

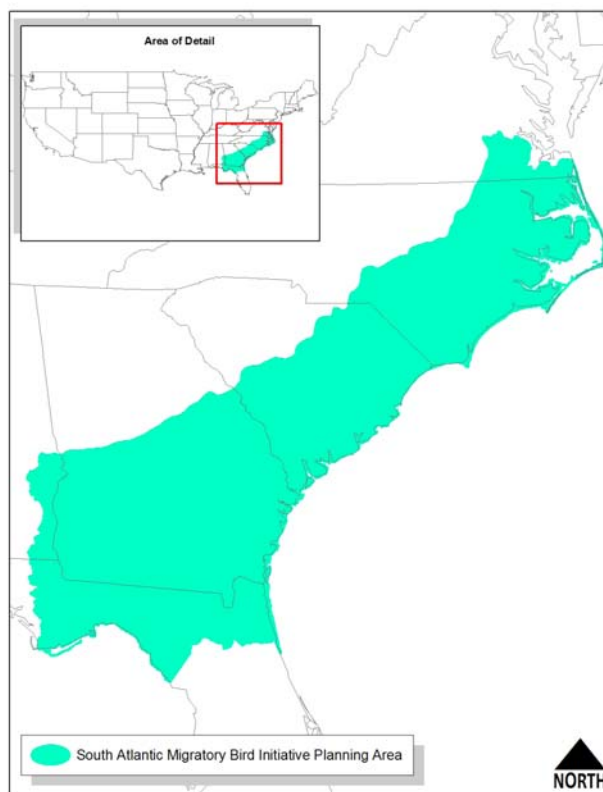
South Atlantic Migratory Bird Initiative (SAMBI) in the Southeastern Coastal Plain – Bird Conservation Region 27

BCR Description and Priorities

The South Atlantic Migratory Bird Conservation Initiative (SAMBI) operates as part of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. The SAMBI planning area is the eastern portion of the Southeastern Coastal Plain, Bird Conservation Region 27, essentially the South Atlantic Coastal Plain. It extends from the coastal plain of southeast Virginia southward to the Atlantic coastal plain of Florida. This area encompasses vast marsh complexes and extensive riverine swamps. Uplands are dominated by longleaf, loblolly, and slash pine, and coastal maritime forests.

Both an implementation plan and a fact sheet are available for the planning region at http://acjv.org/documents/sambi_plan.pdf and http://acjv.org/documents/SAMBI_fact_sheet.pdf.

The plan identifies priority species and habitats, and delineates geographic focus areas within five states (i.e., VA, NC, SC, GA, FL) for waterfowl, waterbirds, shorebirds, landbirds, early successional/grassland species, and pelagic/oceanic species. Some of the highest priority species include American Black Duck, Northern Pintail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Whimbrel, Purple Gallinule, Wood Stork, Bermuda Petrel, Cerulean Warbler, and Loggerhead Shrike.



Conservation Design Approach

The Tools. The plan presents regional and state goals and objectives for high priority species and habitats, and defines conservation strategies to achieve them. In addition, the plan delineates all known federal, state, and privately protected properties within each state. Important Bird Areas and land cover have also been mapped.

With these data and information layers, partners are designing high quality projects for implementation. Guided by their overall mission and a geographic area of interest, partners typically begin developing projects by referring to the SAMBI plan to determine how their project fits into the plan's bird focus areas, priority species and habitats, and goals and objectives.

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Conservation Design

Utilizing land cover, the juxtaposition of protected lands, and biological information for species of concern, partners develop landscape scale projects and partnerships that help meet regional, national, and sometimes even hemispheric goals. Projects frequently entail linking the protected properties through corridors or building upon existing large blocks of habitat for priority species.

The Benefits. Partners in the region have secured approximately \$30 million in grant funds to assist in achieving the goals of the plan. States within the region used the SAMBI plan to develop the biological foundation for the bird components of their State Wildlife Action Plans. Thus, states and other partners are striving to accomplish common goals — goals outlined and coordinated through SAMBI, State Wildlife Actions Plans, and the major national and regional bird conservation plans. The SAMBI's State Working Groups are the primary bodies using this information and coordinating the design of conservation projects.

Contact:

Craig Watson
Atlantic Coast Joint Venture
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
176 Croghan Spur Rd., Suite 200
Charleston, SC 29407
(843)727-4707, ext. 304
Fax: (843)727-4218
craig_watson@fws.gov