

# 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

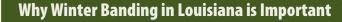


Woodcock breed in the northern US and Canada and winter primarily in the southern US



### **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.





- 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 Singingground 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