



# Southern Company Power of Flight Bird Conservation Program

## About the Program

The Power of Flight Program is a partnership among Southern Company, its four operating companies - Alabama Power, Georgia Power, Gulf Power, and Mississippi Power - and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. The goal of the program is to conserve birds characteristic of the southern U.S. through habitat restoration and environmental education.

Launched in 2003, the program is the largest public/private funding effort for bird conservation in the South. Each partner contributes \$300,000 annually to this 10-year partnership, with the combined \$600,000 made available through a competitive grants program. Grantees match all awards on at least a one-to-one basis. In addition, Southern Company provides \$60,000 annually to support the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's bird conservation efforts.



Projects of interest include habitat restoration and management; species conservation through implementation of priority management actions; environmental education that targets urban or underserved youth; and applied research with direct implications for management and conservation.

## Funding Priorities

- Addressing conservation needs of species characteristic of the southern U.S. Focal species include red-cockaded woodpecker, northern bobwhite quail, coastal waterbirds, and other species characteristic of the South (e.g., painted bunting, swallow-tailed kite, etc.)
- Implementing activities that achieve goals of regional conservation plans
- Promoting collaborative relationships or enhancing existing partnerships
- Taking actions that result in direct and measurable conservation benefits



## Accomplishments to Date (Anticipated)

- Awarded 62 grants to 35 different conservation organizations and agencies
- Nearly \$4.2 million dedicated in Southern Company/National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funds
- Nearly \$8 million in grantee match
- Total on-the-ground impact of more than \$12.1 million
- Funded 19 multi-state projects, 4 projects in Alabama, 14 projects in Florida, 16 projects in Georgia, and 9 projects in Mississippi
- More than 350,000 acres restored or enhanced
- More than 1.5 million people received environmental education messages



# 2010 Power of Flight Grants

## ***Habitat Conservation***

- Alabama Wildlife Federation received \$194,000 to establish a minimum of 100 acres of native warm season grass habitat on 10 demonstration sites in high priority areas of National Bird Conservation Initiative Bird Conservation Regions in Alabama. This project will help break down native warm season grass establishment barriers and increase the number, availability, and knowledge base of resource professionals, land managers, and contractors necessary to achieve increases in native warm season grass habitat.
- National Wild Turkey Federation received \$30,770 to establish and maintain Golden-winged Warbler habitat through commercial timber thinning, timber stand improvement, herbicide stump treatment, non-native invasive species eradication, native warm season grass establishment, road and ditch improvements, and prescribed burning. This project will benefit a total 115 acres.

## ***Species Conservation***

- Avian Research and Conservation Institute received \$66,015 to produce a range-wide strategic plan for recovery of the remnant, steadily-declining population of Southeastern American Kestrel. This plan will prioritize specific sites; advise and coordinate management to improve habitat and provide nesting opportunities; perform and evaluate translocations; and select reintroduction sites to establish captive-reared falcons.
- Milliken Forestry Company received an additional \$75,468 as part of a five-year grant to accelerate translocation efforts for the red-cockaded woodpecker over a five-year period. Funds are supporting a biologist on the Apalachicola National Forest in Florida who monitors potential donor families, with the goal of increasing from 20 to 40 the number of woodpeckers available for translocation each year. This is a continuation of a grant formerly made to the US Fish & Wildlife Service over several years.
- Operation Migration USA received an additional \$58,616 as part of a three-year grant to increase the number of whooping cranes led south each year by ultralight aircraft from Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge in Florida. Through this award increase Operation Migration will assemble 6 staff member to condition, train, and care for Whooping cranes over the summer; imprint and condition up to 12 whooping cranes for southward migration in the fall; and conduct actual southward migration from Wisconsin to Florida.

Established by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) sustains, restores and enhances the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, it has awarded 10,800 grants to 3,700 organizations and leveraged \$490 million in federal funds into \$1.6 billion for on-the-ground conservation.