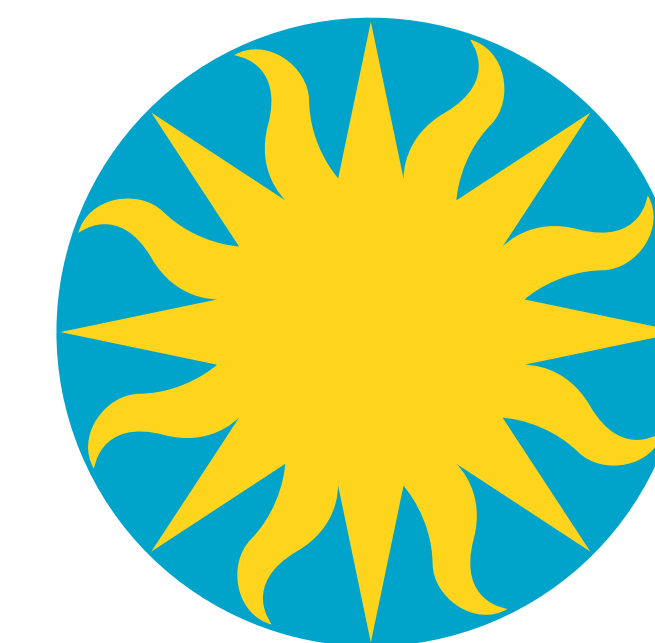




Promoting Community Engagement in Migratory Bird Journeys through Story Maps

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What Is Migratory Connectivity?

The geographic linking of individuals and populations between one life cycle stage and another

- Migration is a defining phenomenon in the natural world. Among migrants, birds are the record-setters.
- Sadly, more than 40% of the world's 2,000 migratory bird species are declining. In order to identify and prevent the causes of decline, we need to know where species spend their time.
- Many people are not aware of the plight of migratory birds or the role that humans play in their protection

The Migratory Connectivity Project

- Aims to understand the migratory patterns of birds
- Uses research in conservation planning and public policy
- Connects people across borders through education about the migratory animals that we share

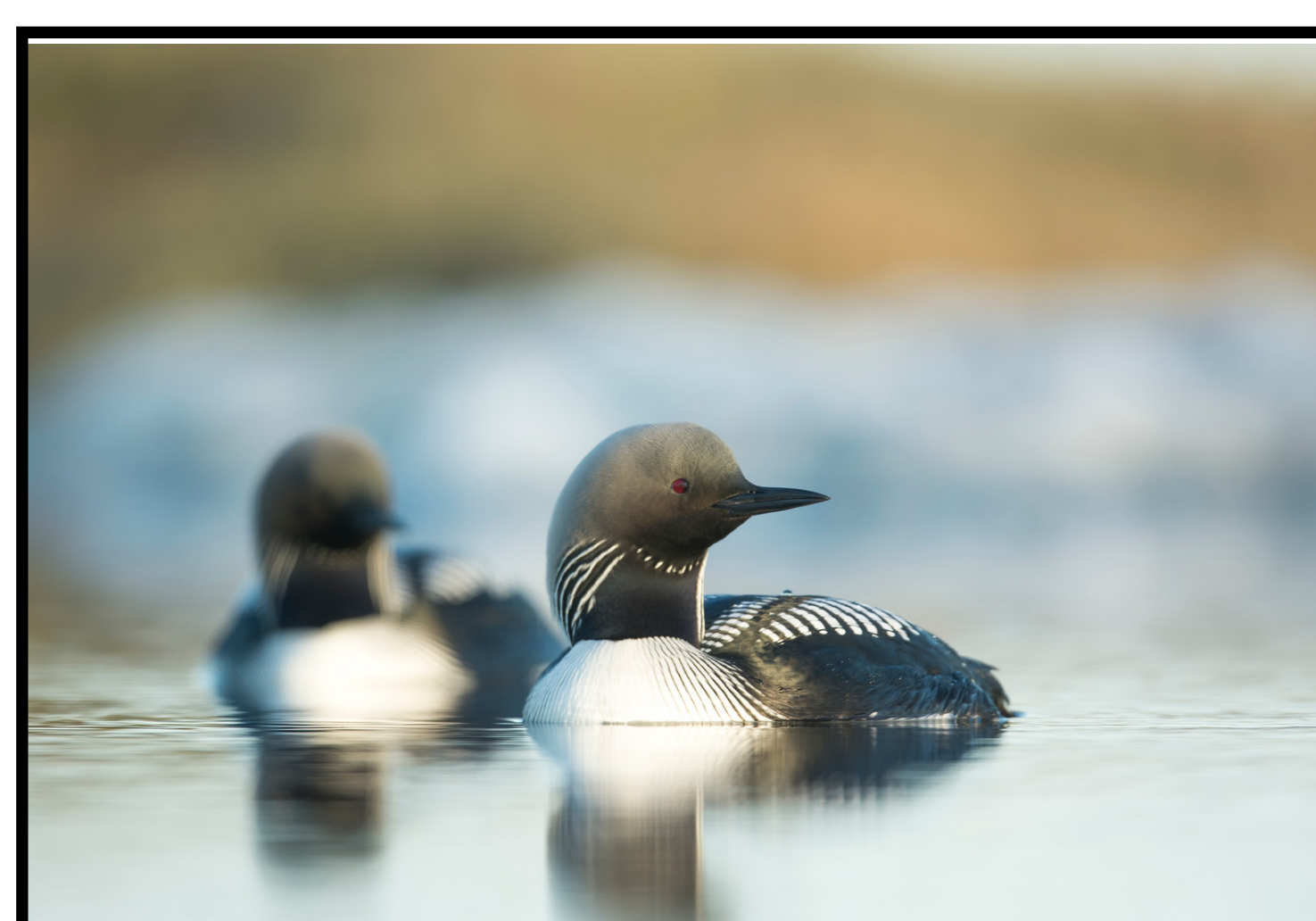
Species of Interest

The Migratory Connectivity Project (MCP) tracks many bird species. For this project, we chose to focus on two.

Long-billed Curlew



Pacific Loon

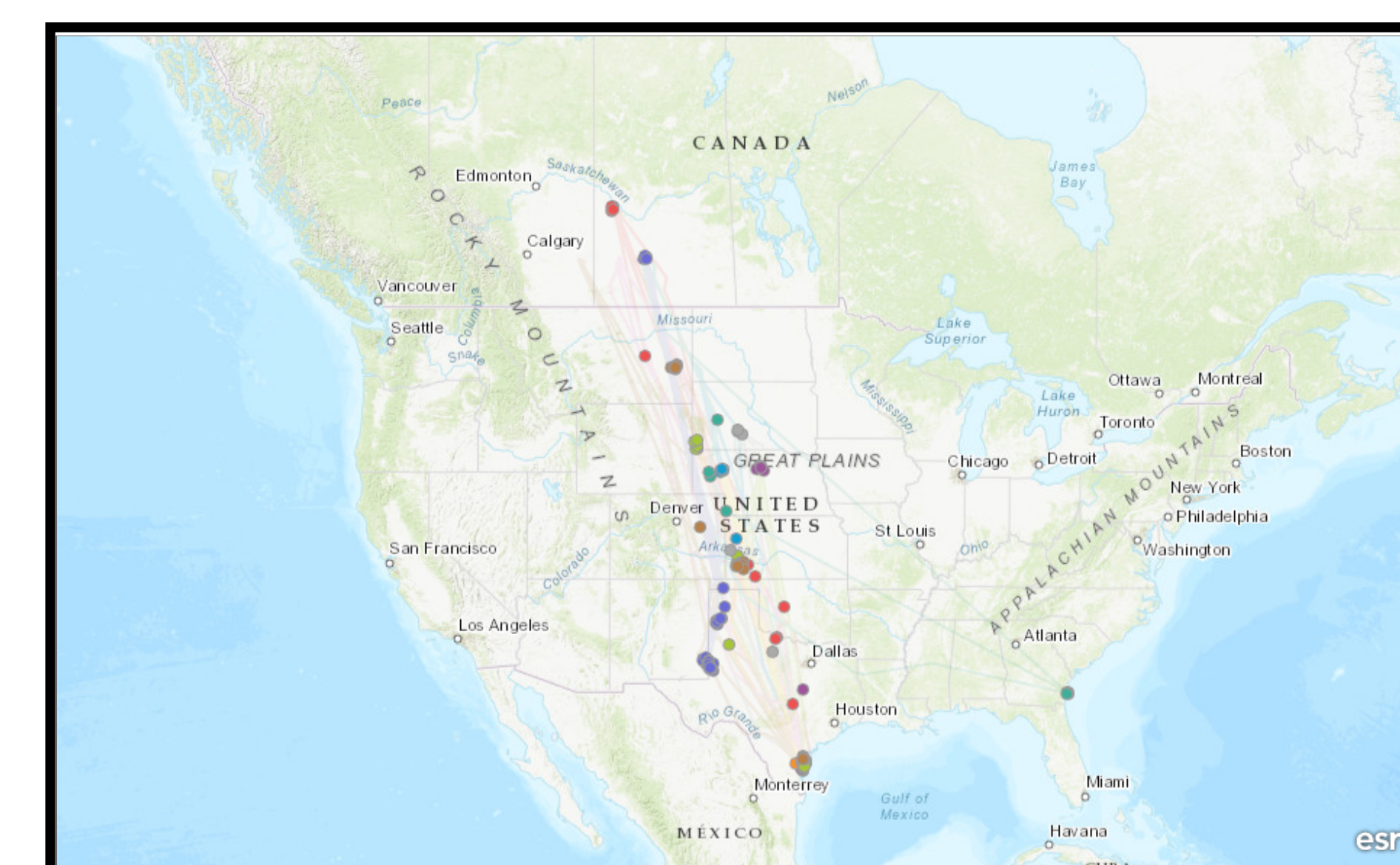


Methods

For the species relevant to this project, MCP used satellite tags to track bird migration. Locations on tagged birds were collected at regular intervals and recorded.

We used the data from the satellite tags to map out the bird's migratory journey and observe the major stopovers thorough the journey. **Figure 1.**

Figure 1. Long-billed Curlew migration stretches from Texas to Canada. Each color represents a distinct individual.



The mapping software ArcGIS was used to create story maps for each species of interest. An introductory story map was also created in order to introduce the public to the Migratory Connectivity Project, which conducted the capture and tracking of these birds.

Discussion

- Story maps are a way for everyday people to be connected across borders through education about the migratory animals we share.
- The Long-billed Curlew can be observed right here in Texas, but we also share it with our Canadian neighbors.
- The Pacific Loon makes extremely long migrations and is shared between the US, Canada, Mexico, Japan, Russia, and the Koreans.
- The MCP has collected years' worth of tracking data, and observed important patterns of bird migration. Story maps are a good way to share that with those outside of the scientific community.