



Why We Band American Woodcock

AMERICAN WOODCOCK MANAGEMENT GOAL

Maintain a healthy, sustainable population of American woodcock while supporting hunting and conservation opportunities across their range.

Woodcock in Louisiana

- Louisiana is the most important wintering area for woodcock.
- There are more woodcock hunters in Louisiana than any other southern state.

American Woodcock Population and Distribution

- American Woodcock are managed in two regions in the United States: Eastern and Central
 - Louisiana is in the Central Region.
- The American woodcock Singing-ground Survey (SGS) was developed to provide an index to monitor changes in abundance, and used to assess the status of the populations.
 - Populations have shown long-term declines in breeding abundance



Woodcock breed in the northern US and Canada and winter primarily in the southern US



Why We Band American Woodcock

- Banding provides critical data to study survival, migration timing, routes, and habitat use on the wintering grounds.
- Louisiana's winter banding contributes to national research on how winter habitat conditions influence survival and migration success.
- Banding also supports telemetry projects that reveal detailed migration paths, stopover sites, and behavior.

Why Winter Banding in Louisiana is Important

- Louisiana has produced over 3,100 GPS locations from 90 woodcock and banded over 3,900 woodcock since 2011.
 - Highest number of wintering-ground data points in the nation.
- Information from Louisiana guides habitat management and conservation planning across the Southeast.
- Banding and telemetry efforts help assess how migration timing affects the Singing-ground Survey and hunting season timing.

How Banding Data are Used

- Banding helps estimate the effects of harvest on American woodcock in Louisiana
- Annual band recoveries and telemetry results inform us of:
 - Harvest rate by age class (HY, AHY)
 - Migration connectivity and timing
 - Habitat selection on wintering grounds

