



# Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative

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## FUNDING PARTNER



**Southern  
Company**

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 5,000 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of \$6.1 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

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American oystercatchers

## OVERVIEW

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Southern Company announce a third-year round of funding for the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative. Seven new or continuing shorebird conservation grants totaling \$623,783 were awarded. These seven awards generated \$637,818 in match from grantees, for a total conservation impact of \$1.26 million. Overall this slate of projects will improve habitat management on more than 200,000 acres, implement disturbance reduction BMP's at more than 50 sites, conduct outreach to more than 150,000 people and will complete 17 new studies designed to improve management.

The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative aims to safeguard shorebird migration by improving habitat functionality and the condition of critical sites allowing for completion of a species annual full life cycle. The Atlantic Flyway Shorebird business plan outlines strategies to address key stressors on three focal species – the American oystercatcher, red knot and whimbrel. Each species is representative of a migratory strategy and requires specific approaches to address habitat loss, predation and human disturbance.

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### Assessing and Protecting a Critical Whimbrel Nocturnal Roost Site at Deveaux Bank (SC)

Grantee: University of South Carolina

Grant Amount: ..... \$84,418

Matching Funds: ..... \$84,421

Total: ..... \$168,839

Improve understanding of Deveaux Bank, South Carolina - the largest known whimbrel nocturnal roost site during northward migration. Project will utilize emerging technologies to gather information on whimbrel migratory and foraging behavior that will help inform future management decisions and conservation efforts.

### Population Estimate and Threat Assessment of Red Knot along the Georgia Coast (GA)

Grantee: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Grant Amount: ..... \$75,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$79,274

Total: ..... \$154,274

Assess the red knot population along the coast of Georgia to provide a population estimate and create a comprehensive conservation plan for the Georgia Bight. Project will provide critical data on red knot to help guide habitat management and a unified conservation plan to help assess life-cycle threats for red knots and other high priority shorebird species.

### Project Name: Restoration and Management of Shorebird Habitats along the Atlantic Coast (NY, NC, SC)

Grantee: National Audubon Society, Inc.

Grant Amount: ..... \$179,999

Matching Funds: ..... \$185,000

Total: ..... \$364,999

Manage and protect shorebird habitats to reduce threats, and develop plans and permits needed to restore habitat at key sites that support 25% of North Carolina's nesting American oystercatchers. Project will protect and manage shorebird habitat at 40 sites across three states and will secure permitting to restore shorebird habitat at two sites, which will increase habitat quality and flyway connectivity.

### Assessing and Mitigating American Oystercatcher Predation Impacts (VA)

Grantee: The Nature Conservancy

Grant Amount: ..... \$29,992

Matching Funds: ..... \$30,020

Total: ..... \$60,012

Identify causes of chick loss to inform existing predator management activities at critical nesting sites for American oystercatcher on the Atlantic Coast of Virginia. Project will increase oystercatcher reproductive success and help avoid population reversal in the most important American oystercatcher breeding area in the flyway.

### Coordinating American Oystercatcher Recovery and Reducing Disturbance on the Atlantic Coast

Grantee: Manomet, Inc.



Whimbrel

Grant Amount: ..... \$79,999

Matching Funds: ..... \$80,019

Total: ..... \$160,018

Provide coordination of the American Oystercatcher recovery initiative and actionable change based on lessons learned from 2009-2019 and reduce the impact of predators and human disturbance on populations of breeding shorebirds along the U.S. Atlantic coast. Project will contribute substantially to the goals of the Atlantic Flyway Business Plan.

### Conserving Whimbrel across the Western Atlantic Flyway (VA, NC, SC, GA, LA, TX, CAN)

Grantee: College of William and Mary

Grant Amount: ..... \$99,374

Matching Funds: ..... \$104,084

Total: ..... \$203,458

Expand on efforts to monitor declining whimbrel populations along the western Atlantic Flyway. Project will update the whimbrel conservation plan with whimbrel working group input, develop an index of reproductive performance and engage partners to establish a monitoring network, expand roost surveys during spring migration to improve protection at key sites, continue building an online shorebird roost registry, and make managers aware of roost locations to facilitate their protection.

### Assessing Red Knot Recovery Using Data from Delaware Bay and Lagoa do Peixe, Brazil

Grantee: Conserve Wildlife Foundation of New Jersey, Inc.

Grant Amount: ..... \$75,000

Matching Funds: ..... \$75,000

Total: ..... \$150,000

Continue health and status assessments of Delaware Bay populations of red knot and expand health and survival assessments to a key stopover site in Brazil. Project will continue a long-term red knot conservation program, informing habitat management and horseshoe crab harvest, and also help improve arrival condition of Delaware Bay red knots by reducing stressors at an earlier stopover site.