

Atlantic Coast Joint Venture in Rhode Island

Cooperative conservation for migratory birds in the Atlantic Flyway



Rhode Island is home to many species that depend on healthy shores and waters. Photos from top left clockwise: American Oystercatcher and Prothonotary Warbler, William Majoros; Black Duck, Tom Grey; Coastal Beach, USFWS

Celebrating 25 Years of Migratory Bird Conservation

The Atlantic Coast Joint Venture (ACJV) is a cooperative, regional partnership that works to conserve habitats for the benefit of birds, other wildlife, and people in the Atlantic Flyway. The ACJV is dedicated to this collaborative partnership to ensure the protection of habitats that birds rely on for survival and people rely on for economically-vital activities like tourism, fisheries, and flood-control, as well as quality of life issues important to local communities, such as outdoor recreation opportunities.

Over the last 25 years, the ACJV has become widely accepted as a model for cooperative conservation. Using state-of-the-art science to ensure that a diversity of habitats is available to sustain migratory bird populations, ACJV actions include:

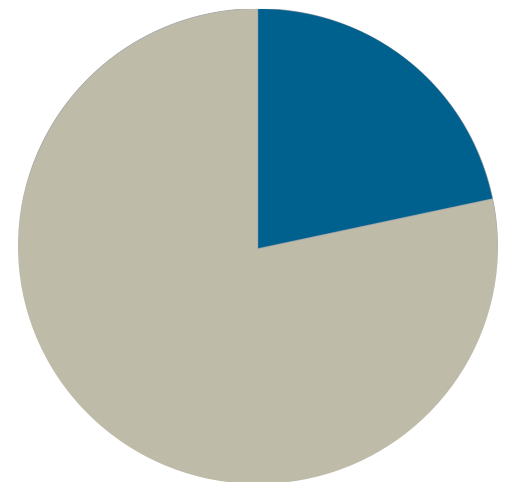
- ◆ biological planning, conservation design, and prioritization;
- ◆ project development and implementation;
- ◆ monitoring, evaluation, and research; and
- ◆ communications, education, and outreach.

ACJV staff have worked directly with close to 1,000 non-governmental organizations; local, state, and federal agencies; private landowners; tribes; businesses; universities; and other partners.

Over the course of our 25 year history, the ACJV has leveraged every dollar of Congressional funds 35:1, helping to conserve nearly 8.5 million acres of critical habitat.

North American Wetlands Conservation Act

Since the passage of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) in 1989, the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission has approved 22 grants under the act totaling nearly \$13.2 million for projects in Rhode Island. Agencies, organizations and private landowners have contributed nearly \$47.5 million towards these projects which will ultimately protect over 10,274 acres of wetlands and other significant migratory bird habitats.



■ NAWCA Grants
■ Matching Funds

Between 1989-2012, Rhode Island has received \$13.2 million in NAWCA funds. Those grant funds have leveraged \$47.5 million in matching funds.

A Local Tale

Oil Spill Leads to NAWCA Projects

After a massive oil spill in Block Island Sound in 1996, the parties responsible were ordered to pay both criminal (\$8.5 million) and civil (\$8 million) penalties to settle the charges against them and the damage they inflicted on the environment. Three million dollars of the criminal fines were directed to the NAWCA program, which funded four different projects on Block Island, South County, and the East Bay area. Trustees in the civil settlement, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management also provided \$3 million of the civil settlement funds to protect breeding habitat for Common Loons, including matching funds for two more NAWCA projects in Maine.

A second oil spill in April, 2003 by a Bouchard Transportation Company barge, spilled 98,000 gallons of fuel oil along dozens of miles of shoreline in Buzzards Bay. Seven million dollars of the criminal fines were directed to the NAWCA program, which funded the Buzzards Bay Watershed: Tiverton Great Swamp project in Eastern Rhode Island.

Conservation Solutions for Rhode Island

The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy: A Call to Action

Recent data suggest that several Atlantic Flyway shorebird species have experienced declines of between 50% and 90% within the last three decades, an alarming trend that requires the continuation of current conservation actions and an immediate response for additional work. One of the best-known examples is the eastern population of Red Knot. Semipalmated Sandpiper that once numbered over two million on their wintering grounds have dropped by 80%.

In response to these sharp declines, partners came together to develop The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy (AFSCBS). Two years of planning, one year of intense work, countless conference calls and meetings, and a huge commitment of individuals dedicated to the mission of shorebird conservation has led to the completion of Phase 1 of the AFSCBS.

The AFSCBS is an unprecedented endeavor to implement conservation for shorebirds across an enormous geographic scale that involves numerous federal, state, provincial, and local governments, conservation groups, universities, and individuals. The business strategy approach emphasizes the involvement of scientists, advocates, funders, and other practitioners all working together for prioritized on-the-ground actions that move toward specific, measurable outcomes. In short, this strategy presents the needs, actions, and individuals that will recover this remarkable suite of species.

The goal of this conservation strategy is to create a long-term platform for stability and recovery of focal species identified. The cumulative impact of the projects developed here in, will increase current shorebird population levels by 10-15%, by 2020, at a cost of approximately \$20 million per year. To view the strategy visit: http://www.manomet.org/sites/manomet.org/files/shorebird_bus_strat_phase_1.pdf.

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Atlantic Coast Joint Venture Partners

Connecticut, Delaware, Florida,
Georgia, Maine, Maryland,
Massachusetts, New Hampshire,
New Jersey, New York, North Carolina,
Pennsylvania, Rhode Island,
South Carolina, Vermont, Virginia,
Puerto Rico,
American Bird Conservancy
Audubon
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