

A large flock of Red-winged Blackbirds is captured in flight against a warm, golden background. The birds are black with a distinctive red and yellow patch on their wings. They are scattered across the frame, with many in the foreground and others further back, creating a sense of depth and movement. The background is a soft, out-of-focus golden light, possibly from a setting or rising sun, which illuminates the scene and highlights the birds' silhouettes and wing patterns.

Bird City Texas Certification

YVETTE STEWART, AUDUBON TEXAS

Bird City Texas

2015-2016



- **Conversations with WI and PA**
- **Audubon TX and TPWD Urban Biologists**
- **Steering committee**

2017-2018



- **Stakeholder meeting and survey municipalities**
- **Criteria finalized, pilot year**

2019-present

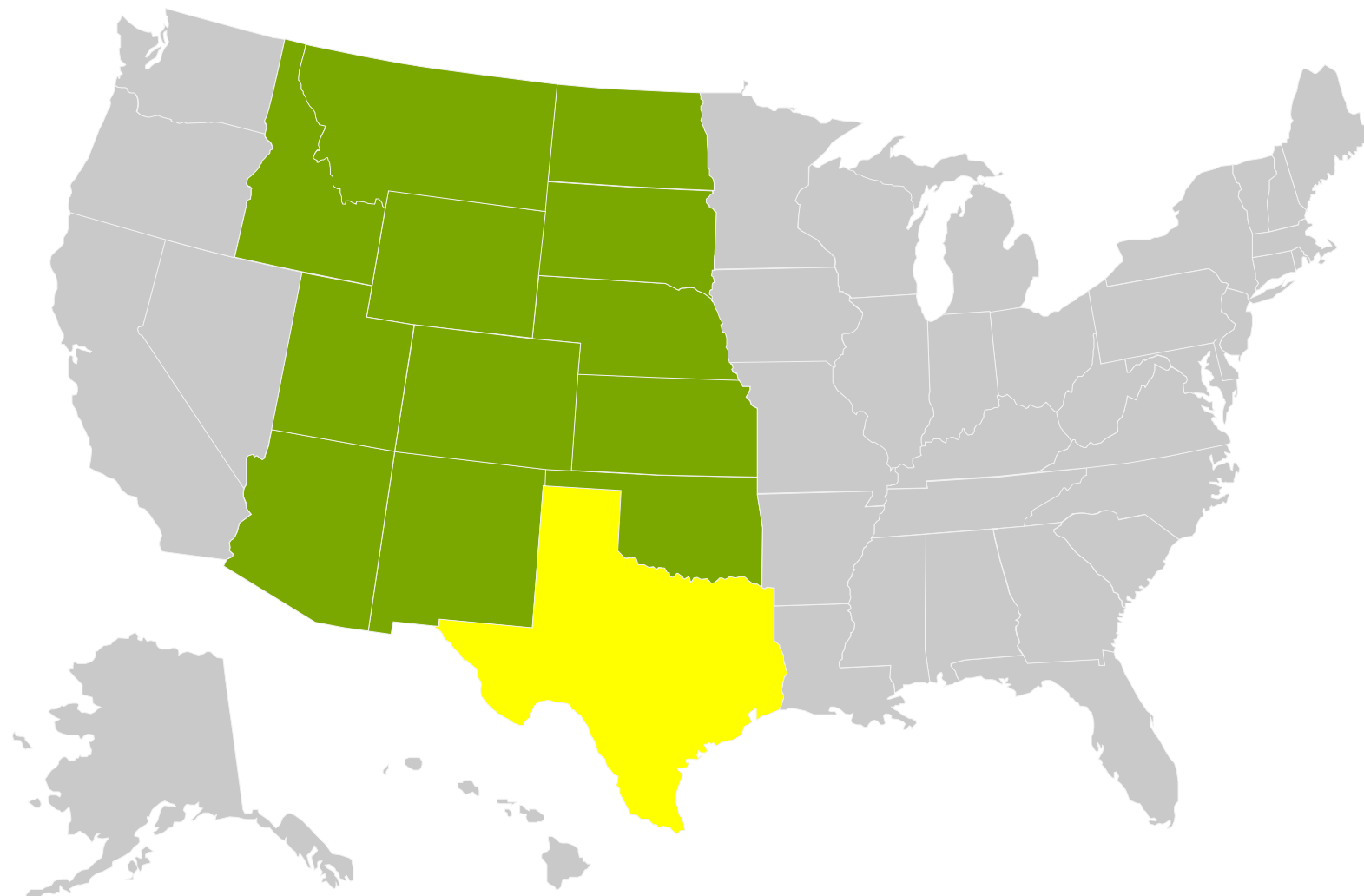


- **Launched August 2019**
- **8 communities**
- **Going into our first round of re-certs**

Central Flyway

650+ species

98.5% of all migratory warblers pass through



Flyways of the Americas

Each year, billions of migratory birds follow these flyways from wintering to breeding grounds and back again.



Shorebirds



Land birds



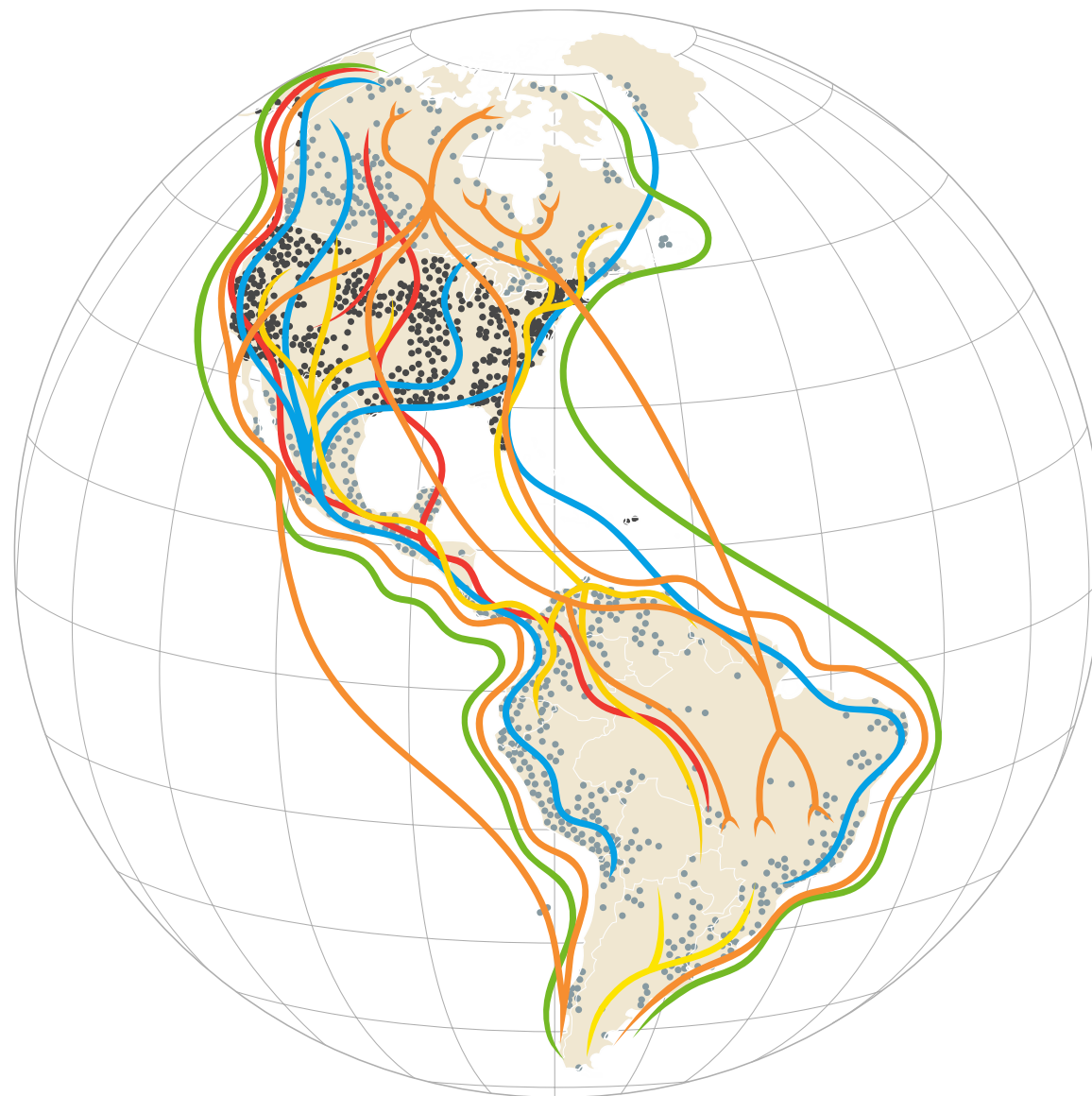
Seabirds



Raptors



Waterfowl



What is a “Bird City”?



9 required
actions

17 criteria from
48 options

5 community
8 habitat
4 threat

What Characterizes A “Bird City”?

Communities of any
size

Makes management
decisions based on
science

Makes sustainable
and long-term
decisions

Engages with its
birding and naturalist
communities

Links economic
success to wildlife by
promoting nature-
based tourism

Strives to reduce its
ecological footprint

Bird City Texas Communities

Dallas – 2020

Houston – 2020

San Antonio – 2021

Galveston – 2021

Bastrop – 2020

Port Aransas – 2020

Surfside Beach – 2021

**Dripping Springs -
2022**

What Actions Does A “Bird City” Take?

Prioritizes wildlife habitat in planning decisions

Creates landscape-level impact whenever possible

Creates, manages wildlife habitat, large and small

Works across departments to prioritize healthy wildlife habitats

Develops permanent policies that prioritize habitat management

Identifies and brands itself to include birds and images of nature

What is **NOT**
a “Bird City”?

City passes ordinance prohibiting
the killing or trapping of birds

City installs bird feeders at park

Council plants a 5x5 pollinator
garden at City Hall

Long-term trends vs. Healthy Community

76 responses from 5 presentations

- Fear of loss, sprawl
- Fear of unsupported population booms
- Always more green space
- Smart management of community resources





Program Expectations

- **Partnership**
- **SMARTIE**
- **More than one go**



Required Actions

R5 – cats indoors education

R6 – lighting education for business and residents

R7 – bird collision education



Community Engagement

- 1b – Long-term community monitoring
- 1h – Engage public parks and/or museums
- 1l – Sponsor annual bird festival



Habitat Enhancement and Protection

- 2e – Incentivize group participation in restoration
- 2h – community approved native plant list
- 2s – review municipal development plans



Safer Spaces for Birds

3c – Lights out

3e – IPMs

3i – Prohibit feeding of ducks

Value of a Bird

USFWS study

107 billion and
building

Employment in Green
Jobs

Mental health booster





Value of a Bird

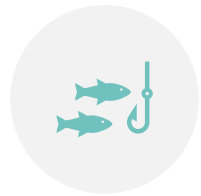
Surfside (2021 certified)

500 visitors in 10 days

Santa Ana NWF

**Visitors from across the
country**

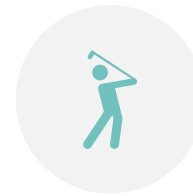
Neighborhood Nature is Valuable



Detention and
retention ponds



Cemeteries



Golf courses



Corporate and
university
campuses



Neighborhood
greenbelts



River corridors

Thank You!

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