

# Wings Over Western Waters

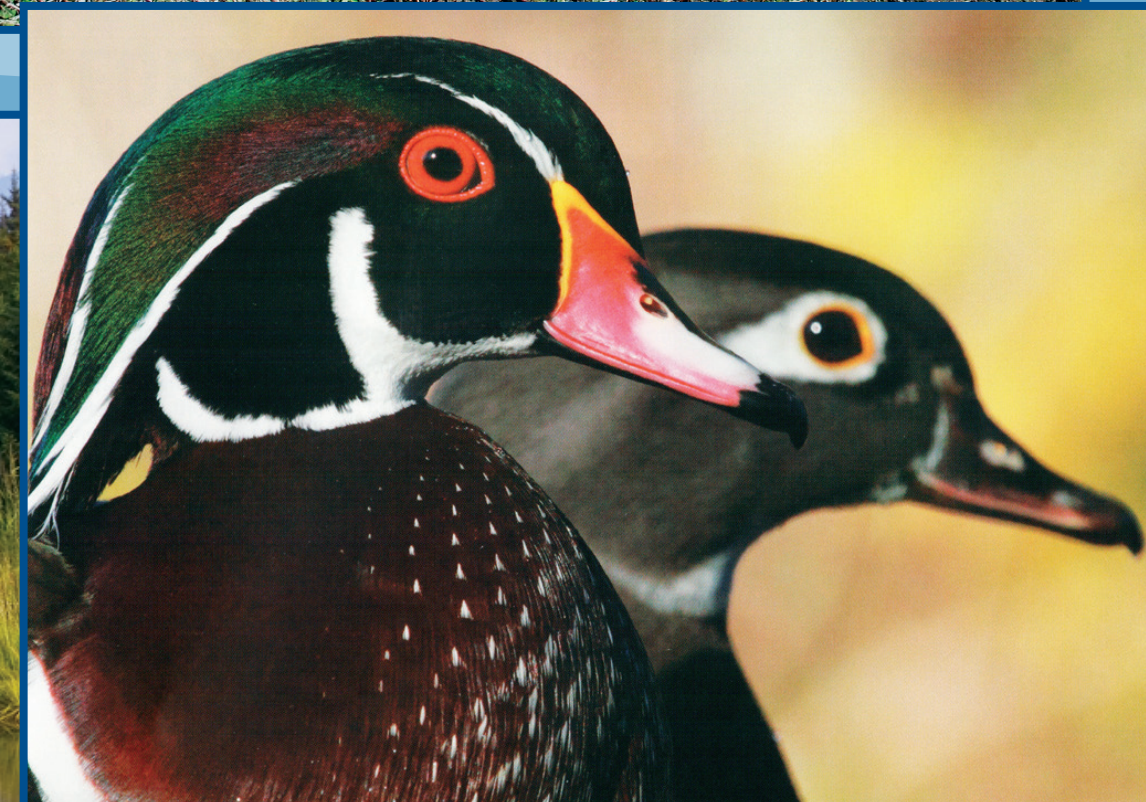
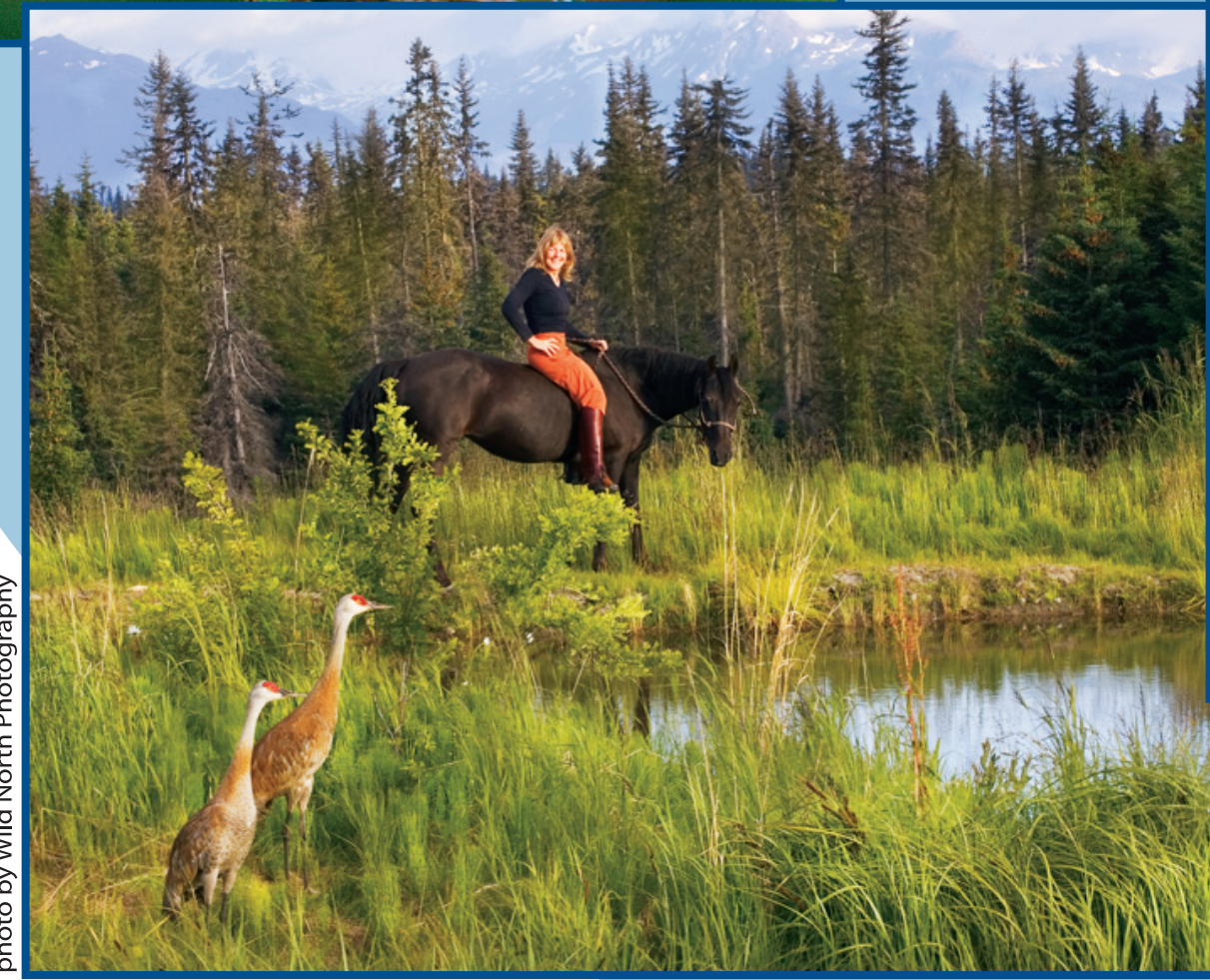
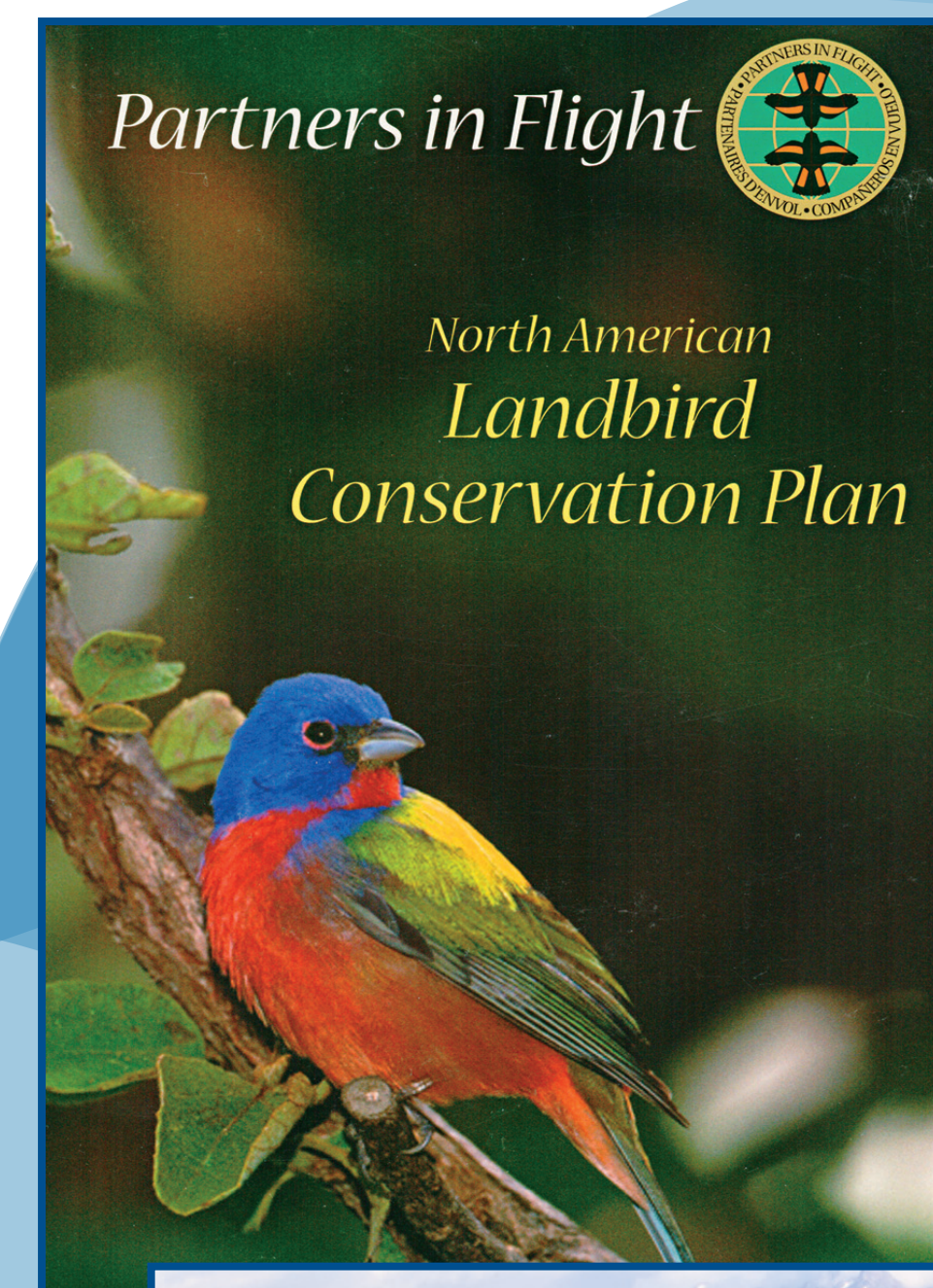
The WINGS project originated to work on a conservation problem across the western states.

Strategic avian conservation depends on protection of priority privately-owned wetland & riparian habitats, but identifying those specific habitats can be challenging.

How can Land Trusts better use Avian Conservation Plans & other Avian Conservation Information?

## Migratory Birds

- A number of migratory bird species in the western hemisphere are experiencing population declines. Habitat degradation & change throughout the western flyways is a major contributing factor to these declines.
- The millions of acres of breeding, stopover & wintering habitat in the Western states, including Alaska, are critical to supporting avian species of concern.
- A suite of hemispheric, national, state & local bird conservation plans include habitat conservation & protection goals that can be used to identify important lands for conservation.



## Land Trusts

- Over 100 avian species have 50% or more of their U.S. breeding distribution on private land (The State of the Birds 2013).
- Non-profit land trusts deliver habitat protection on private lands through the purchase or donation of permanent conservation easements. Approximately 37 million acres have been protected nationwide.
- Over 270 national, state, & local land trusts are working to conserve riparian & wetland habitats on privately-owned lands in the Western U.S. & Alaska.
- The land trust community, many of whom are not biologists, often lacks a clear & straightforward way to use the myriad of bird conservation plans to inform project development & implementation.

Land trusts per state:  
(including national programs)

14

## What Will Wings Do?

- WINGS is already underway. In 2012, several land trusts, joint ventures, & members of the bird conservation community came together to foster closer partnerships & communication.
- Next, WINGS will conduct a needs assessment of 270+ land trusts in the West to see how bird conservation fits into their planning & on-the-ground protection efforts.

## WILL YOU JOIN US?

- We are seeking input & participation from the bird conservation & land trust communities.
- Land trusts can help by participating in the needs assessment.
- Bird conservation organizations can help by locating your local land trust & opening the dialogue about bird conservation!

PROJECT COORDINATORS:



Kachemak Heritage Land Trust

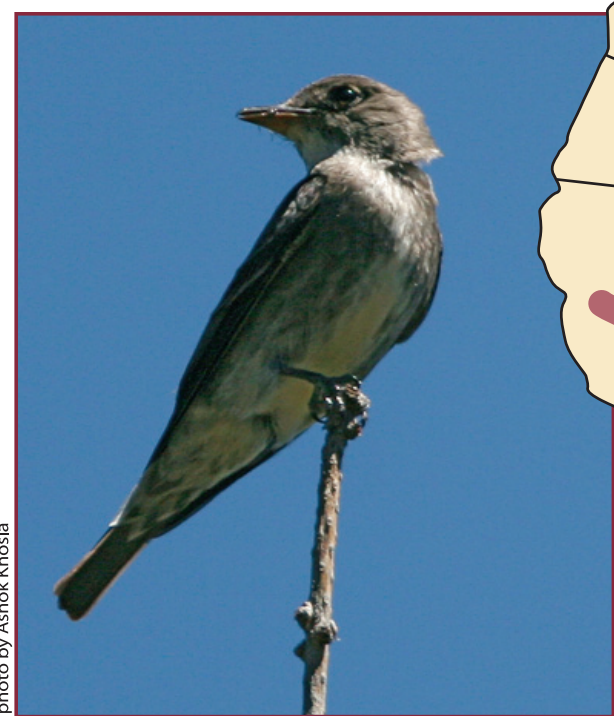
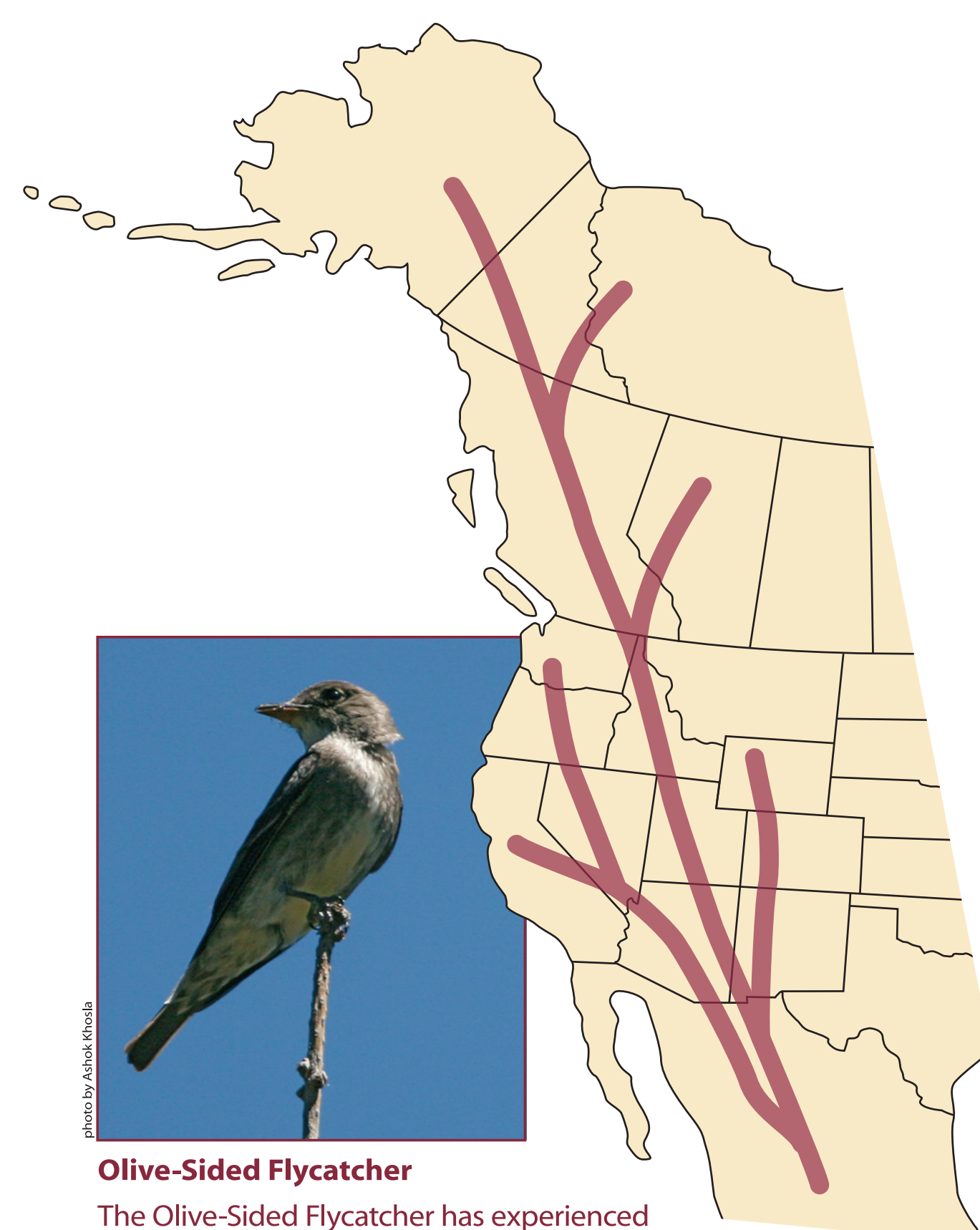


PARTNERS & FINANCIAL SPONSORS:



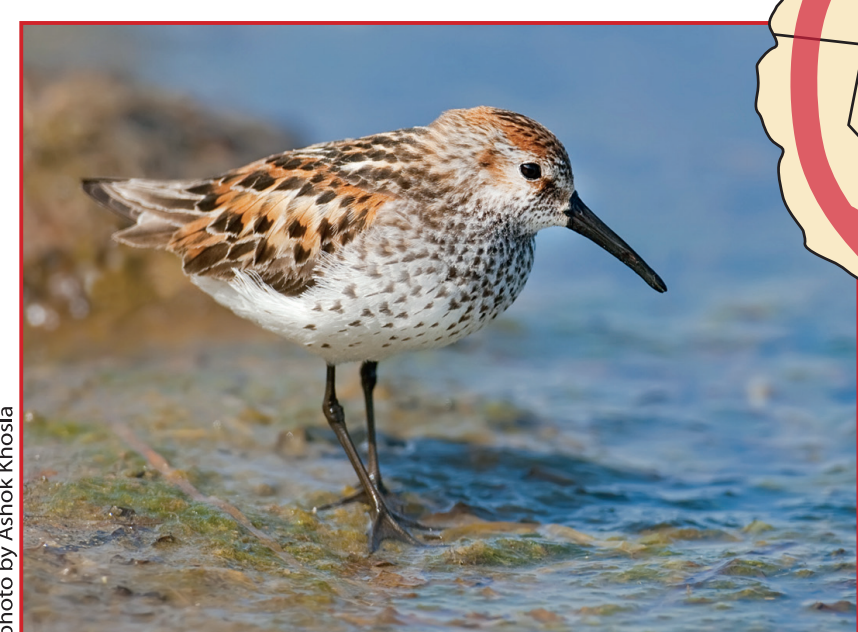
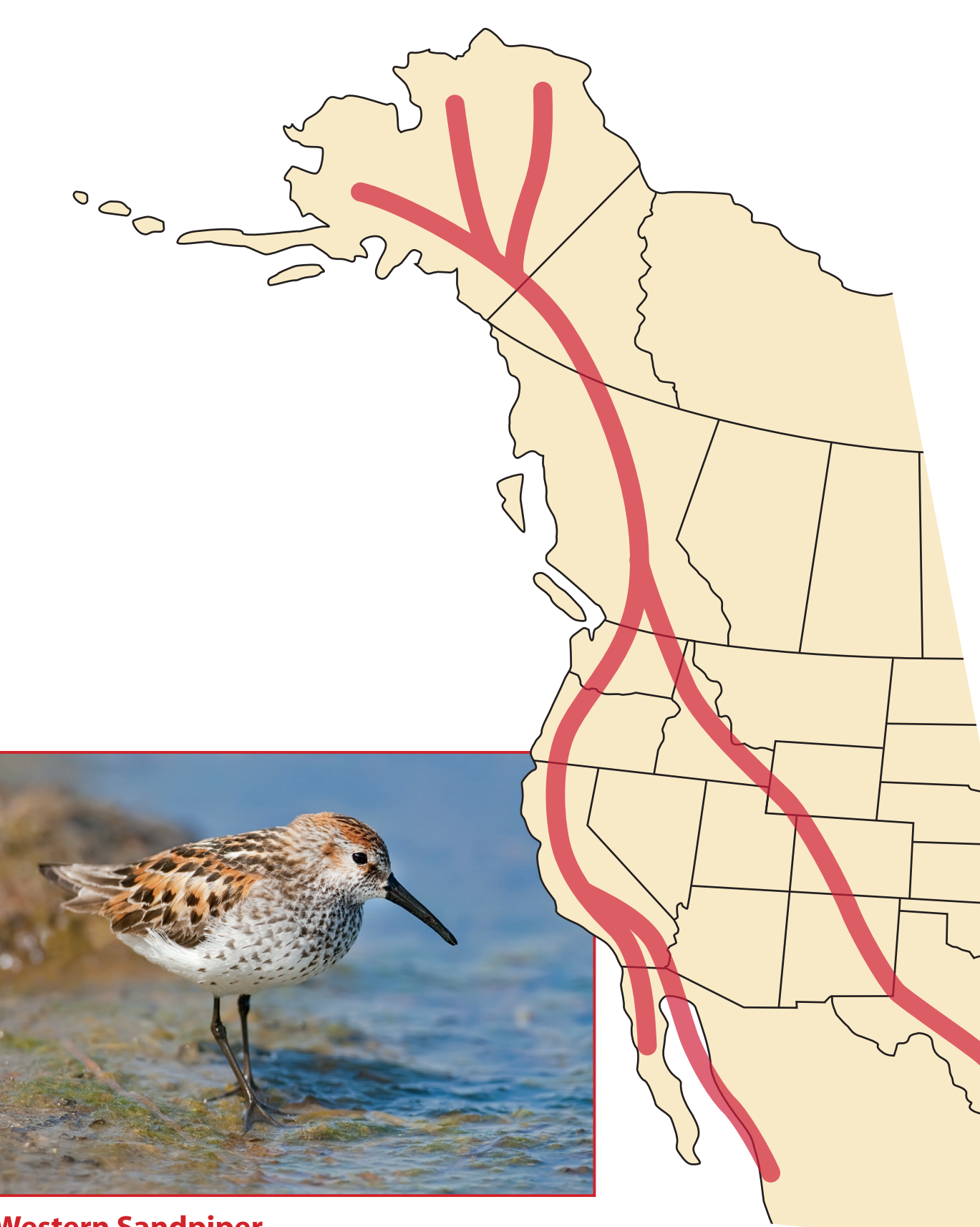
INTERMOUNTAIN WEST  
JOINT VENTURE

conserving habitat through partnerships



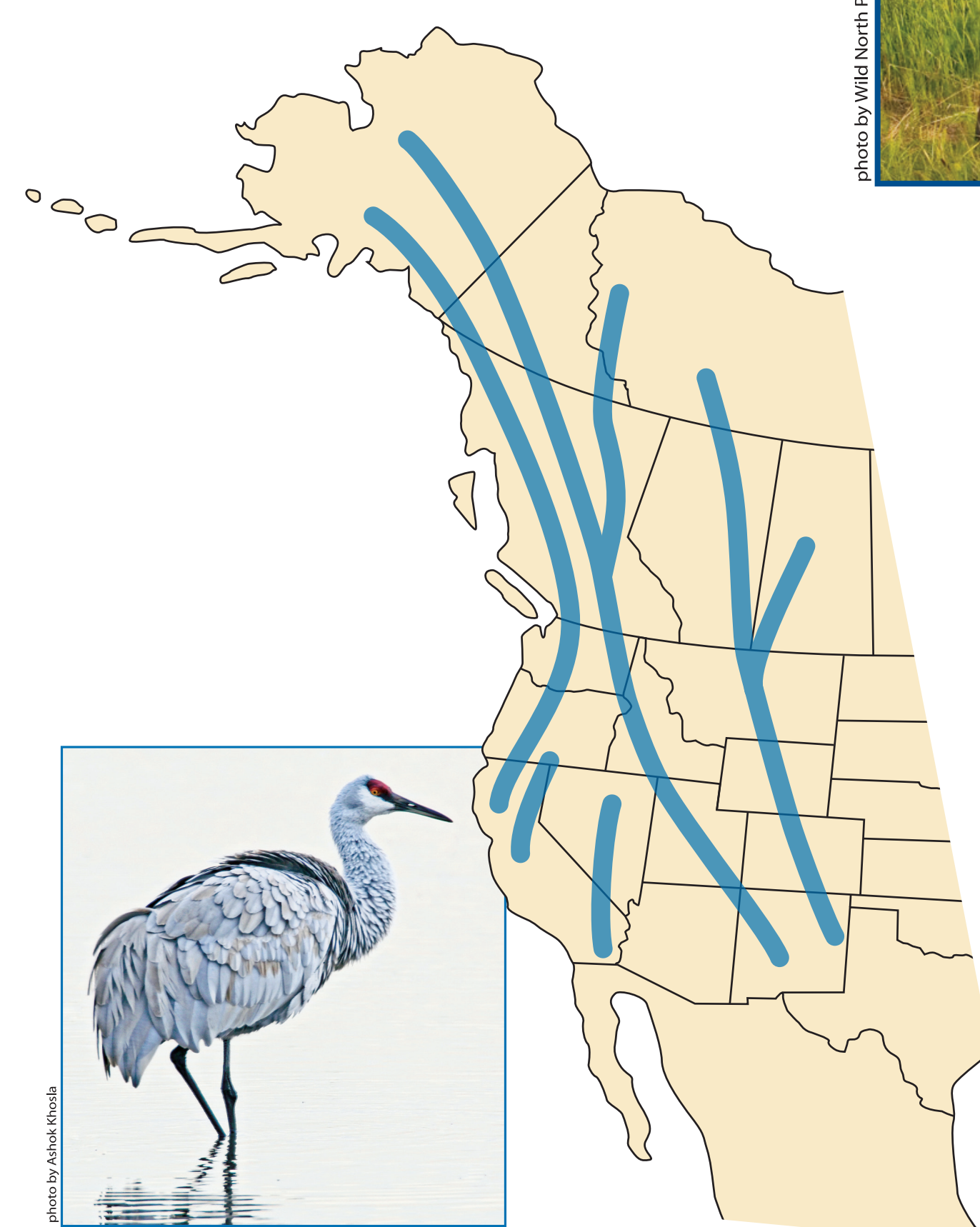
Olive-Sided Flycatcher

The Olive-Sided Flycatcher has experienced significant population declines throughout its range in the last 30 years & is listed as a Sensitive Species or Species of Concern by several federal & state agencies & conservation groups.



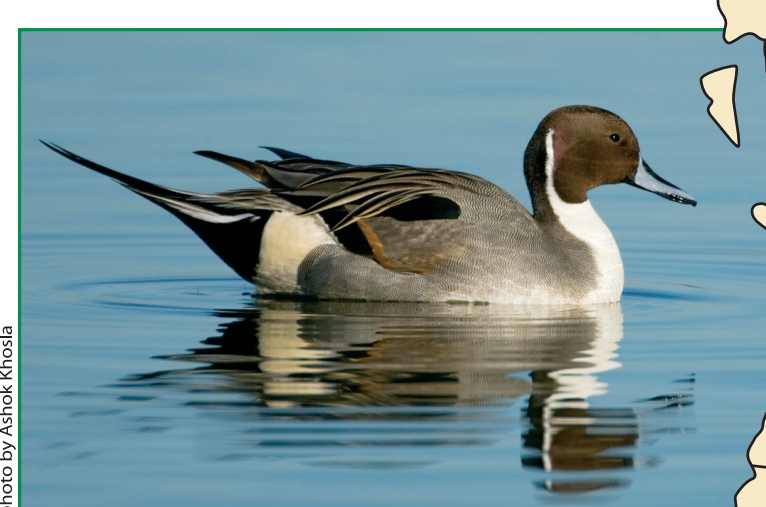
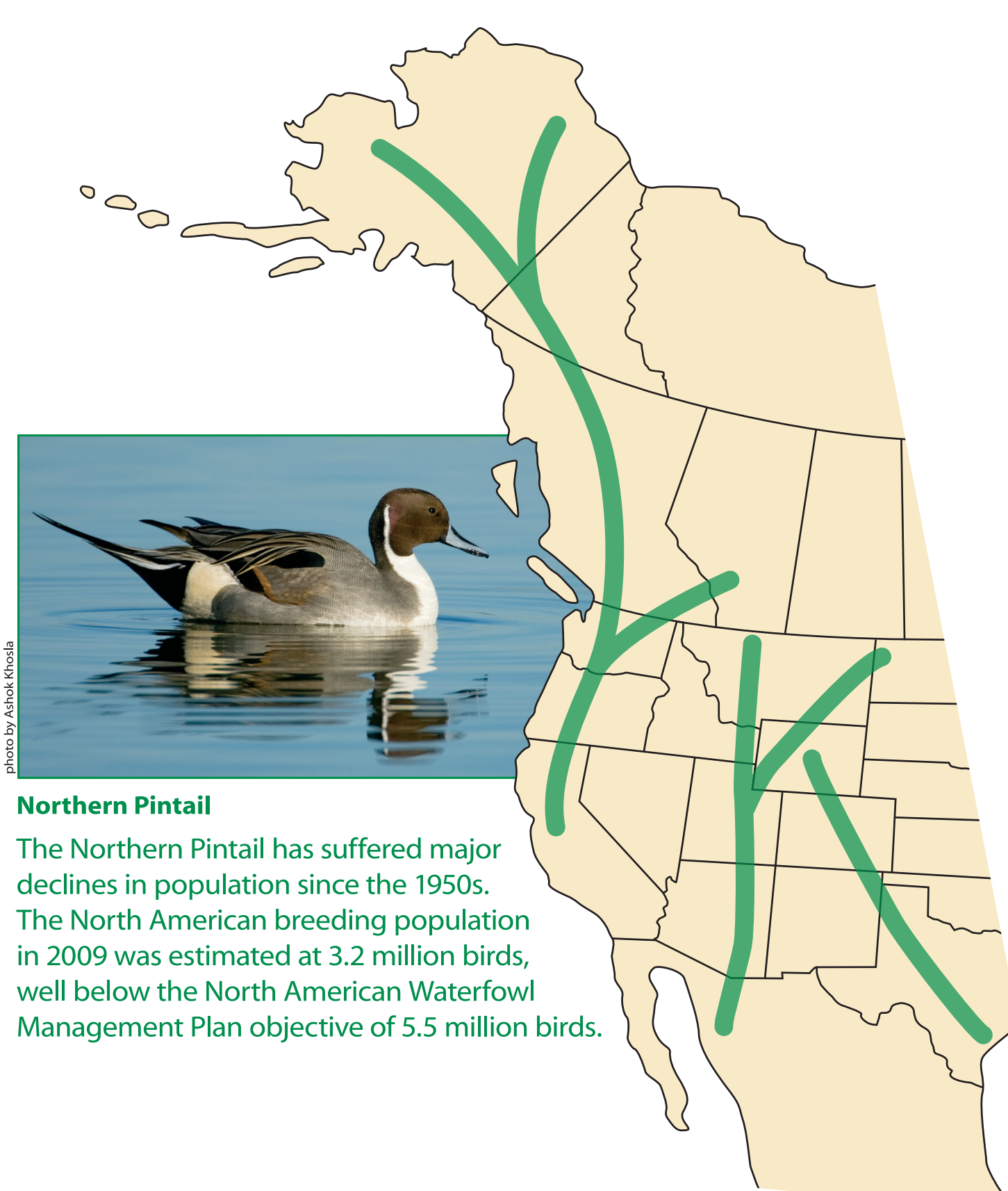
Western Sandpiper

"The Western Sandpiper warrants conservation planning because its population trends & limiting factors are poorly understood, their tendency to concentrate in a limited number of locations during migration & winter suggest a vulnerability to a variety of factors, & significant habitat loss or degradation is occurring in much of its non-breeding range." Conservation Plan for the Western Sandpiper, February 2010



Sandhill Crane

Generally, six subspecies of Sandhill Crane are recognized, including three subspecies that are migratory: Lesser, Canadian, & Greater. All three of these subspecies utilize different areas of the Western United States. The Greater Sandhill Crane is listed as a Priority Waterbird Species & an umbrella species by the Intermountain West Joint Venture.



Northern Pintail

The Northern Pintail has suffered major declines in population since the 1950s. The North American breeding population in 2009 was estimated at 3.2 million birds, well below the North American Waterfowl Management Plan objective of 5.5 million birds.