1   **Optimizing conservation of migratory species over their full annual cycle**

2   **in the Western Hemisphere**

One-sentence summary: Area-based plans to conserve migratory birds of the Western

Hemisphere over their full annual cycle revealed high compatibility between land use plans

likely to support human livelihoods and conserve Neotropical migratory birds.

Authors: Schuster R.[a,b], Wilson S.[c], Rodewald, A. D.[d,e], Arcese P.[f], Fink, D.[d], , Auer, T.[d],

Bennett, J. R[a]

[a] Department of Biology, 1125 Colonel By Drive, Carleton University, Ottawa ON, K1S 5B6

Canada

[b] Ecosystem Science and Management Program, 3333 University Way, University of Northern

British Columbia, Prince George BC, V2N 4Z9 Canada

[c] Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Wildlife Research Centre, 1125 Colonel

By Drive, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K1S 5B6

[d] Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850, USA

[e] Department of Natural Resources, Cornell University, Fernow Hall, #111, Ithaca, NY 14853,

USA

[f] Department of Forest and Conservation Sciences, 2424 Main Mall, University of British

Columbia, Vancouver BC, V6T 1Z4 Canada

Strategic plans to conserve migratory species require detailed knowledge on species

distribution, abundance, and habitat use over the annual cycle, but such data are lacking

for most species. We developed a hemispheric approach to planning using spatiotemporally

explicit species abundance models to prioritize land needed to conserve ≥17% of the global

populations of 109 species of Neotropical migratory birds. The efficiency of annual cycle

plans was evaluated in comparisons to single-season plans, and to scenarios that avoided

areas with a high human footprint index. Annual cycle plans were more efficient than

single-season plans and reduced the area needed to meet 17% targets by up to 43%. Area

efficiency was maximized when land converted by human activity (e.g., agricultural,

urban) was included in solutions, suggesting that working landscapes contribute positively

to conservation. Here we show that annual cycle plans and land-sharing approaches to

conservation can help identify land use scenarios capable of supporting human livelihoods

and Neotropical migratory birds.

Land-use change is the greatest global threat to biodiversity, ecosystems[1], and the

services they provide[2,3], and migratory species are particularly vulnerable to such change given

the vast geographic areas occupied over the annual cycle[4,5]. Strategic approaches to the

conservation of migratory species are therefore required to identify and protect habitats critical to

the persistence of all target species. However, substantial gaps in knowledge of the abundance,

distribution, and demography of most migratory species[6] have hampered strategic planning and

led to uncertainty about the optimal allocation of conservation effort[5,7]. Given that populations of

many migratory species continue to decline[4,8], there is an urgent need to assemble and act on the

best data available.

Multi-species decision support tools have the potential to facilitate dramatically the

strategic identification of areas critical to the conservation of migratory species but have

remained intractable due to limits on knowledge and computing power. We capitalized on

advances in crowd-sourced models of bird species abundance and distribution[9,10] and linear

programing[11] to develop a robust multi-species planning tool to estimate the land base needed to

conserve 109 Nearctic-Neotropical migratory songbirds (Supplementary Table S1) during the

spring and fall migration and stationary breeding and 'non-breeding' periods. Specifically, we

combined fine-scale, predictive models of species distribution and abundance in each of four

periods with spatial optimization tools[12] to estimate the amounts and types of land needed to

conserve our focal species populations over their full annual cycles at a hemispheric scale.

We first modeled global populations of 109 migratory species in their migration,

breeding and non-breeding ranges using spatiotemporal exploratory models to estimate relative

abundance for each species (Fig. 1). We next created area optimized solutions to conserve 17%

of the global populations of each species over the annual cycle, and then recorded land cover for

each solution. This target derives from the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Aichi

Biodiversity Target 11, which aims to conserve 17% of terrestrial and fresh-water ecosystems,

emphasizing areas with high biodiversity. We also compared the geographic areas selected when

optimizing the migration, breeding and non-breeding periods separately to the areas selected

when the seasons were optimized simultaneously over the annual cycle. Because existing plans

consider breeding and non-breeding periods separately[13,14], our analysis offers the first example

of spatial optimization that considers the full annual cycle.

Finally, we compared area-based conservation plans that represent two different

perspectives on the value of human-modified landscapes for the conservation of migratory birds.

Our 'land-sparing' approach emphasized the protection of relatively intact habitat as indicated by

a low human footprint index[15] (Fig. S1), whereas our 'land sharing' approach was more

permissive to human activities[16].

Results

We found that area-efficiency of conservation improved greatly when land was

prioritized over the full annual cycle, rather than separately by season. We found a 43% (2.01M

km^2) reduction in the area needed to meet the target given a land-sharing scenario (Fig. 2), and a

27% (1.8M km^2) reduction in the area needed given land-sparing (Fig. 3; Table 1).

Higher efficiency in full annual cycle plans is achieved by identifying sites that

contribute to species' population targets in more than one season. These overlapping sites can

contribute to the targets for a single species (e.g. a species uses a site for breeding and migration)

or multiple species (e.g. one species uses a site for breeding while another uses it for migration).

The resulting efficiency suggests there may be value in reviewing how conservation investments

are allocated at large spatial scales. Currently, government and non-governmental organizations

allocate up to $1 billion annually to bird conservation based on aspatial targets and expert

elicitation, with most actions aimed at the conservation of breeding habitat[13,14]. In contrast, our

results suggest that wherever possible, conservation investments for migratory species should be

based on assessments over the annual cycle[5,7,10].

Our results also indicate that conserving land in human-dominated, working landscapes

may be part of an efficient strategy to conserve Neotropical migratory birds. A land-sharing

approach required 45% less land area than land-sparing when planning over the annual cycle,

and 31% less land area than land-sparing when planning over single seasons (Table 1). However,

these gains in efficiency were distributed unequally across seasons. Land sharing returned the

largest gains in efficiency in the stationary non-breeding, fall and spring migration periods,

reducing area reserved by 1.24M km^2 (55.4%), 1.67M km^2 (49.4%), and 1.85M km^2 (55.2%)

respectively, compared to a reduction of 0.91M km^2 (30.4%) in the breeding period (Table 1).

This suggests that regions of Latin America and the Caribbean may be where conservation

investments can most efficiently conserve habitat in working landscapes that sustain human

livelihoods and Neotropical migratory birds[17].

Land-sparing and sharing solutions also varied geographically and by ecosystem type.

Land-sparing approaches selected larger areas of needle-leaved forest in boreal and mountainous

zones of western Canada, and more broad-leaved evergreen forest in the eastern Andes and

western Amazon basin (Fig. 4; Table 2). Single-season and full annual cycle approaches to land-

sparing resulted in geographically similar outcomes (Table 2; Fig. 3). In contrast, annual cycle

plans using land-sharing reduced the area of mixed coniferous-deciduous forests reserved by

59% but increased the area of broadleaf evergreen forest by 2%. The area of needle-leaf

evergreen forest and herbaceous-grassland identified also declined given land-sharing (53% and

50% reductions, respectively), indicating that full annual cycle approaches reduced plan area by

≥27% for all but one land cover type (broadleaf evergreen; Table 2).

Land-sharing scenarios included more urban land than expected given the extents of all

cover types, but relatively little overall (2.9% of optimized annual cycle plan; Table 2). Although

urban expansion threatens many species[18], some urban areas support relatively diverse species

pools[19] and threatened species[20]. Recent studies on Neotropical migrants have shown how this

group appears to use urban sites more often than expected during migration[6,21].

Despite higher efficiency in land-sharing versus sparing approaches, several caveats

exist. First, these two approaches are not mutually exclusive; effective conservation will require

both given that some migratory and many resident species cannot be conserved in working

landscapes[22]. Second, implementing conservation within working landscapes may be more

challenging than in areas with less human activity. Third, areas used by humans and selected in

land-sharing scenarios may degrade in habitat value over time via agricultural intensification or

urbanization[23]. Insuring that working landscapes support Neotropical migrants in future may

therefore require incentives to encourage practices that conserve or enhance habitat values for

birds and also sustain human well-being. Fourth, the 17% target adopted here is illustrative only;

larger targets will be needed to avoid range contraction and local extinction, and to conserve

ecological functions, such as seed dispersal and pest control[24]. Nevertheless, 17% exceeds the

areal extent of conservation plans that currently exist in support of Neotropical migrant birds.

Last, our approach did not consider migratory connectivity[25] because all approaches selected

sites that met targets for each species anywhere within their range. In contrast, for species that

show strong connectivity between the breeding and stationary non-breeding ranges, or if

different populations use different migratory pathways, our analysis will over-represent a 17%

target in some parts of the species' range and under-represent it in others. As tracking

technologies improve, migratory connectivity could be incorporated explicitly into planning

tools, or methods could be applied to insure spatial representation. However, because it could

take decades to describe migratory connectivity in all 109 species used here, we suggest that our

approach to annual cycle planning represents a precautionary, first step to developing

hemispheric-scale plans for the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds[26].

Discussion

Ongoing declines and range constrictions in migratory species and severe limits on financial and human resources[27] point to an urgent need for area-based plans that maximize the efficiency of conservation investments while minimizing opportunity costs[28]. We explored solutions optimized on area-efficiency and suggest two key lessons. First, scenarios that considered all habitats used over the annual cycle were more efficient than those which considered the migration, breeding and non-breeding periods separately. Second, area-based plans that accommodated human activity, represent a land-sharing approach to conservation, were more efficient than land-sparing approaches which avoided areas with a high human footprint. In addition, although we focused on Neotropical migrant birds, our approach could be replicated for migratory species and systems given sufficient spatial data. In our case, citizen science data and advanced prioritization tools allowed us to reveal efficiencies in area-based plans spanning multiple seasons and jurisdictions. We further showed that land-sharing scenarios that included working landscapes increased area-efficiency, indicating that incentives to avoid agricultural intensification may be required to ensure that these efficiencies are retained. The high concentration of migratory birds and land required to support them in the non-breeding period further emphasizes that investments in Latin America and the Caribbean currently represent the most efficient way to conserve Neotropical migrant birds.

Methods

Species selection

We initially considered 118 species of Neotropical migratory passerines for our analysis (Extended Data Table 1). These species fell into two broad groups based on their breeding and stationary non-breeding ranges: 1) species where individuals breed in North America north of the US-Mexico border and migrate south of the Tropic of Cancer during the non-breeding period (n=101 species, Extended Data Table 1), 2) species with migratory and resident populations or subspecies; individuals from migratory populations north of the US-Mexico border move south of the Tropic of Cancer during the non-breeding period (n=17 species). We then removed 9 species because there was insufficient data to identify their stationary non-breeding range (see Extended Data Table 1). These were primarily species that overwinter in parts of South America with limited eBird coverage or where identification is problematic during the non-breeding season (e.g. alder and willow flycatcher). The remaining 109 species were included in the final analysis.

Spatial prioritization approach

Here we use the concept of systematic conservation planning[29], to inform choices about areas to protect, in order to optimize outcomes for biodiversity while minimizing societal costs[30]. To achieve the goal to optimize the trade-off between conservation benefit and socioeconomic cost, i.e. to get the most benefit for limited conservation funds, we strive to minimize an objective function over a set of decision variables, subject to a series of constraints. Integer linear programming (ILP) is the subset of optimization algorithms used here to solve reserve design problems. The general form of an ILP problem can be expressed in matrix notation as:

$$\text{Minimize } c^T x \text{ subject to } Ax \geq b$$

Where x is a vector of decision variables, c and b are vectors of known coefficients, and A is the

constraint matrix. The final term specifies a series of structural constraints where relational

operators for the constraint can be either ≥ the coefficients. In the minimum set cover problem, c

is a vector of costs for each planning unit, b a vector of targets for each conservation feature, the

relational operator would be ≥ for all features, and A is the representation matrix with Aij=rij, the

representation level of feature i in planning unit j. We set an objective to find the solution that

fulfills all the targets and constraints for the smallest cost[11]. This objective is similar to that used

in Marxan, the widest used software for spatial conservation planning to date[31].

Spatiotemporal exploratory models

188    We used spatiotemporal exploratory models (STEM)[9,32,33] to generate estimates of

relative abundance for each species. STEM is an ensemble of local regression models generated

from a spatiotemporal block subsampling design. Repeatedly subsampling and partitioning the

study extent into grids of spatiotemporal blocks, and then fitting independent regression models

(base models) in each block produces an ensemble of partially overlapping local models.

Estimates at a given location and date are made by averaging across all the local models that

contain the location and date. Combining estimates across the ensemble controls for inter-model

variability[34] and adapts to non-stationary predictor–response relationships[32]. To account for

spatial variation in the density of the bird observation data[35], smaller spatiotemporal blocks (10°

× 10° × 30 continuous days) were used north of 12° latitude and larger blocks (20° × 20° × 30

continuous days) were used in the southern portion of the study extent.

The bird observation data used to implement STEM came from the eBird citizen-science

database[36]. The data included species counts from complete checklists collected under the

"traveling", "stationary", and "areal" protocols from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2016

within the spatial extent bounded by 180° to 30° W Longitude (as well as Alaska between 150° E

and 180° E). This resulted in a dataset consisting of 14 million checklists collected at 1.7 million

unique locations, of which 10% were withheld for model validation.

Within each base model, species' occupancy and abundance was assumed to be

stationary. We fit zero-inflated boosted regression trees[9] to predict the observed counts

(abundance) of species based on three general classes of predictors: i) spatial predictors to

account for spatial (and spatiotemporal) patterns; ii) temporal predictors to account for trends;

and iii) predictors that describe the observation/detection process, which account for variation in

detection rates, a nuisance when making inference about species occupancy and abundance.

Spatial information was captured using elevation[37] and NASA MODIS land[38] and water cover

data. The MODIS data were summarized as the proportion and spatial configuration of each of

the 19 cover classes within 2.8×2.8 km (784 hectare) pixels centered at each eBird location

using FRAGSTATS[39] and SDMTools[40]. Summarizing the land-cover information at this

resolution reduced the impact of erroneous cover classifications, and reduced the impact of

inaccurate eBird checklist locations. The time of day was used to model variation in availability

for detection; e.g., diurnal variation in behavior, such as participation in the "dawn chorus"[41].

Day of the year (1-366) was used to capture day-to-day changes in occupancy, and year was

included to account for year-to-year differences. Finally, to account for variation in detection

rates variables for the number of hours spent searching for species, the length of the transect

traveled during the search, and the number of people in the search party were included in each

base model.

Estimates of relative abundance and occupancy were rendered at weekly temporal

resolution and 8.4 × 8.4 km spatial resolution. Each estimate was calculated as an ensemble

average across 50-100 base models. The quantity estimated was either the expected number of

birds of a given species (abundance) or the probability of the species being reported (occupancy)

by a typical eBird participant on a search starting from the center of the pixel from 7:00 to 8:00

AM while traveling 1 km.

Land use constraints

We used a total of two constraint metrics in the systematic conservation prioritization

analysis. First, to avoid any restrictions on the species informed selection outcomes we used a

constant cost metric, where each planning unit was assigned a cost value of 1. Second, we used

the human footprint metric for 2009[15], which is available at a roughly 1 km spatial resolution, to

select areas for conservation that have relatively low direct human pressures present. We

calculated the mean human footprint value for each 8.4 x 8.4 km pixel throughout the study area,

for use in the prioritization analysis.

Systematic conservation prioritization analysis

We combined the weekly estimates from the STEM models for each species into average

breeding abundance estimates (June 6 – July 4) and non-breeding abundance estimates

(December 26 – January 25). For the migration seasons we summed abundance estimates for

each species up for spring (April 4 - May 2) and fall (August 8 - September 26). Each of the 109

species was treated as a feature in the prioritization analysis. We created scenarios for spring

migration, breeding, fall migration, non-breeding and the combined time periods, while

including either the unrestricted cost metric or the human footprint cost metric, to create a total

of 10 scenarios. We used the prioritzr[42] R package for the analysis, which interfaces with the

Gurobi[43] optimization software.

Land cover representation

After the prioritization analyses, we summarized the major land cover types for each

scenario that we generated. We used the 2015 data set of the global land cover map[44] at a 300m

resolution and clipped the original data to the study area. For each scenario, we used the

geospatial data abstraction library[45] to warp the selected cells from the prioritization onto the

raster grid of the land cover dataset. There were 37 land cover classes identified across scenarios

and the frequency and area amount of each was summarized for all scenarios. As a final step we

combined similar land cover classes into broader classes (Extended Data Table 2) and we used

these to examine differences in area and land cover types selected under single season vs. full

annual cycle planning and for land sparing vs land sharing scenarios (Table 2).

Code availability

All computer code used in analysis, files generated from the analysis and outputs such as

figures and tables have been deposited and will be made publicly available on publication here:

https://osf.io/58hgs/?view_only=4bddcf37b95e470da3d3d90ba0f260de. The STEM model

outputs used as inputs to the analysis will be made publicly available shortly by the Cornell Lab

of Ornithology.

References

1. Maxwell, S. L., Fuller, R. A., Brooks, T. M. & Watson, J. E. M. Biodiversity: The ravages of guns, nets and bulldozers. *Nature* **536,** 143–145 (2016).

2. Bauer, S. & Hoye, B. J. Migratory Animals Couple Biodiversity and Ecosystem Functioning Worldwide. *Science (80-.).* **344,** (2014).

3. Semmens, D. J., Diffendorfer, J. E., López-Hoffman, L. & Shapiro, C. D. Accounting for the ecosystem services of migratory species: Quantifying migration support and spatial subsidies. *Ecol. Econ.* **70,** 2236–2242 (2011).

4. Wilcove, D. S. & Wikelski, M. Going, Going, Gone: Is Animal Migration Disappearing. *PLoS Biol.* **6,** e188 (2008).

5. Runge, C. A., Martin, T. G., Possingham, H. P., Willis, S. G. & Fuller, R. A. Conserving mobile species. *Front. Ecol. Environ.* **12,** 395–402 (2014).

6. Zuckerberg, B., Fink, D., La Sorte, F. A., Hochachka, W. M. & Kelling, S. Novel seasonal land cover associations for eastern North American forest birds identified through dynamic species distribution modelling. *Divers. Distrib.* **22,** 717–730 (2016).

7. Runge, C. A., Tulloch, A. I. T., Possingham, H. P., Tulloch, V. J. D. & Fuller, R. A. Incorporating dynamic distributions into spatial prioritization. *Divers. Distrib.* **22,** 332–343 (2016).

8. Harris, G., Thirgood, S., Hopcraft, J., Cromsight, J. & Berger, J. Global decline in aggregated migrations of large terrestrial mammals. *Endanger. Species Res.* **7,** 55–76 (2009).

9. Johnston, A. *et al.* Abundance models improve spatial and temporal prioritization of conservation resources. *Ecol. Appl.* **25,** 1749–1756 (2015).

290   10.   La Sorte, F. A. *et al.* Global change and the distributional dynamics of migratory bird

291   populations wintering in Central America. *Glob. Chang. Biol.* (2017).

292   doi:10.1111/gcb.13794

293   11.   Beyer, H. L., Dujardin, Y., Watts, M. E. & Possingham, H. P. Solving conservation

294   planning problems with integer linear programming. *Ecol. Modell.* **328,** 14–22 (2016).

295   12.   Moilanen, A., Wilson, K. A. & Possingham, H. P. *Spatial conservation prioritization:*

296   *quantitative methods and computational tools*. **6,** (Oxford University Press Oxford, UK,

297   2009).

298   13.   Species At Risk Act. *Bill C-5, An act respecting the protection of wildlife species at risk in*

299   *Canada*. (2002).

300   14.   U.S. Congress. *Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531–1544, 87 Stat. 884).*

301   (1973).

302   15.   Venter, O. *et al.* Sixteen years of change in the global terrestrial human footprint and

303   implications for biodiversity conservation. *Nat. Commun.* **7,** (2016).

304   16.   Phalan, B., Onial, M., Balmford, A. & Green, R. E. Reconciling food production and

305   biodiversity conservation: land sharing and land sparing compared. *Science (80-.).* **333,**

306   1289–1291 (2011).

307   17.   Estrada-Carmona, N., Hart, A. K., DeClerck, F. A. J., Harvey, C. A. & Milder, J. C.

308   Integrated landscape management for agriculture, rural livelihoods, and ecosystem

309   conservation: An assessment of experience from Latin America and the Caribbean.

310   *Landsc. Urban Plan.* **129,** 1–11 (2014).

311   18.   Seto, K. C., Güneralp, B. & Hutyra, L. R. Global forecasts of urban expansion to 2030 and

312   direct impacts on biodiversity and carbon pools. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **109,** 16083–16088

(2012).

19. Aronson, M. F. J. *et al.* A global analysis of the impacts of urbanization on bird and plant

diversity reveals key anthropogenic drivers. in *Proc. R. Soc. B* **281,** 20133330 (2014).

20. Ives, C. D. *et al.* Cities are hotspots for threatened species. *Glob. Ecol. Biogeogr.* **25,** 117–

126 (2016).

21. McLaren, J. D. *et al.* Artificial light at night confounds broad-scale habitat use by

migrating birds. *Ecol. Lett.* (2018).

22. Jenkins, C. N., Pimm, S. L. & Joppa, L. N. Global patterns of terrestrial vertebrate

diversity and conservation. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci.* **110,** E2602–E2610 (2013).

23. Haddad, N. M. *et al.* Habitat fragmentation and its lasting impact on

Earth{\textquoteright}s ecosystems. *Sci. Adv.* **1,** (2015).

24. Kenis, M., Hurley, B. P., Hajek, A. E. & Cock, M. J. W. Classical biological control of

insect pests of trees: facts and figures. *Biol. Invasions* 1–17 (2017).

25. Webster, M. S., Marra, P. P., Haig, S. M., Bensch, S. & Holmes, R. T. Links between

worlds: unraveling migratory connectivity. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* **17,** 76–83 (2002).

26. Faaborg, J. *et al.* Conserving migratory land birds in the New World: Do we know

enough? *Ecol. Appl.* **20,** 398–418 (2010).

27. McCarthy, D. P. *et al.* Financial costs of meeting global biodiversity conservation targets:

current spending and unmet needs. *Science (80-.).* **338,** 946–949 (2012).

28. Bottrill, M. C. *et al.* Is conservation triage just smart decision making? *Trends Ecol. Evol.*

23, 649–654 (2008).

29. Margules, C. R. & Pressey, R. L. Systematic conservation planning. *Nature* **405,** 243–53

(2000).

30.   McIntosh, E. J., Pressey, R. L., Lloyd, S., Smith, R. & Grenyer, R. The Impact of

337   Systematic Conservation Planning. *Annu. Rev. Environ. Resour.* **42,** annurev-environ-

338   102016-060902 (2017).

339   31.   Ball, I. R. R., Possingham, H. P. P. & Watts, M. E. E. Marxan and relatives: Software for

340   spatial conservation prioritisation. in *Spatial conservation prioritisation: Quantitative*

341   *methods and computational tools.* (eds. Moilanen, A., Wilson, K. & Possingham, H. P.)

342   185–195 (Oxford University Press, 2009).

343   32.   Fink, D. *et al.* Spatiotemporal exploratory models for broad-scale survey data. *Ecol. Appl.*

344   **20,** 2131–2147 (2010).

345   33.   Fink, D. *et al.* Crowdsourcing meets ecology: hemisphere-wide spatiotemporal species

346   distribution models. *AI Mag.* **35,** 19–30 (2014).

347   34.   Efron, B. Estimation and accuracy after model selection. *J. Am. Stat. Assoc.* **109,** 991–

348   1007 (2014).

349   35.   Fink, D., Damoulas, T. & Dave, J. Adaptive Spatio-Temporal Exploratory Models:

350   Hemisphere-wide species distributions from massively crowdsourced eBird data. in *AAAI*

351   (2013).

352   36.   Sullivan, B. L. *et al.* The eBird enterprise: an integrated approach to development and

353   application of citizen science. *Biol. Conserv.* **169,** 31–40 (2014).

354   37.   Amatulli, G. *et al.* A suite of global, cross-scale topographic variables for environmental

355   and biodiversity modeling. *Sci. Data* **In press,** (2017).

356   38.   Friedl, M. A. *et al.* MODIS Collection 5 global land cover: Algorithm refinements and

357   characterization of new datasets. *Remote Sens. Environ.* **114,** 168–182 (2010).

39.   McGarigal, K., Cushman, S. A. & Ene, E. FRAGSTATS v4: spatial pattern analysis

program for categorical and continuous maps. University of Massachusetts, Amherst,

Massachusetts, USA. *goo. gl/aAEbMk* (2012).

40.   VanDerWal, J., Falconi, L., Januchowski, S., Shoo, L. & Storlie, C. SDMTools: Species

Distribution Modelling Tools: Tools for processing data associated with species

distribution modelling exercises. *R Packag. version* 1 (2014).

41.   Diefenbach, D. R., Marshall, M. R., Mattice, J. A. & Brauning, D. W. Incorporating

availability for detection in estimates of bird abundance. *Auk* **124,** 96–106 (2007).

42.   Hanson, J. *et al.* prioritizr: Systematic Conservation Prioritization in R, Version 3.0.3.

(2017).

43.   Gurobi Optimization Inc. Gurobi Optimizer Reference Manual, Version 7.5.1. (2017).

44.   ESA Climate Change Initiative. Global land cover map 300m resolution for 2015. (2017).

Available at: http://maps.elie.ucl.ac.be/CCI/viewer/download.php.

45.   Warmerdam, F. The geospatial data abstraction library. in *Open source approaches in*

spatial data handling 87–104 (Springer, 2008).

Extended Data (up to 10)

Extended Data Table 1| Bird species used in this analysis.

Extended Data Table 2| Individual and summarized land cover classes identified in this analysis.

Extended Data Figure 1| Human footprint estimated in 2009.

Acknowledgments: RS is supported by a Liber Ero Fellowship, ADR by a Garvin endowment,

and JRB and PA by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. We also

thank the eBird participants for their contributions and eBird team for their support. This work

was funded by The Leon Levy Foundation, The Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation, NASA

(NNH12ZDA001N-ECOF), Microsoft Azure Research Award (CRM: 0518680), and the

National Science Foundation (ABI sustaining: DBI-1356308; computing support from CNS-

1059284 and CCF-1522054). Data, analysis scripts and full results are archived here:

https://osf.io/58hgs/?view_only=4bddcf37b95e470da3d3d90ba0f260de.

Author Contributions RS, SW, ADR, JRB and PA conceived the study. RS, DF and TA

collected data and conducted analyses. All authors contributed to writing and editing the paper.

Author Information Correspondence and requests for materials should be addressed to RS

(mail@richard-schuster.com). The authors declare no competing interests.

Table 1: Area requirements to meet a 17% population target for 109 Neotropical migrant species

under land sharing and land sparing scenarios. Each entry in the table shows the area required to

meet the target (in million km^2). Values in brackets are the percent of the range selected to meet

the target with total range sizes equaling 20.77M km^2 for the spring migration period, 24.68M

km^2 on the breeding range, 26.67M km^2 for the fall migration period, 16.73M km^2 on the

nonbreeding range and 31.62M km^2 for the combined breeding and non-breeding ranges. The

final two columns show the total area amounts across all four seasons depending on whether the

prioritization considers each season separately (single-season) or whether it minimizes areas

across seasons where possible (full annual cycle).

Constraint	Migration Spring	Breeding	Migration Fall	Non-breeding	Single-season combined	Full annual cycle
Land sharing	1.5 (7.24)	2.08 (8.45)	1.71 (6.42)	1 (5.99)	4.75 (15.01)	2.73 (8.63)
Land sparing	3.35 (16.15)	2.99 (12.12)	3.38 (12.66)	2.24 (13.36)	6.72 (21.25)	4.92 (15.57)

Table 2. Area selected (1000 km^2) for major land cover types under single season and full annual cycle planning and for land sharing

and sparing scenarios. Area available is the total amount of each land cover across the breeding and nonbreeding range based on cells

where ≥ 1 species was present. % reduction is the percentage decrease in the area required for each land cover type with full annual

cycle compared to single season planning. Not all land cover classes are included in the table and therefore individual land cover

values do not sum to the total in each column. Land cover data was extracted from the global land cover map for 2015 (300m

resolution)[44].

Land cover	Area available	Land sharing			Land sparing		
		Single season	Full annual cycle	% reduction	Single season	Full annual cycle	% reduction
Cropland/Mosaic Cropland	2269	252	149	41	201	162	19
Grassland	5555	1148	578	50	884	648	27
Urban areas	205	125	74	41	1	1	0
Broadleaf Deciduous Forest	1994	533	356	33	467	352	25
Broadleaf Evergreen Forest	6921	206	211	-2	1504	1197	20
Needleleaf Forest	4599	1076	509	53	1616	1133	30
Mixed Forest	966	277	114	59	317	211	33
Mosaic Forest	934	117	85	27	186	138	26
Flooded Forest	540	93	56	40	159	119	25
Shrubland	4226	516	318	38	731	493	33
Wetland	468	49	36	27	97	80	18
Barren	1053	56	36	36	199	127	36
Total	**31615**	**4746**	**2728**	**43**	**6904**	**4922**	**29**

Figure 1: Bird species diversity of the four seasons of the year. a) Shannon diversity index of

109 species of Neotropical migratory birds during the spring migration season (April 4 - May 2);

b) Shannon diversity index for the breeding season (June 6 – July 4); **c)** Shannon diversity index

for the fall migration season (August 8 - September 26); **d)** Shannon diversity index for the non-

breeding period (December 26 – January 25).

Figure 2. Comparison of areas prioritized for single season and full annual cycle planning under

a land sharing approach allowing for the inclusion of human dominated landscapes. The

prioritization is based on a target of 17% of global populations of 109 species of Neotropical

migratory birds.

Figure 3. Comparison of areas prioritized for single season and full annual cycle planning under

a land sparing approach that preferentially selects landscapes with a low human footprint. The

prioritization is based on a target of 17% of global populations of 109 species of Neotropical

migratory birds.

Figure 4: Land sharing and land sparing scenario comparison. Prioritized areas across the

annual cycle, using a target of 17% of global populations of 109 species of Neotropical

migratory birds. The land-sparing scenario used the Human Footprint Index[15] as a constraint,

while the land-sharing scenario did not.

Extended Data Table 1. The 118 species of Neotropical migratory passerines considered for analysis and their range category. See Methods for range category descriptions. Species with an asterisk after the common name were left out of the analysis because of insufficient data for the stationary non-breeding range.

Common name	Scientific name	Range category
Acadian Flycatcher	*Empidonax virescens*	1
Alder Flycatcher*	*Empidonax alnorum*	1
American Redstart	*Setophaga ruticilla*	1
Ash-throated Flycatcher	*Myiarchus cinerascens*	1
Bay-breasted Warbler	*Setophaga castanea*	1
Baltimore Oriole	*Icterus galbula*	1
Bank Swallow	*Riparia riparia*	1
Barn Swallow	*Hirundo rustica*	2
Black-and-white Warbler	*Mniotilta varia*	1
Bell's Vireo	*Vireo bellii*	1
Black Swift*	*Cypseloides niger*	2
Blackburnian Warbler	*Setophaga fusca*	1
Black-billed Cuckoo*	*Coccyzus erythropthalmus*	1
Black-chinned Hummingbird	*Archilochus alexandri*	1
Black-capped Vireo	*Vireo atricapilla*	1
Black-headed Grosbeak	*Pheucticus melanocephalus*	2
Blackpoll Warbler	*Setophaga striata*	1
Blue Grosbeak	*Passerina caerulea*	2
Broad-tailed Hummingbird	*Selasphorus platycercus*	1
Black-throated Blue Warbler	*Setophaga caerulescens*	1
Black-throated Green Warbler	*Setophaga virens*	1
Black-throated Gray Warbler	*Setophaga nigrescens*	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	*Polioptila caerulea*	2
Blue-headed Vireo	*Vireo solitarius*	1
Bullock's Oriole	*Icterus bullockii*	1
Blue-winged Warbler	*Vermivora cyanoptera*	1
Calliope Hummingbird	*Selasphorus calliope*	1
Cape May Warbler	*Setophaga tigrina*	1
Canada Warbler	*Cardellina canadensis*	1
Cassin's Kingbird	*Tyrannus vociferans*	2
Cassin's Vireo	*Vireo cassinii*	1
Cave Swallow	*Petrochelidon fulva*	2
Cerulean Warbler	*Setophaga cerulea*	1
Chestnut-sided Warbler	*Setophaga pensylvanica*	1
Chimney Swift*	*Chaetura pelagica*	1
Cliff Swallow	*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*	1
Common Nighthawk*	*Chordeiles minor*	1
Common Yellowthroat	*Geothlypis trichas*	1
Connecticut Warbler*	*Oporornis agilis*	1

Cordilleran Flycatcher	*Empidonax occidentalis*	1
Dickcissel	*Spiza americana*	1
Dusky Flycatcher	*Empidonax oberholseri*	1
Eastern Kingbird	*Tyrannus tyrannus*	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	*Contopus virens*	1
Golden-cheeked Warbler	*Setophaga chrysoparia*	1
Golden-winged Warbler	*Vermivora chrysoptera*	1
Grace's Warbler	*Setophaga graciae*	2
Great Crested Flycatcher	*Myiarchus crinitus*	1
Gray Catbird	*Dumetella carolinensis*	1
Gray Vireo	*Vireo vicinior*	1
Gray-cheeked Thrush	*Catharus minimus*	1
Hammond's Flycatcher	*Empidonax hammondii*	1
Hepatic Tanager	*Piranga flava*	2
Hermit Warbler	*Setophaga occidentalis*	1
Hooded Oriole	*Icterus cucullatus*	2
Hooded Warbler	*Setophaga citrina*	1
Indigo Bunting	*Passerina cyanea*	1
Kentucky Warbler	*Geothlypis formosa*	1
Lazuli Bunting	*Passerina amoena*	1
Least Flycatcher	*Empidonax minimus*	1
Louisiana Waterthrush	*Parkesia motacilla*	1
Lucy's Warbler	*Oreothlypis luciae*	1
MacGillivray's Warbler	*Geothlypis tolmiei*	1
Magnolia Warbler	*Setophaga magnolia*	1
Mourning Warbler	*Geothlypis philadelphia*	1
Nashville Warbler	*Oreothlypis ruficapilla*	1
Northern Parula	*Setophaga americana*	1
Northern Waterthrush	*Parkesia noveboracensis*	1
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*	1
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*	1
Orchard Oriole	*Icterus spurius*	1
Orange-crowned Warbler	*Oreothlypis celata*	1
Ovenbird	*Seiurus aurocapilla*	1
Painted Bunting	*Passerina ciris*	1
Painted Redstart	*Myioborus pictus*	2
Palm Warbler	*Setophaga palmarum*	1
Pacific-slope Flycatcher	*Empidonax difficilis*	1
Philadelphia Vireo	*Vireo philadelphicus*	1
Plumbeous Vireo	*Vireo plumbeus*	1
Prairie Warbler	*Setophaga discolor*	1
Prothonotary Warbler	*Protonotaria citrea*	1
Purple Martin	*Progne subis*	1
Red-eyed Vireo	*Vireo olivaceus*	2
Red-faced Warbler	*Cardellina rubrifrons*	2

Rose-breasted Grosbeak	*Pheucticus ludovicianus*	1
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	*Archilochus colubris*	1
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	*Regulus calendula*	1
Rufous Hummingbird	*Selasphorus rufus*	1
Scarlet Tanager	*Piranga olivacea*	1
Scott's Oriole	*Icterus parisorum*	2
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher	*Tyrannus forficatus*	1
Summer Tanager	*Piranga rubra*	1
Swainson's Thrush	*Catharus ustulatus*	1
Swainson's Warbler	*Limnothlypis swainsonii*	1
Tennessee Warbler	*Oreothlypis peregrina*	1
Townsend's Warbler	*Setophaga townsendi*	1
Tree Swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*	1
Vaux's Swift	*Chaetura vauxi*	2
Veery*	*Catharus fuscescens*	1
Violet-green Swallow	*Tachycineta thalassina*	1
Virginia's Warbler	*Oreothlypis virginiae*	1
Warbling Vireo	*Vireo gilvus*	1
Western Kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*	1
Western Tanager	*Piranga ludoviciana*	1
Western Wood-Pewee	*Contopus sordidulus*	1
White-eyed Vireo	*Vireo griseus*	1
White-throated Swift	*Aeronautes saxatalis*	2
Willow Flycatcher*	*Empidonax traillii*	1
Wilson's Warbler	*Cardellina pusilla*	1
Worm-eating Warbler	*Helmitheros vermivorum*	1
Wood Thrush	*Hylocichla mustelina*	1
Yellow-breasted Chat	*Icteria virens*	1
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	*Empidonax flaviventris*	1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	*Coccyzus americanus*	1
Yellow Warbler	*Setophaga petechia*	2
Yellow-rumped Warbler	*Setophaga coronata*	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	*Vireo flavifrons*	1
Yellow-throated Warbler	*Setophaga dominica*	1

437 **Extended Data Table 2**. Summarized and individual land cover classes used to examine
438 selection of land cover types under single season vs. full annual cycle planning and for land
439 sharing vs sparing scenarios. See ref. 44 for further descriptions of the individual land cover
440 classes.

Summary class	Individual classes
Cropland/Mosaic Cropland	Cropland/rainfed
Cropland/Mosaic Cropland	Cropland, irrigated or post-flooding
Cropland/Mosaic Cropland	Mosaic cropland (>50%) / natural vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (<50%)
Cropland/Mosaic Cropland	Mosaic natural vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (>50%) / cropland (<50%)
Grassland	Herbaceous cover
Grassland	Grassland
Urban areas	Urban areas
Broadleaf Deciduous Forest	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, closed to open (>15%)
Broadleaf Deciduous Forest	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, closed (>40%) (61)
Broadleaf Deciduous Forest	Tree cover, broadleaved, deciduous, open (15-40%) (62)
Broadleaf Evergreen Forest	Tree cover, broadleaved, evergreen, closed to open (>15%)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, closed to open (>15%)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, closed (>40%) (71)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, evergreen, open (15-40%) (72)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, closed to open (>15%)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, closed (>40%) (81)
Needleleaf Forest	Tree cover, needleleaved, deciduous, open (15-40%) (82)
Mixed Forest	Tree cover, mixed leaf type (broadleaved and needleleaved)
Mosaic Forest	Mosaic tree and shrub (>50%) / herbaceous cover (<50%)
Mosaic Forest	Mosaic herbaceous cover (>50%) / tree and shrub (<50%)
Flooded Forest	Tree cover, flooded, fresh or brakish water
Flooded Forest	Tree cover, flooded, saline water
Shrubland	Shrubland
Shrubland	Shrubland evergreen
Shrubland	Shrubland deciduous
Wetland	Shrub or herbaceous cover, flooded, fresh/saline/brackish water
Barren	Lichens and mosses
Barren	Sparse vegetation (tree, shrub, herbaceous cover) (<15%)
Barren	Bare areas
Barren	Consolidated bare areas
Barren	Unconsolidated bare areas

444 **Fig S1**. Human footprint estimated in 2009[15].

445