

# JV8 CENTRAL GRASSLANDS CONSERVATION INITIATIVE



## EIGHT MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES UNIFIED FOR CONSERVATION OF THE CENTRAL GRASSLANDS

### NORTH AMERICAN GREAT PLAINS GRASSLAND ASSESSMENT

- While only 21% of Great Plains grasslands remain undisturbed, this is comparatively high, making them continentally valuable and important to conserve.
- Of the remaining undisturbed lands 93% are unprotected and at risk of conversion.
- Native grassland loss rates have recently exceeded 2% annually in the northern regions; estimates are currently being calculated for the southern regions.

### Grassland Birds

**720**  
MILLION  
GRASSLAND BIRDS  
LOST SINCE 1970

**-53%**  
POPULATION LOSS  
IN GRASSLAND  
BIRDS SINCE 1970

**3 IN 4**

EASTERN MEADOWLARKS  
LOST SINCE 1970



North American native grasslands are disappearing.

When we lose our grasslands, we lose not only birds but also pollinators, working lands, opportunities for hunting and outdoor recreation, carbon sequestration, and water security. These losses adversely impact rural communities and economies across the continent.

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures have learned how to turn things around for wetland birds and are now applying that strategy to grassland birds.

Through the JV8 Central Grasslands Initiative, eight Joint Ventures — representing over 63 federal, state, provincial, non-profit, and industry conservation partners — are collaborating to stem grassland losses and the negative impacts to grassland birds. The Joint Ventures are working together across the breeding, migration, and wintering habitats used by grassland birds during their annual cycle in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico.

To date, the Joint Ventures have completed a North American Great Plains Grassland Assessment to understand the extent of undisturbed native grasslands across the tri-national geography. In October 2020, they hired a Conservation Director to drive the creation and implementation of the JV8 strategy and coordinate conservation efforts to address causes of declining grassland bird populations across the eight Joint Ventures.

We did it for wetlands and ducks; now we're doing it for grasslands and grassland birds.

The JV8 Central Grasslands Conservation Initiative is built on the power of partnerships and their success in conserving wetland birds. Through this initiative, the Joint Ventures are bringing people and resources together to scale up successful models of grasslands conservation to meet targeted grassland goals while leveraging federal dollars for maximum effectiveness.

# MIGRATORY BIRD JOINT VENTURES

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures work with many partners to build and sustain a healthy world for birds, other wildlife, and people.

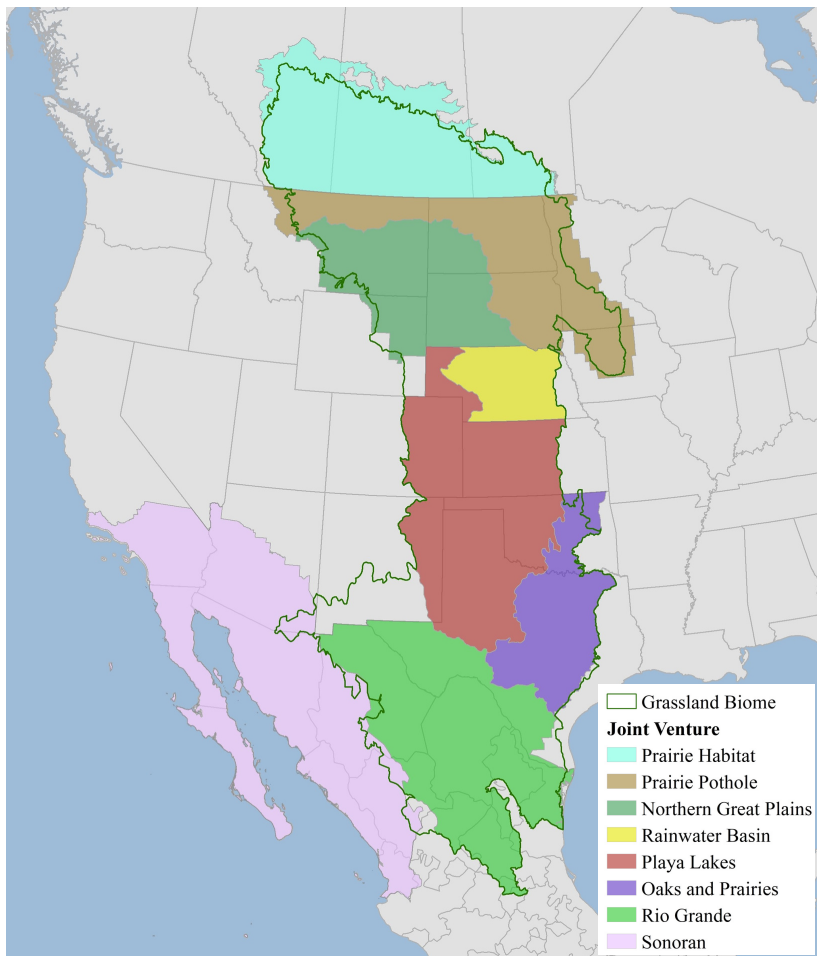
Joint Ventures are voluntary, cooperative, regional partnerships of federal, state, and provincial agencies working with industry, private landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, academia, and other partners. Established by the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in 1986, twenty-four Joint Ventures in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico now address the needs of all North American birds.

Their strategic business model has one of the highest returns on investment in conservation.

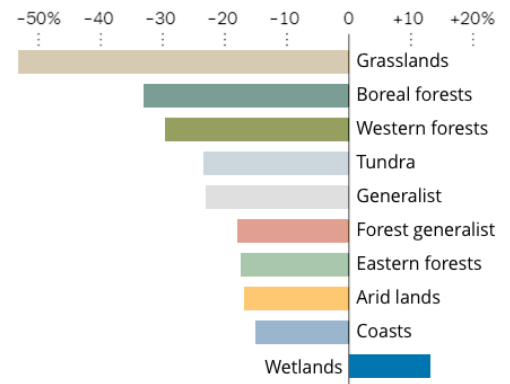
In fact, the dramatic reversal of downward population trends for wetland birds over the last 30 years is due, in large part, to the efforts and investment of Joint Ventures and their partners (*see bird population chart in the sidebar*).

Joint Ventures support conservation that works for wildlife AND for the people who live on these lands.

Collaborative conservation on private lands and active management of public lands leads to healthy habitat for wildlife, and also improved forage production for ranching, sustainable agriculture through pollinators, and economic vitality for rural communities.



NORTH AMERICAN BIRD POPULATION CHANGE BY BREEDING HABITAT SINCE 1970



A 2019 REPORT REVEALED THE LOSS OF 3 BILLION BIRDS SINCE 1970. ONLY WETLAND BIRDS SHOWED AN INCREASE, WHILE GRASSLAND BIRDS WERE HARDEST HIT.

## JOINT VENTURES



## CONTACT US

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