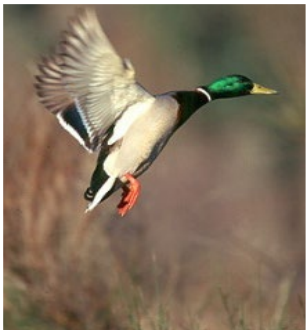




# Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

## Fall 2019 Management Board Meeting



Cypress Bend, LA  
Thursday, 17 October 2019



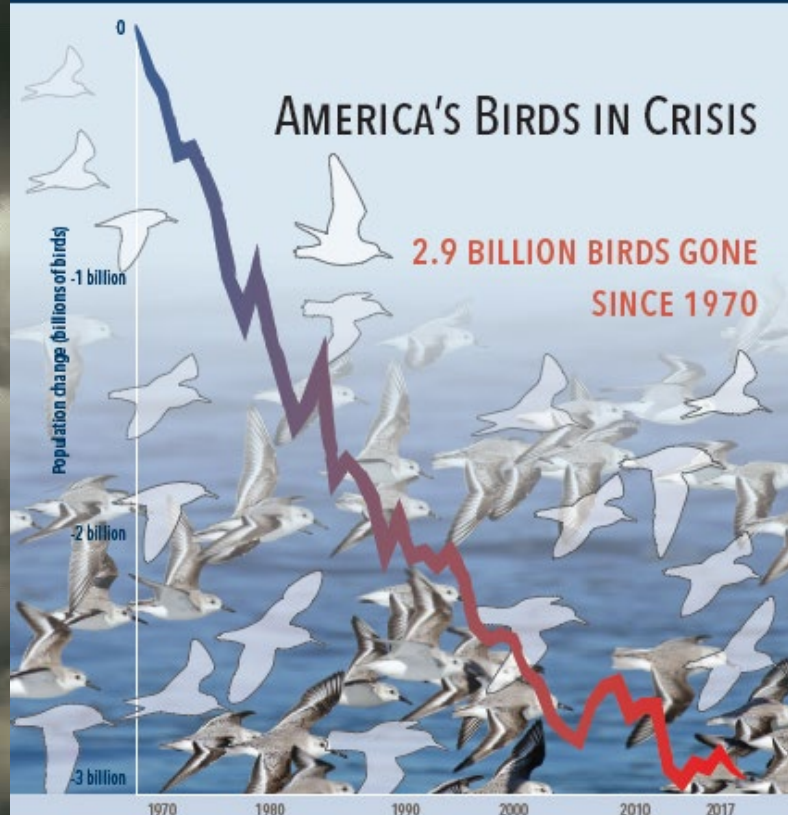
Lower Mississippi Valley  
JOINT VENTURE  
[www.lmfv.org](http://www.lmfv.org)

# The Sky is Not Falling

## But Many Bird Populations Have Been!



### THE STATE OF THE BIRDS 2019

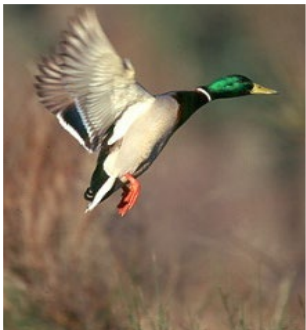


**Nearly 30% of our birds have disappeared in the last 50 years:** New research published in the journal *Science* shows massive losses among U.S. bird populations—with steep declines in every habitat.



**Lower Mississippi Valley**  
JOINT VENTURE  
[www.lmfv.org](http://www.lmfv.org)

# The Sky is Not Falling



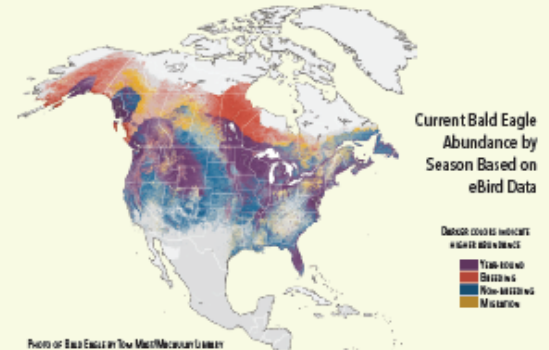
## THE STATE OF THE BIRDS 2019

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



## BUT CONSERVATION WORKS!

RECOVERY IS  
POSSIBLE  
WHEN WE  
INVEST IN BIRDS

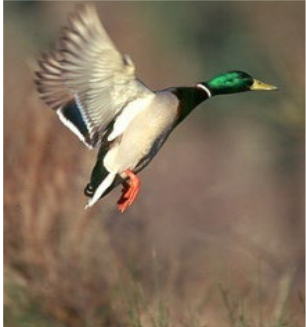


**Our national bird, an icon of wildlife recovery:** In 1970 only a few hundred Bald Eagle pairs remained in the lower 48 states. Federal and state protections sparked a remarkable recovery. The Bald Eagle was delisted as an Endangered Species in 2007, and today 30,000+ eagle pairs live in the U.S.A.

**Nearly 30% of our birds have disappeared in the last 50 years:** New research published in the journal *Science* shows massive losses among U.S. bird populations—with steep declines in every habitat.



# Partnerships Work



# Meeting Agenda

Thursday, 17 October

## Organization, Administration, Staff

8:00am Welcome & Introductions  
Spring Meeting Action Item Progress  
Operational Plan, Year 1 Progress  
JV Office Staff Priorities  
Communications Hi-lights  
JV Office Budget

Larger Partnership >

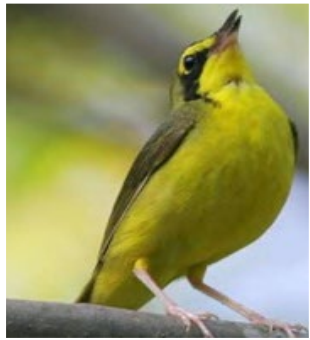
## Science

9:10am Life History of JV Science & Planning  
Monitoring Priorities Status  
WMU Tool Demo & Data Call Heads-up

10:00am **BREAK**  
SE Refuges Waterfowl Objectives  
NETX Songmeter Report (Dr. Dan Saenz)  
Science Investment Priorities & Recommendations

Noon **LUNCH**

1:00 -7:30pm Field Tour & Group Dinner

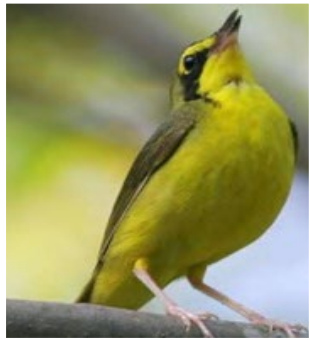


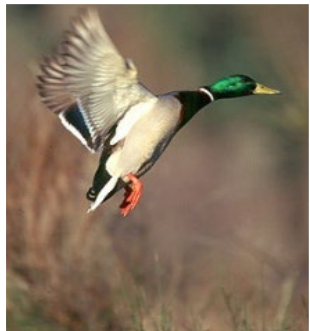
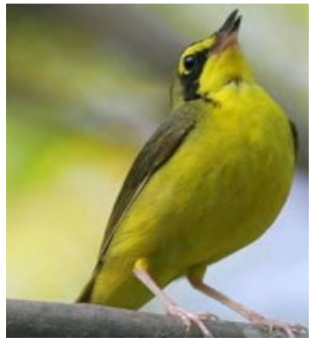
# Meeting Agenda

Friday, 18 October

## Delivery

- 8:00am **MAV**  
***Conserving Arkansas' Flooded Timber Legacy*** (Garrick Dugger)  
CDN Updates  
Tri-State Conservation Partnership  
Yazoo Backwater Flooding Update
- 10:00am **BREAK**  
**WGCPO**  
CDN Updates  
Longleaf Partnership Updates  
CFLRP Update  
LMVJV Forest Conservation on Display  
Desired Forest Conditions for Wildlife - Next Generation?  
Review Action Items
- Noon **Adjourn**

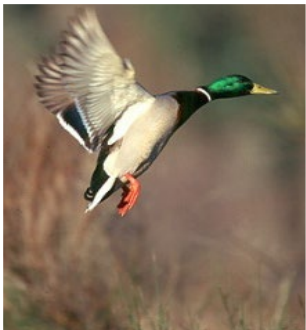




# JV Administration



# Spring 2019 Action Item Status



LMJV Management Board – May 2019

Jefferson, TX

## Decisions & Action Items

### Status in Green



#### Administration

- **Partner Contribution Agreement Extension**
  - Most of our partner contribution agreements expire in 2019
  - Continue to pursue modifications and/or new agreements for extension/continuationResponsible: Primary, K. McKnight; All Applicable Board Members – **Ongoing, most complete**
  
- **Future Board Meeting Locations**
  - 2019 Fall: Louisiana (Ribbeck)
  - 2020: Memphis, TN (S. Manley/J. Maxedon); NW Arkansas (R. Seiss/G. Dugger)Responsible: Primary, K. McKnight; All Applicable Board Members - **Ongoing**
  
- **Allocation of Funds**
  - Board reached consensus to expend funds (up to \$10,000) on expansion of Water Management Unit Tool with a Shorebird Habitat moduleResponsible: JV staff working with Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office – **In progress**
  
- **2020 Allocation of Funds**
  - Funds likely available after replacement of an LMJV Office vehicle in FY2020
  - Science Team will be tasked with providing recommendation(s) to the Board regarding monetary support for research/monitoring prioritiesResponsible: A. Mini, K. McKnight, and Science Team – **Ongoing, on Fall Agenda for Discussion**



#### Communication

- **Private Landowner Conservation Champion Recognition**
  - 2018 PLCC recipients: Paul M. Dickson (The Pinola Conservancy; LA); Ronnie Strickland (Fowl Play Lodge; AR)Responsible: Primary, K. McKnight will work with nominators for best presentation venues **Ongoing (Pinola Conservancy 10 Oct)**
  
- **Seek Contracted Communications Support in 2020**
  - Board reached consensus on spending \$10,000 on communication supportResponsible: K. McKnight – **In progress**



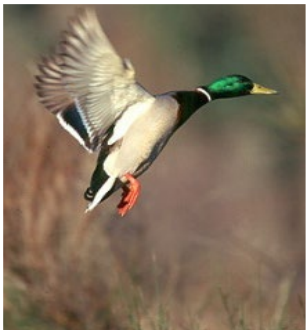
#### Science

- **MAV Forest Breeding Bird Forest Protection Decision Support Model Approved**
  - K. Ribbeck moved, E.J. Williams seconded, and Board unanimously approved DSM.





# Spring 2019 Action Item Status



LMJVJ Management Board – May 2019

Jefferson, TX

## Decisions & Action Items

Status in Green



### Administration

- Partner Contribution Agreement Extension
  - Most of our partner contribution agreements expire in 2019
  - Continue to pursue modifications and/or new agreements for extension/continuation
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- Future Board Meeting Locations
  - 2019 Fall: Louisiana (Ribbeck)
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- Allocation of Funds
  - Board reached consensus to expend funds (up to \$10,000) on expansion of Water Management Unit Tool with a Shorebird Habitat module
  - Funds available after replacement of an LMJVJ Office vehicle in FY2020
  - Science Team will be tasked with providing recommendation(s) to the Board regarding monetary support for research/monitoring priorities
  - Responsible: A. Mini, K. McKnight, and Science Team – **Ongoing, on Fall Agenda for Discussion**

# Thoughts, Discussion?

### Communication

- Private Landowner Conservation Champion Recognition
    - 2018 PLCC recipients: Paul M. Dickson (The Pinola Conservancy; LA); Ronnie Strickland (Fowl Play Lodge; AR)  - Responsible: Primary, K. McKnight will work with nominators for best presentation venues  
**Ongoing (Pinola Conservancy 10 Oct)**
- Seek Contracted Communications Support in 2020
    - Board reached consensus on spending \$10,000 on communication support
    - Responsible: K. McKnight – **In progress**

### Science

- MAV Forest Breeding Bird Forest Protection Decision Support Model Approved
  - K. Ribbeck moved, E.J. Williams seconded, and Board unanimously approved DSM.



# LMVJV Op Plan Progress

Page 9

## Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

### *Progress Assessment of 2018 Operational Plan Goals & Priorities*

*Year 1*

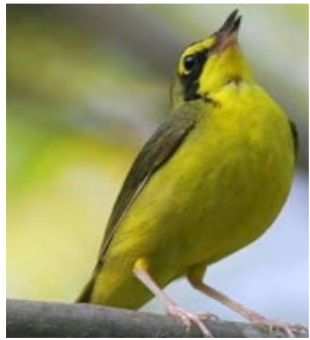


**Lower Mississippi Valley**

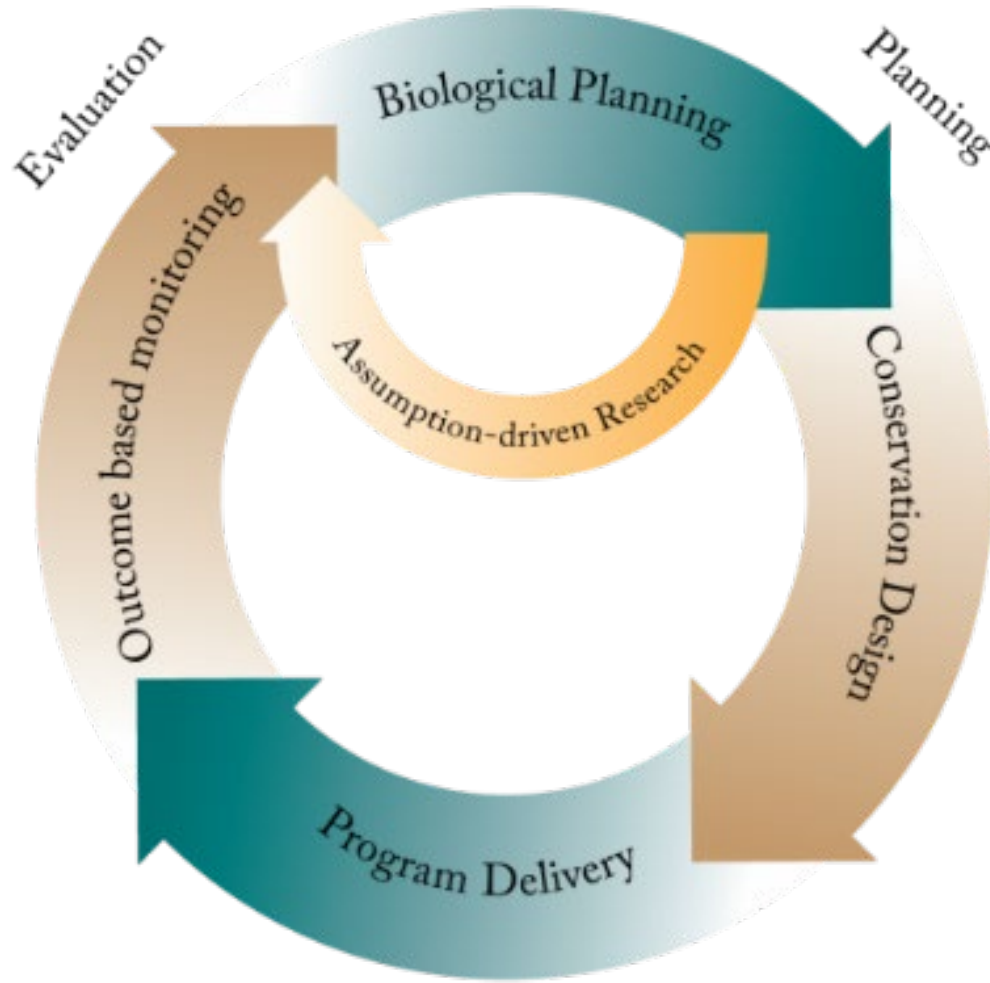
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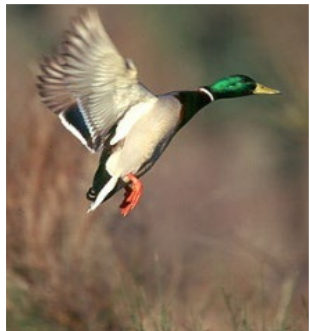
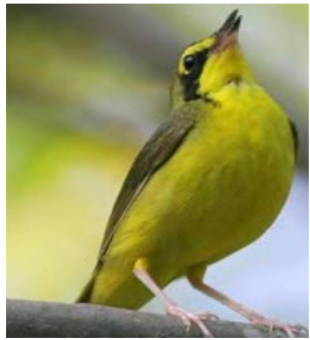
*October 2019*



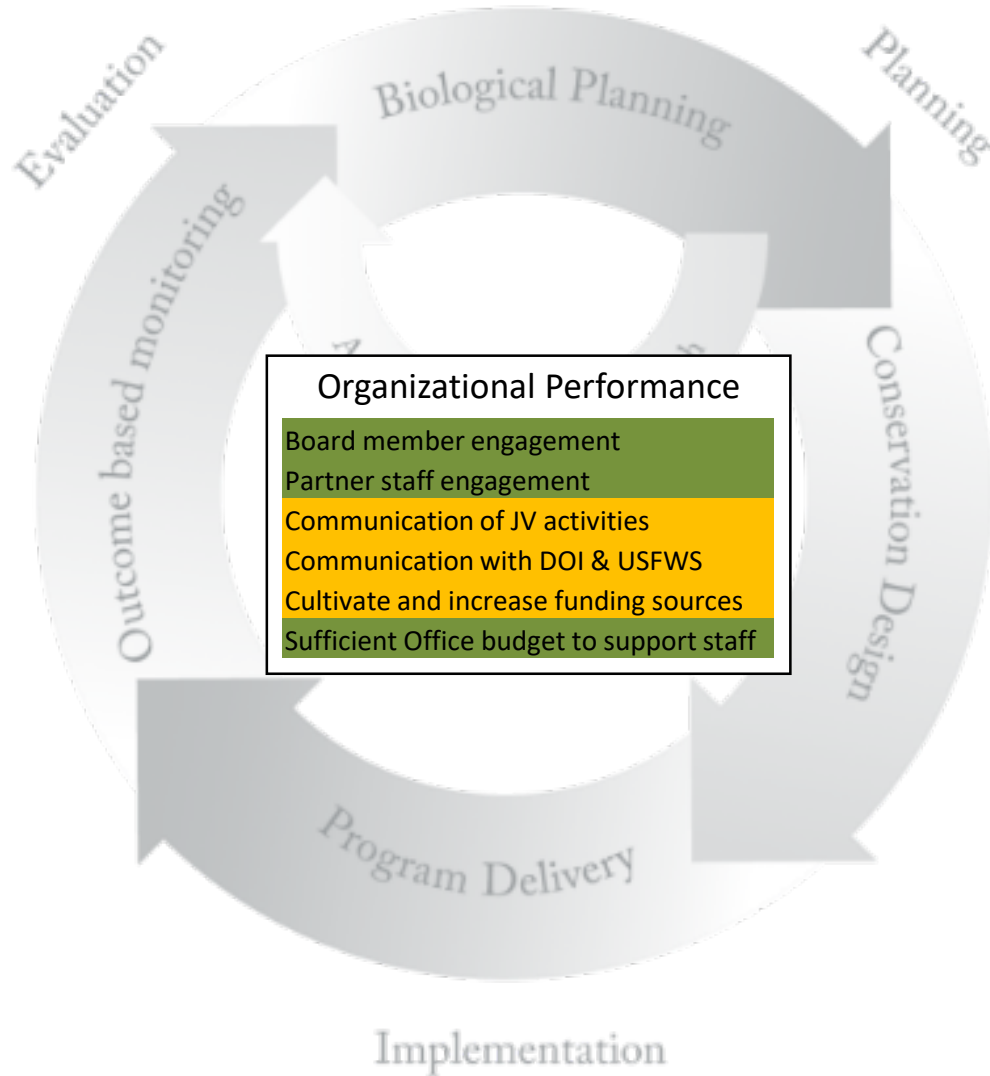
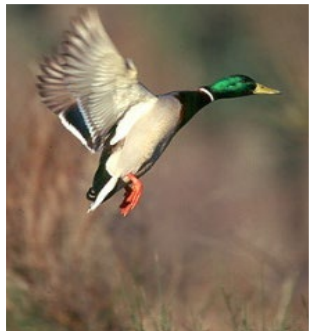
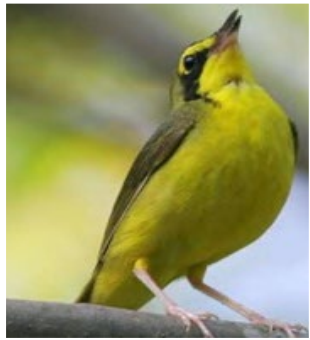
# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



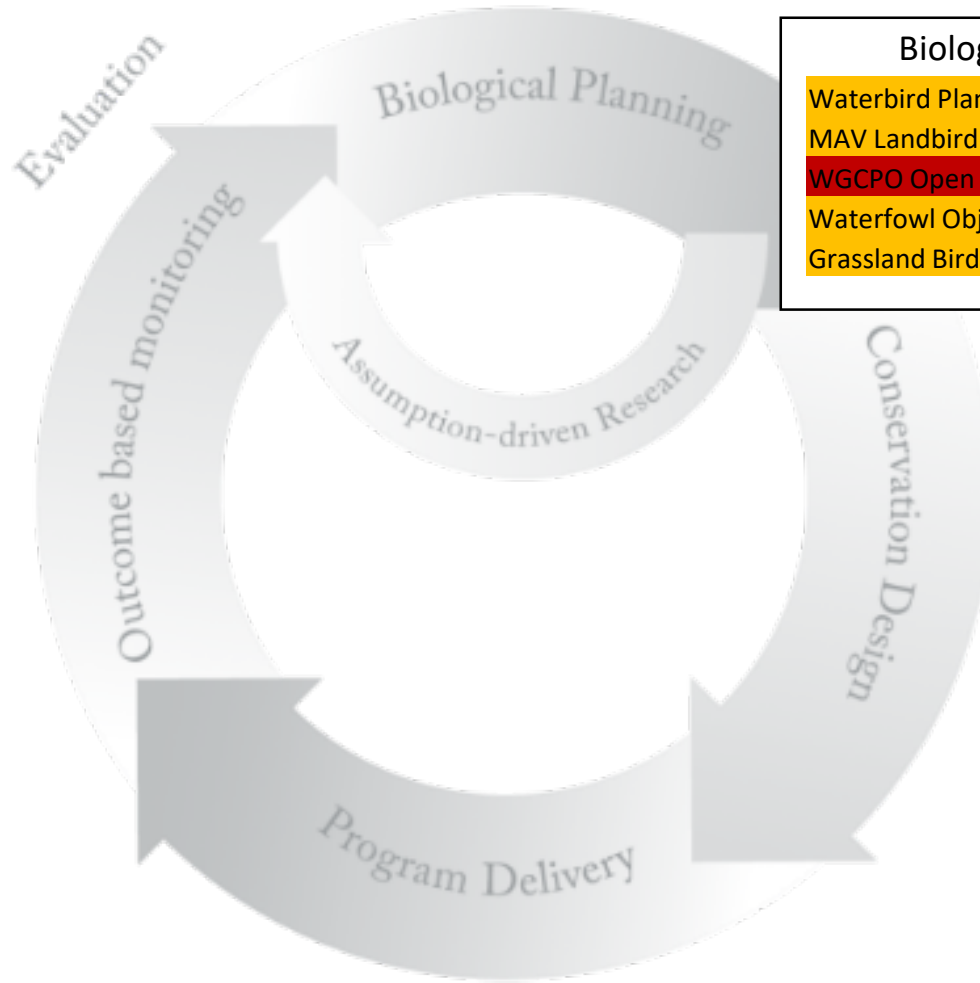
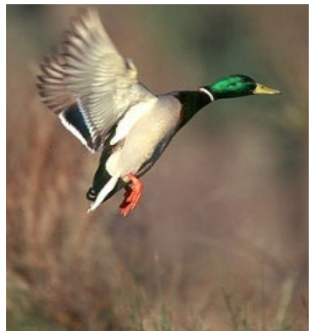
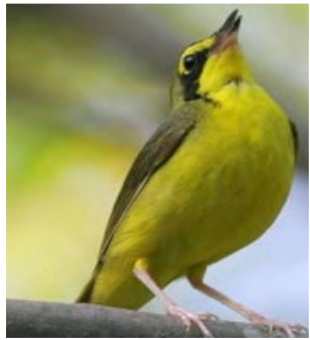
Implementation



# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



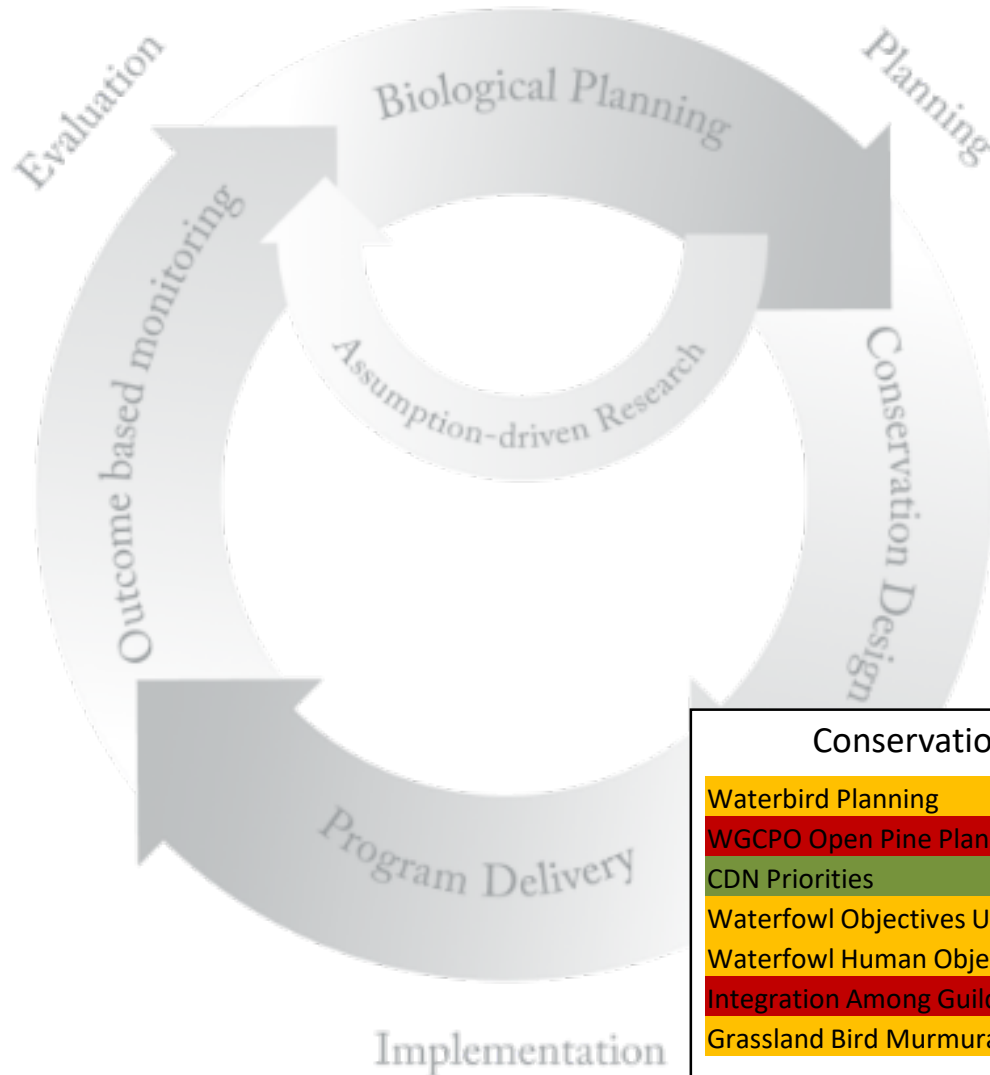
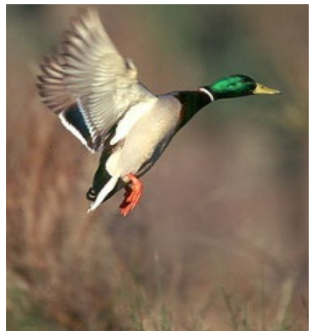
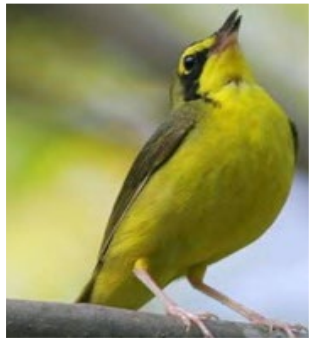
# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



## Biological Planning

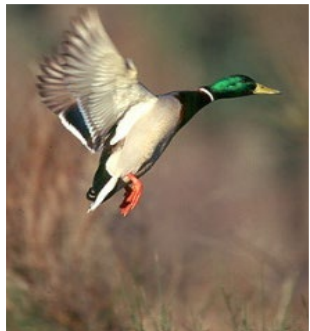
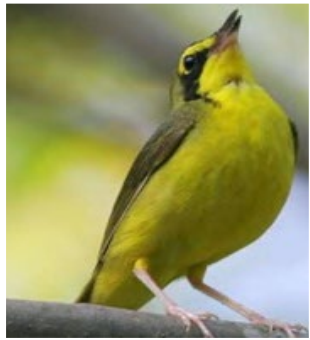
- Waterbird Planning
- MAV Landbird Plan Revision
- WGCPD Open Pine Plan Revision
- Waterfowl Objectives Updated
- Grassland Bird Murmuration

# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



Conservation Design
Waterbird Planning
WGCPD Open Pine Plan Revision
CDN Priorities
Waterfowl Objectives Updated
Waterfowl Human Objectives
Integration Among Guilds
Grassland Bird Murmuration

# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



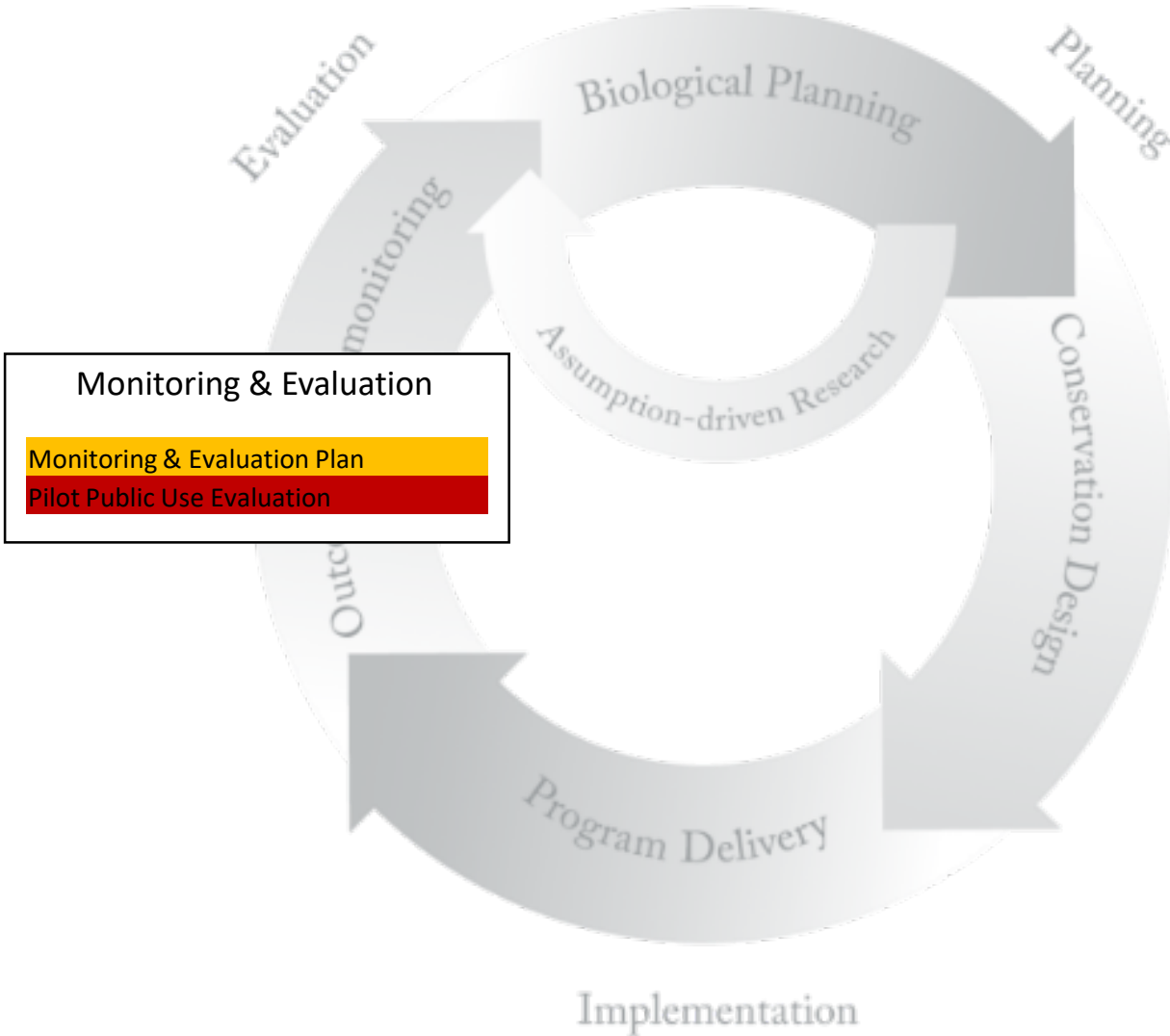
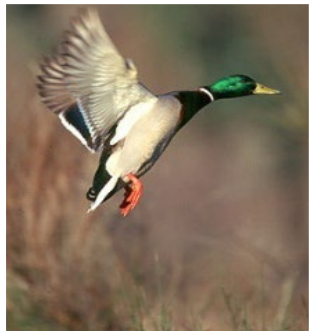
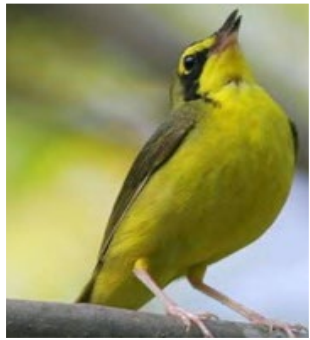
## Habitat Delivery

- Support to CDNs
- Support to Tri-state Conserv. Partnership
- Support to Longleaf Partnerships
- Develop & Foster Unique Opportunities
- Responsive to Additional CDNs



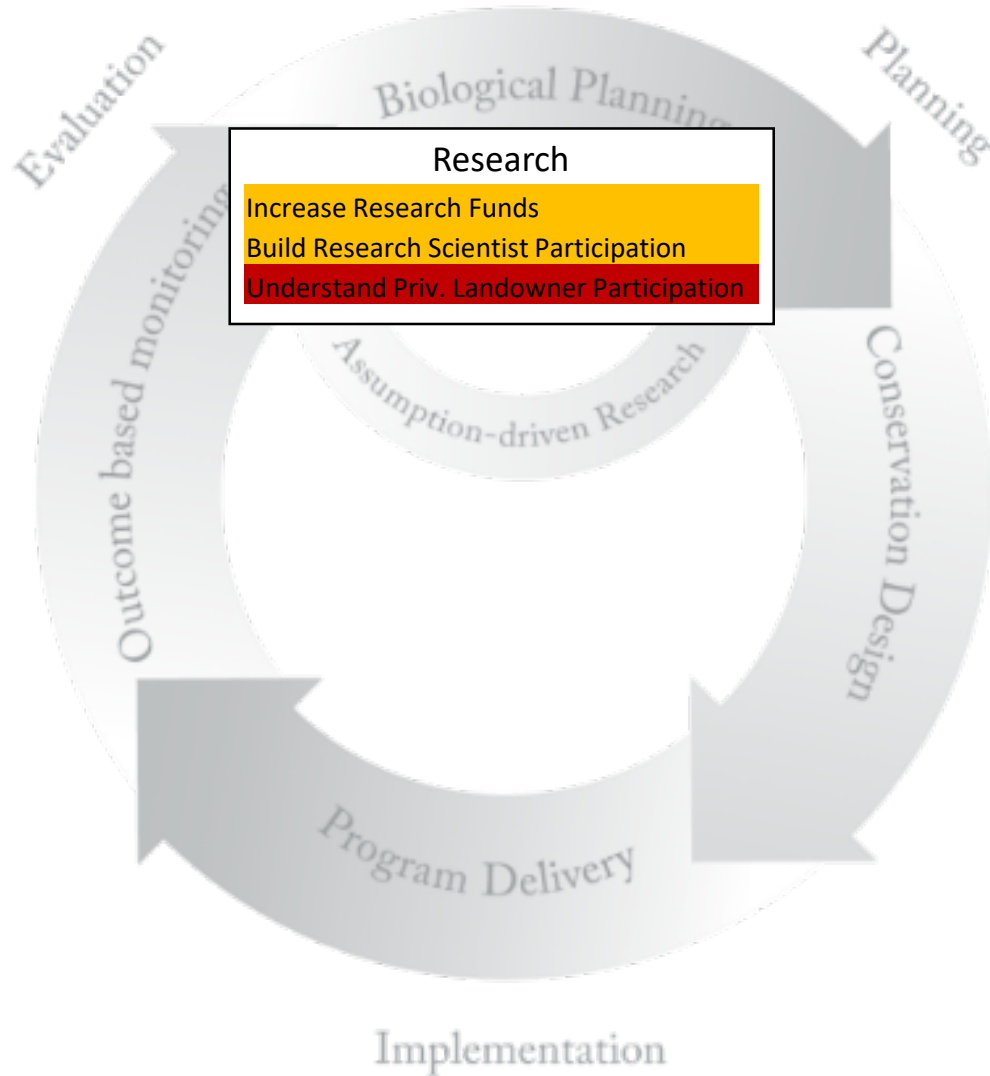
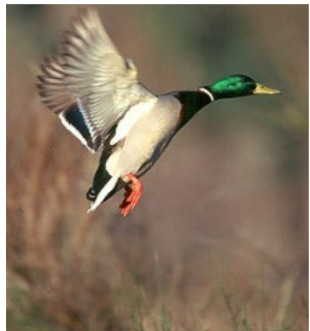
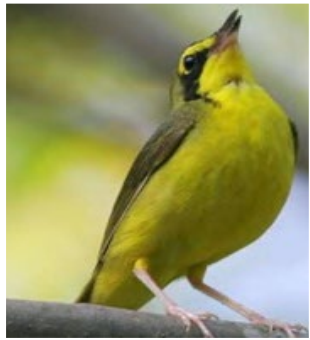
Implementation

# LMVJV Op Plan Progress

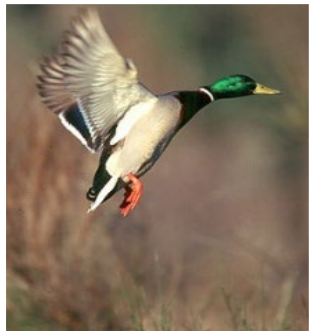
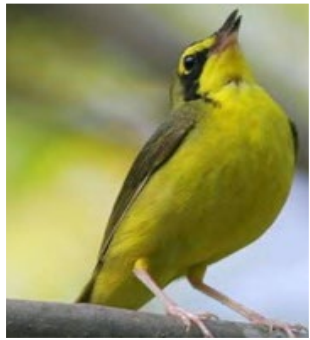




# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



# LMVJV Op Plan Progress



Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture  
Communications Plan



# LMVJV Op Plan Progress

## Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

### *Progress Assessment of 2018 Operational Plan Goals & Priorities*

*Year 1*

**Questions/Suggestions/Discussion?**

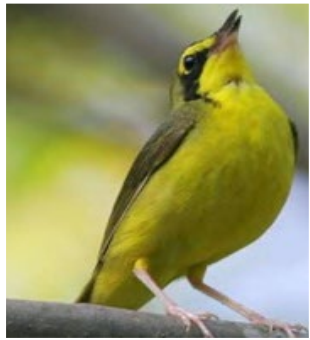


**Lower Mississippi Valley**

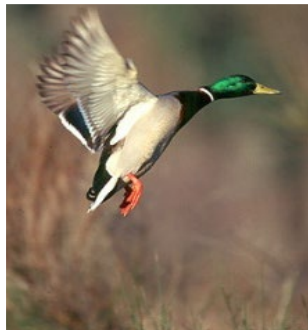
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*October 2019*



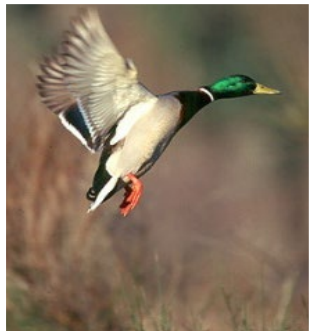
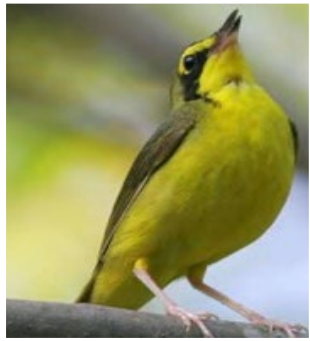
# LMVJV Office Staff Priorities

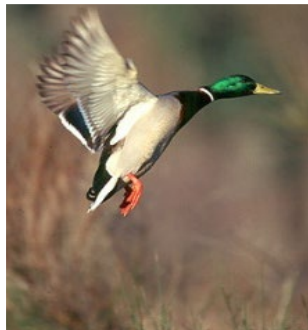


LMVJV Staff Priority Tasks for FY2020	
Project / Task	Priority
<b>Coordinator</b>	
Ensure that Operational Plan Priorities are Addressed	1
Facilitate Regular Communication Among all Office Staff (phone/in-person)	1
Effectively Manage Budget & Agreements/Partner Contributions	1
Timely & Appropriate Communication with Management Board Members	1
Secure Additional/Non-traditional Funding Sources for JV Office Expenses	1
Coordinate/Organize Spring & Fall Management Board Meetings	1
NAWCA Proposal Administration	1
Tend to Supervisory Responsibilities	1
Quarterly Updates to Management Board & Partners	2
Ensure that Communications Plan Priorities are Addressed	2
Participate in and Facilitate Opportunities for Cross-JV Cooperation	2
Engage Directly in CDN/TCP Meetings & Activities	2
Facilitate Advancement of Ecosystem Services Efforts within the JV	3
Facilitate Improved/Vetted Ecosystem Services Decision Information & Tools	4
<b>GIS Applications Biologist</b>	
MAV Forest Protection Model - Distribution & Support	1
WMU Update (working with M. Mitchell)	1
Open Pine DST Update / Revision	1
GIS data updates (especially NWR / WMA layers)	1
Waterbird / Wading Bird Planning Support	1
MAV Forest Breeding Bird Planning Support	2
WGCP BHW species (Louisiana Waterthrush) / DST modeling	2
Provide newsletter information to G. Elliott	2
GIS and Mapping Support - Partners	2
WGCP BHW Habitat Suitability Model Application	2
QGIS Training	2
AR LA WGCP CDN support	3
AR MAV CDN support	3
SE Region GIS engagement (teaching, newsletters, modeling team, etc.)	3
Potential Support for MAV RCPP	as needed



# Communication





## 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 Ouachitas (WGCP) Bird Conservation Region. Forested wetlands represent a unique and imperiled habitat in the region, which supports area-sensitive breeding birds, such as Acadian Flycatcher, 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 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 plantation (monotypic) stands or cropland; production of livestock, oil, or gas; and reservoir creation. Certain areas are hotspots for emerging development, which places additional demands on water supplies.

This plan defines forested wetland habitat, lists priority bird species within this habitat, and identifies umbrella species representative of the needs of priority birds dependent on forested wetlands. Additionally, the plan (1) describes the habitat structure necessary for viable populations for each umbrella species, (2) details how population and habitat goals were set based on stated assumptions for each species, and (3) describes a decision support model intended to help guide management actions supporting conservation of existing forested wetland habitat.

Forested wetlands are dominated by woody vegetation that is greater than 6 m tall and predominantly composed of woody broadleaf vegetation on soils that are periodically saturated or flooded. These include bottomland hardwood forests and cypress-tupelo swamps.

Forested wetlands considered in this WGCP bottomland hardwood and riparian plan include the following ecological systems (NatureServe 2014):

- West Gulf Coastal Plain Large River Floodplain Forest (AR, LA, OK, TX)
- West Gulf Coastal Plain Red River Floodplain Forest (AR, LA, TX)
- West Gulf Coastal Plain Small Stream/River Forest (AR, LA, OK, TX)
- West Gulf Coastal Plain Seepage Swamp and Baygall (AR, LA, OK, TX)
- Ozark-Ouachita Riparian (AR, OK)

**Birds of WGCP Forested Wetlands**  
Twelve species have been designated as warranting conservation concern or given priority status in forested wetland habitats of the WGCP. Most of these species have decreasing population trends as identified from Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data. The only priority wintering species, Rusty Blackbird, has declined by roughly 85% from 1966 to 2003, according to Christmas Bird Count data.

Access the full WGCP Forested Wetland plan online at [www.lmrv.org/landbird-plans](http://www.lmrv.org/landbird-plans)



# Communication

SEARCH

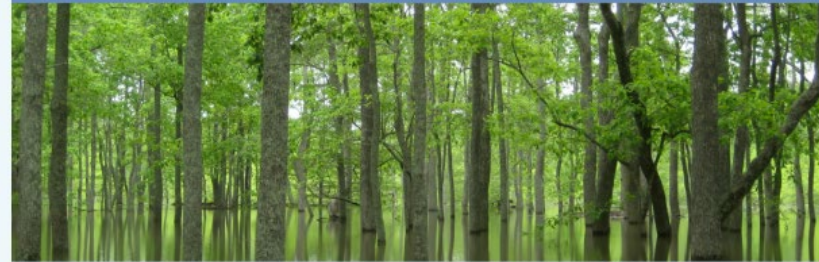


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## Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

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### Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture



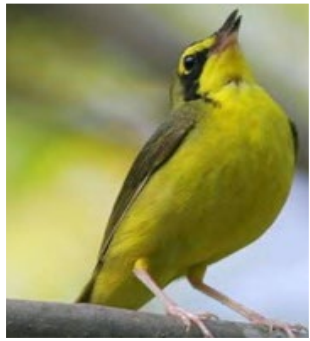
#### LMVJV NEWS & UPDATES

##### Upcoming Events & Announcements

###### Louisiana/Mississippi MAV CDN Membership meeting

June 26, 2019: 9:30 a.m., Hinds Community College, 755 Highway 27, Vicksburg, MS.

Louisiana Ecosystem Restoration Field Day (Workshop - Chester, TX)

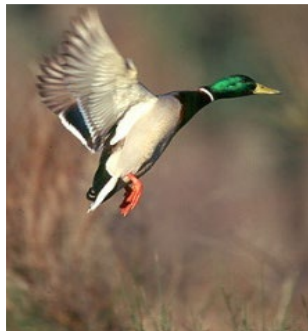


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# Communication



## Forest Stewards Guild

putting the forest first

### Bottomland Hardwood Learning Exchange

Register today, spaces are filling up! (\$25, some meals included)  
 November 6, 2019 (11:00 a.m. – 4:15 p.m. with optional dinner and social from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.)  
 November 7, 2019 (8:00 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. field tour)  
 Location: Meet day 1 at: Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Headquarters, [2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808](#). Baton Rouge, LA ([Ips L. Herring room](#)).  
[Full agenda for download](#)  
 The event will include a 1/2-day indoor session of presentations and discussions, followed by a full 1-day field tour to state and private lands.  
 Lodging is on your own. There is a room block held at Crowne Plaza. [See the event page for details.](#)



The Guild is hosting our 2nd Bottomland Hardwood Learning Exchange in partnership with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries and The Nature Conservancy. This field-based learning exchange will leverage our [previous efforts](#) by bringing together forest landowners and resource professionals from across the South to understand wildlife forestry practices in the Lower Mississippi Alluvial Valley. We will emphasize how robust forest product markets, low-impact harvesting equipment, and selection system silviculture can play an integral role in meeting wildlife habitat improvement goals for forest interior birds. We will also focus on connecting family forest landowners to resources to better steward their woodland. We hope to improve the management and conservation of bottomland forests across the South.



## Forestland Stewards

**NFWF CONTACT**  
**Jon Scott**  
 Program Director,  
 Southern Forests  
 jonathan.scott@nfwf.org  
 202-595-2609

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 Leaders in Wildlife Science, Management and Conservation

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**Mississippi Chapter: Annual Meeting**

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**Annual Meeting**

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- Wild Cam: Researchers ID predators from saliva at kill sites
- Department of the Interior transfers land along border to Army
- An outflowing of support for LGBTQ+ wildliflers
- Is that a lynx? Or a bobcat?
- Researchers discover hummingbird hybrid zone

**HABITAT IMPROVEMENTS IN HARDWOOD PLANTATIONS ON WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS**

**LANDOWNER GUIDE**

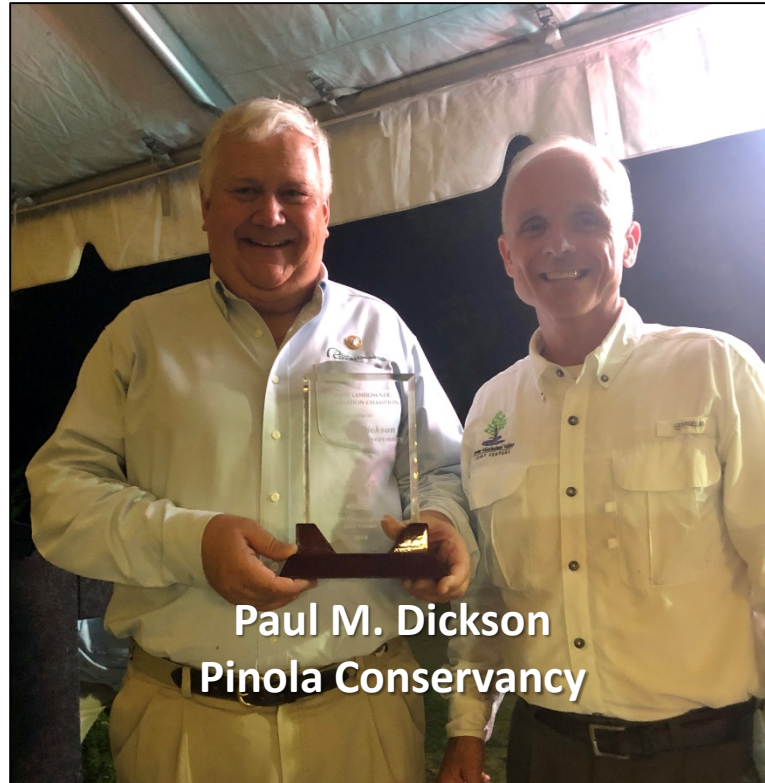
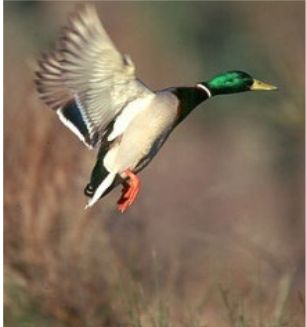
**CAN I MANAGE MY WETLANDS WITHIN A HARDWOOD PLANTATION?**

This brochure provides information to assist landowners in conducting a self-assessment to determine if their plantation complies for Wildlife Habitat Improvement by a National Wetland Reserve. It also provides information on how to seek for the best management practices (BMP) approved by the National Wetland Reserve Administration.





# Private Landowner Conservation Champions



Paul M. Dickson  
Pinola Conservancy



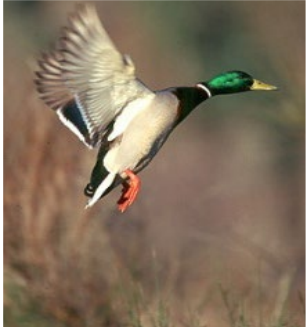
**Lower Mississippi Valley**

**Private Landowner Conservation Champion**



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

# Private Landowner Conservation Champions



**2019 Request for Nominations by end of October**

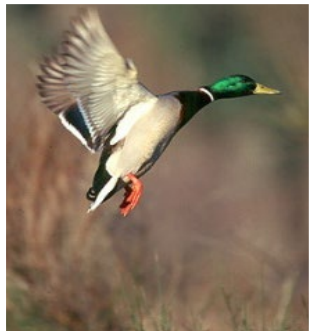
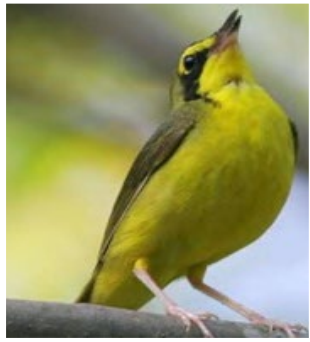


**Lower Mississippi Valley**

**Private Landowner Conservation Champion**



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

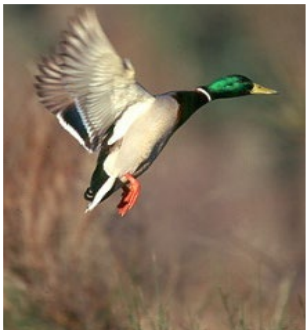


# Larger Partnership

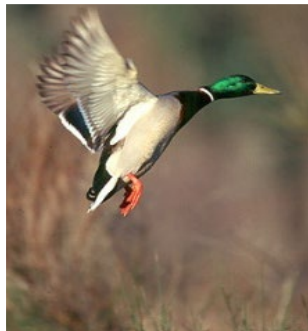
# Assoc. of JV Management Boards

## 2020 Meeting & Hill Visits

- February 24-27, 2020
- Feb 25, AJVMB Meeting
- NAWCA 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary?



# LMVJV Budget Summary 2019



## Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture FY 2019 Budget Summary

### Income/Expense Summary

<b>Income</b>	
FY19 Mig Bird Joint Venture (1234)	\$757,846
MS Mig Bird	\$12,144
Permit Support	\$7,755
Mig Bird 1231 Monitoring	\$40,000
Partner Funds Applied to Agreements	\$50,000
Partner Funds Applied to Other Expenses	\$1,996
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$869,741</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Salary & Benefits <sup>1</sup>	\$575,392
Travel <sup>2</sup>	\$11,000
Operational <sup>2</sup>	\$27,877
Regional Office Support <sup>2</sup>	\$28,989
Office Space <sup>2</sup>	\$25,731
ABC Bird Monitoring	\$40,000
ABC Agreement for Staff	\$160,000
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$868,989</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$752</b>

<sup>1</sup>Includes the following 4 USFWS staff:  
Coordinator (McKnight)  
Partnership Coordinator (Brook)  
GIS Applications Biologist (Elliott)  
Office Administrator (Mollen)  
<sup>2</sup>Estimate based on projection

### Partner Contributed Funds

Carryover from FY18	\$60,982
<b>Anticipated FY19 Contributions</b>	
LDWF	\$37,736
TPWD (from 2018 Invoice)	\$25,000
TPWD (Invoice submitted)	\$25,000
NRCS (5-yr funds already paid out)	
ODWC	\$5,000
TWRA (\$11,250)*	
MDC (\$8,000)*	
DU (in kind office space/support)	\$28,800
<b>FY19 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$92,736</b>
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$153,718</b>
FY19 Withdrawal to Agreements	-\$50,000
FY19 Withdrawal to Other Expenses	-\$1,996
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$101,722</b>

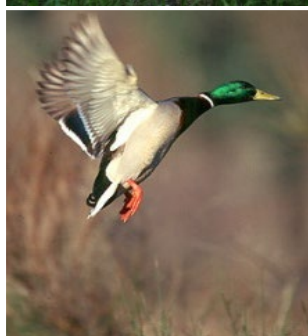
\*TWRA (\$11,250) & MDC (\$8,000) go directly to ABC, hence are accounted as reduction in total Science Coordinator expense

Agreement Activity	Add from PC	Add from 1234	Carryover	End Balance
ABC - Partnership Coordination	\$0	\$15,000	\$50,000	\$8,000
ABC - Science Coordinator	\$50,000	\$95,000	\$71,000	\$116,000
ABC - Communication Contractor				
ABC - Priority Bird Monitoring (1231)		\$40,000		\$40,000
DU - Partnership Support*	\$0	\$0	\$37,000	\$0

\*Funds to be applied to Water Management Tool Renovation



# LMVJV Budget Outlook 2020



## Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture

### FY 2020 Budget Projection

#### Income/Expense Summary

<b>Income</b>		
FY20 Mig Bird Joint Venture (1234)	\$757,846	*
MS Mig Bird	\$8,000	
NEPA Support	\$3,467	
Partner Contributions to Agreements	\$65,000	
Partner Contributions to Budget	\$14,500	
<b>Income Total</b>	<b>\$848,813</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>		
Salary & Benefits <sup>1</sup>	\$586,900	
Travel <sup>2</sup>	\$15,000	
Operational <sup>2</sup>	\$22,440	
Regional Office Support <sup>2</sup>	\$30,000	
Office Space	\$26,000	
ABC Science Coord. Agreement	\$93,000	
WGCPD PC Agreement	\$65,000	
Communications Contract	\$10,000	*
<b>Expense Total</b>	<b>\$848,340</b>	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$473</b>	

<sup>1</sup>Includes the following 4 USFWS staff:

- Coordinator (McKnight)
- Partnership Coordinator (Brock)
- GIS Applications Biologist (Elliott)
- Office Administrator (Wichan)

<sup>2</sup>Estimate based on prior years

#### Partner Contributed Funds

Carryover from FY19	\$101,722	
<b>Anticipated FY20 Contributions</b>		
LDWF	\$17,500	(\$7,500/yr tagged for habitat work)
AGFC	\$10,000	
TPWD	\$25,000	
NRCS (\$36,000 contributed)	\$28,080	
ODWC	\$5,000	
TWRA (\$11,250)*		
MDC (\$8,000)*		
DU (In kind office space/support) \$28,600		
<b>FY20 Subtotal</b>	<b>\$65,580</b>	*
<b>Total Available</b>	<b>\$187,302</b>	
FY20 Withdrawals to Agreements	-\$79,500	
FY20 Withdrawals to Budget	-\$14,500	
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$93,302</b>	*

\*TWRA (\$11,250) & MDC (\$8,000) go directly to ABC, hence are accounted as reduction in total Science Coordinator expense

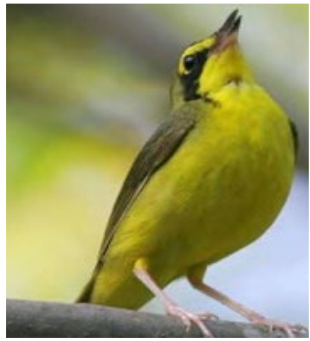
Agreement Activity	Add from PC	Add from 1234	Carryover	End Balance
ABC - Partnership Coordination	\$65,000	\$0	\$8,000	\$16,000
ABC - Science Coordinator	\$0	\$93,000	\$116,000	\$109,000
DU - Partnership Support*	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

\*Funds to be applied to Water Management Tool Renovation



# LMVJV Budget Outlook 2020

## Investing in Science



### Potential Additional Spending

Available	\$93,302
\$20K Buffer	-\$20,000
Vehicle Replacement	-\$30,000
<b>Balance Available</b>	<b>\$43,302</b>







# DFCWs

## ❑ Document Revision

- On the “To Do List” since.....
- Are we missing opportunities because we don’t have hard copies?
- Are we missing opportunities because the document is old?
- What is the best course of action?
  - Full revision
  - Solid summary document, referencing the original?
  - Other?

