pacific Birds, funders and decision-makers direct resources and investments. A key objective is to incorporate Indigenous priorities for wetland restoration, including Indigenous agroecology into existing and future implementation work. The Plan is intended as a living document that will be updated as needed.



American Wigeon
Photo: © Andrew A. Reding

Bird Science: Joint Venture x eBird Collaboration

Pacific Birds and six other Joint Ventures (JVs), ranging from Canada to Mexico, have been working with researchers from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to develop eBird data summaries to meet the information needs of each JV. Data and maps based on [eBird Status and Trends](#) products were summarized for focal areas specific to each JV and will inform conservation planning and objective setting. Data products include seasonal relative abundance maps and estimates of the proportion of global populations, for each bird species occurring within JV boundaries. This opens the door for new insights into the places and habitats that are most important for species, across their ranges and throughout their annual life cycles. These JV-level data products will also be updated annually, allowing for long-term population monitoring and adaptive planning among conservation partners.



American Wigeon (*Mareca americana*) eBird relative abundance and proportion of global population within Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture boundaries, during breeding season versus non-breeding season.



Aerial view of Port Susan Bay
Photo: WDFW 2018

NCWCG

The [National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program \(NCWCG\)](#) made a substantial investment in the Pacific Birds region in both 2022 and 2023, with a dozen awards in four states this year. Collectively, the awards will conserve 1,479 acres but all in different ways—from an acquisition in an urban coastal wetland to floodplain restoration and more.

Example projects funded in 2023 include:

- ▶ **Prairie Creek Floodplain Restoration Project:** The [California State Coastal Conservancy](#) will work with partners to restore 19.32 acres of floodplain and riparian habitats for wintering, resident and migratory birds, and other fish and wildlife species. The Prairie Creek Project is within the globally significant [Humboldt Lagoons Important Bird Area](#) (IBA) and is especially important to non-marine waterfowl in the winter and to Marbled Murrelets that nest in the redwood forest. Located within the [Yurok Tribe](#)'s ancestral territory, the project is being implemented in collaboration with the Tribe.
- ▶ The State of Washington received seven coastal awards that will conserve 1,120 acres in a variety of wetland types—one to the [Washington Department of Natural Resources](#), and six to the [Department of Ecology](#). One of these includes a project between the Department of Ecology and The Nature Conservancy in Snohomish County to restore 150 acres of estuarine tidal marsh within the Conservancy's [Port Susan Bay Preserve](#).

Example projects funded in 2022 include:

- ▶ In 2022 in Hawai'i, Pacific Birds supported Moloka'i Land Trust (MLT) and [Malama Hulē'ia](#) (MH) in successful grant applications. The MLT grant supports the acquisition of a 45-acre property with huge wetland restoration potential. The MH grant supports 23 acres of invasive mangrove removal and other habitat enhancement work. This complemented a local community initiative led by Malama Hulē'ia where 1,500 community members came together to [rebuild the traditional wall of a loko i'a \(fishpond\) in one day](#).



Partners at a lo'i punawai on Moloka'i
Photo: Helen Raine



Marbled Murrelets
Photo: Kim Stark

The Numbers by the Place

Take a look at some of the high-level impacts of Pacific Birds' staff and partner work in the Pacific Flyway. These numbers reflect the investments of Partnership Grants since 2020, and collaborative impacts in 2022-2023.

Washington

Through Pacific Birds Partnership Grants since 2020, we have:

- ▶ Distributed \$87,000 in funds
- ▶ Leveraged \$83,691 in partner funds
- ▶ Protected or restored 401 acres
- ▶ Involved 86 partner organizations
- ▶ Produced nine grant proposals

As a result of staff support to partners in 2022-2023, we helped:

- ▶ Generate \$9,547,838 for partners
- ▶ Leverage \$3,827,188 in partner funds

Oregon

Through Pacific Birds Partnership Grants since 2020, we have:

- ▶ Distributed \$142,465 in funds
- ▶ Leveraged \$205,719 in partner funds
- ▶ Restored or enhanced 361 acres
- ▶ Created and sustained 10 positions
- ▶ Involved 129 partner organizations
- ▶ Produced 28 grant proposals

As a result of staff support to partners in 2022-2023, we helped:

- ▶ Generate \$17,864,564 for partners
- ▶ Leverage \$21,818,429 in partner funds

California

Through Pacific Birds Partnership Grants since 2020, we have:

- ▶ Distributed \$24,000 in funds
- ▶ Leveraged \$24,000 in partner funds
- ▶ Protected, restored, or enhanced 412 acres
- ▶ Involved 23 partner organizations
- ▶ Produced one grant proposal
- ▶ Developed one conservation plan

Alaska

Through Pacific Birds Partnership Grants since 2020, we have:

- ▶ Distributed \$37,075 in funds
- ▶ Leveraged \$486,789 in partner funds
- ▶ Protected 309 acres
- ▶ Involved 11 partner organizations

As a result of staff support to partners in 2022-2023, we helped:

- ▶ Generate \$34,048 for partners
- ▶ Leverage \$21,810 in partner funds

B.C.

In the last year:

- ▶ Invested 19.9 million in land securement, habitat restoration, conservation planning, partnership building & more.
- ▶ Secured 436 acres
- ▶ Enhanced 4035 acres
- ▶ Impacted 22,044 acres

Hawaii

Through Pacific Birds Partnership Grants since 2020, we have:

- ▶ Distributed \$144,526 in funds
- ▶ Leveraged \$1,088,548 in partner funds
- ▶ Restored or enhanced 383 acres
- ▶ Involved 72 partner organizations
- ▶ Produced 14 grant proposals



A workshop supported by a Partnership Grant was held in conjunction with the 2023 Land Trust Rally, to engage Alaska Land Trusts in discussions of increased state-wide collaboration. The workshop included panelists from the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts, the Washington Alliance of Land Trusts, and the Land Trust Alliance, with support and facilitation from Pacific Birds staff. *Photo: Laura Farwell*

Partnership Grants

Our partnership grants are unique in that they don't only fund "shovel-ready" projects, but also the planning, community building, and strategizing needed to ensure those on-the-ground projects can succeed. Overall, we have supported 32 different projects from 29 organizations across five states over the past three years. In total, this has resulted in the distribution of \$517,066 in funds to support and catalyze conservation and \$2,232,631 in partner funds leveraged alongside.

The 2023 Partnership Grantees represent an incredible group of organizations working to move bird conservation forward in a variety of ways. This year, we are excited to strengthen existing projects and explore new collaborations, including continued support for a landback project with the Wiyot Tribe, and a new podcast project with BirdNote. Full project summaries can be found on our [Partnership Grants page](#).

- ▶ Working Together to Increase Alaskan Land Trust Impact, [Southeast Alaska Land Trust](#) and [Kachemak Heritage Land Trust](#)
- ▶ Wigi Forever—A Conservation Land Back Partnership with the Wiyot Tribe, [Friends of the Dunes](#)
- ▶ 2023 Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership Peer-to-Peer Learning Summit, [Lomakatsi Restoration Project](#)
- ▶ Exploring Opportunities for Working Land Protection in Douglas County, [Oregon Agricultural Trust](#)
- ▶ Creating Connected Wetland Habitat on the Shores of Pearl Harbor, [Hui o Ho'ohonua](#)
- ▶ Waterbird Habitat Improvements at Makauwahi Cave Reserve, [Makauwahi Cave Reserve](#)
- ▶ Inspiring Action for Bird Conservation in Coastal Wetlands, Oak and Prairie Habitats, and Hawai'i Wetlands, [BirdNote](#)

\$517K
awarded

\$2M+
partner
match funds
leveraged



Aerial view of Makauwahi Cave Reserve, the site of one of our 2023 Partnership Grants.

Photo: Andre Raine

