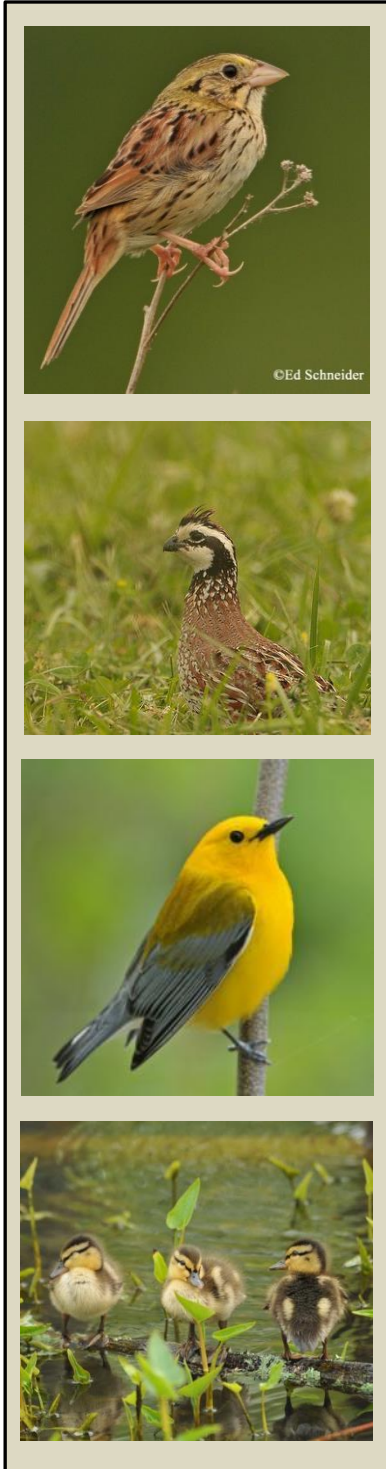


Jackson Purchase Initiative

A Proposed Flagship Project of the East Gulf Coastal Plain Joint Venture in Kentucky



Purpose

- Advance conservation of priority habitats for migratory birds in the Jackson Purchase region of western Kentucky;
- Demonstrate the value of the Joint Venture by developing partnerships and attracting new collaborators and additional funding;
- Demonstrate the value of bird conservation partnerships to the citizens of Kentucky.

Geography

Portions of the westernmost 8 counties of Kentucky are commonly called the Jackson Purchase or Purchase Region. It is bounded on the west and north by the Mississippi and Ohio River floodplains, Kentucky Lake to the east, and the Tennessee state line to the south. The landscape is characterized by a mosaic of agriculture, upland and bottomland hardwood forests, and native grasslands.



Jackson Purchase of Kentucky.

Public and Private Lands Opportunities

Important public lands in the area include West Kentucky WMA, Kaler Bottoms WMA, Obion Creek State Nature Preserve, and Clark's River National Wildlife Refuge. Key public lands in adjacent Joint Ventures in close proximity include Ballard County WMA, Obion Creek WMA, Doug Travis WMA, and the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area. On private lands, Conservation Reserve Program enrollment has been high in Graves County. The Wetlands Reserve Program has been valuable in restoring emergent and forested wetlands in proximity to important public land holdings.

Potential Partners

- ❖ KY Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Resources
- ❖ U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- ❖ Natural Resources Conservation Service
- ❖ The Nature Conservancy
- ❖ National Wild Turkey Federation
- ❖ National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative
- ❖ Tennessee Valley Authority
- ❖ Murray State University
- ❖ University of Kentucky



Priority Habitats

The highest priority of this effort is to protect, conserve, and restore wetlands and native warm season grasses for the benefit of migratory birds, and resident birds and associated wildlife.

Conservation Challenges

- ❖ Logistical challenges for prescribed fire and habitat management
- ❖ Identifying and securing matching funds for high priority acquisitions
- ❖ Coordination and cooperation among resource management organizations

Conservation Opportunities and Needs

- ❖ Potential CRP mid-contract management
- ❖ Conversion of fescue to native warm season grasses
- ❖ Protection of bottomland hardwoods and emergent wetlands through fee title or conservation easement
- ❖ Restoration of degraded wetlands
- ❖ Building additional capacity for prescribed fire
- ❖ Development of wildlife BMPs on transmission and pipeline right of ways

For More Information

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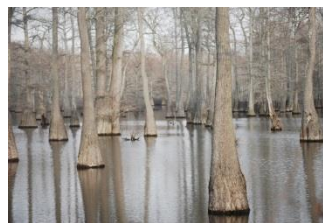
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*Native Prairie Restoration,
USFWS*



*Native Warm Season
Grasses, Scott Somershoe*



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*Eastern Meadowlark, Ed
Schneider*