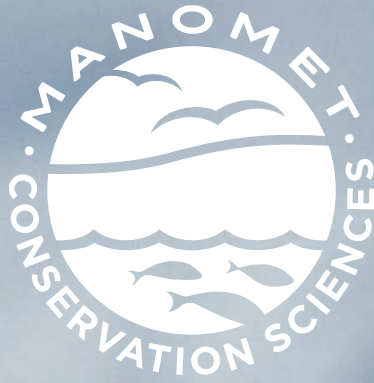
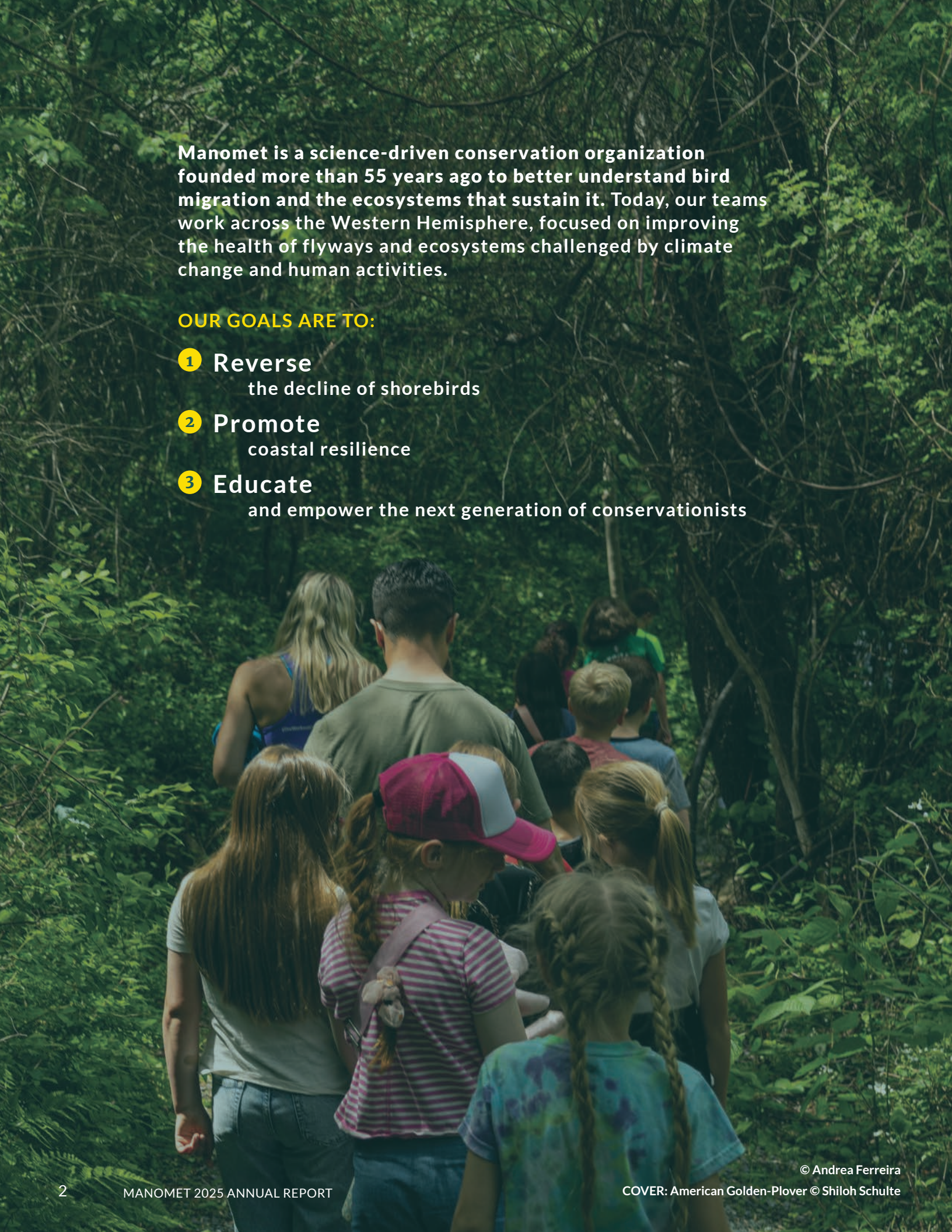




ANNUAL REPORT

2025





Manomet is a science-driven conservation organization founded more than 55 years ago to better understand bird migration and the ecosystems that sustain it. Today, our teams work across the Western Hemisphere, focused on improving the health of flyways and ecosystems challenged by climate change and human activities.

OUR GOALS ARE TO:

- 1 Reverse**
the decline of shorebirds
- 2 Promote**
coastal resilience
- 3 Educate**
and empower the next generation of conservationists

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to present Manomet Conservation Sciences' 2025 Annual Report. At Manomet, we believe that lasting conservation depends on science, collaboration, and the courage to keep learning and adapting. Throughout this report, you'll see how our work this year reflects that belief.

Across the hemisphere, we are advancing conservation by applying research to practical solutions. We are deepening our understanding of the habitats migratory birds depend on, strengthening the partnerships that make conservation possible, and applying what we learn to protect more species in more places. From the Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, and from classrooms to coastal communities, Manomet is helping build a more durable future for birds, habitats, and people.

This year, we continued to expand our work in ways that are both strategic and hopeful. On Cape Cod, we launched new research on Ruddy Turnstones and the critical stopover sites they rely on during migration. In Maine, we grew our efforts to understand and address the threats facing eelgrass beds – essential underwater nurseries for marine life. Through our education work, including new professional learning opportunities for teachers, we are extending the reach of conservation by equipping educators to inspire our next generation.

We are also building on our success. Lessons from our work recovering the American Oystercatcher population by 45% are informing our efforts for other species,

including highly threatened Hudsonian Whimbrel and Wilson's Phalarope. This is one of the most important things Manomet can do: take what we know works and apply it thoughtfully, collaboratively, and at scale.

Just as important, we are reminded that conservation is sustained not only by science and strategy, but by people and families who carry a love of birds and the natural world across generations. This year, one especially meaningful gift came from a family whose connection to Manomet stretches back decades – an example of how care for birds, habitats, and the future can be passed from one generation to the next. That kind of enduring trust and shared commitment gives us hope and strengthens our resolve.

None of this happens alone. Manomet's impact is made possible by a community of supporters, partners, scientists, educators, and practitioners who share a commitment to conservation rooted in evidence and action. We are deeply grateful for your support and for the trust you place in our work.

In the pages that follow, you will witness a moment of both urgency and opportunity. The challenges facing ecosystems are significant, but so is the potential for meaningful progress when science, partnership, and perseverance come together. Thank you for being part of this work and for helping make it possible.

With gratitude,



Lizzie Schueler
President



Dan Sarles
Board Chair

MANOMET'S FIRSTS

12

transmitters deployed on Ruddy Turnstones representing first-ever tracking in New England

First Coastal Resilience Summit convened with the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Massachusetts

In-person youth exchange

between Mar Chiquita, Argentina, and Mono Lake, California, connecting communities along the Wilson's Phalarope migratory route

We hosted a first-ever virtual exchange linking First Nations communities in Canada with schools in Brazil through migratory birds



FY25 BY THE NUMBERS

SHOREBIRD CONSERVATION

Launch of a Chile–Argentina binational agenda for the recovery and effective conservation of the Magellanic Plover, a species listed in Appendix I of the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS)

29,105

ha of working landscapes under improved management, including grasslands, shrimp farms, and salt ponds for shorebird habitat

48

WHSRN sites where Manomet led or supported shorebird conservation action

5

National Shorebird Conservation Plans actively supported in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Peru

Secured a new donor partnership with the UK Government's Darwin Initiative through the "Climate Resilient Salt and Shorebird Conservation" project in San Lorenzo, Honduras, bringing US \$500,000 in funding to Manomet, with implementation beginning in FY26.

Using science to create positive change.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

3,280

Massachusetts students served through environmental education programs

600+

participants from 20 countries in Latin America completed Online Shorebird Conservation Training courses

105

nature-based tour guides completed the Coastal Awareness and Responsible Ecotourism (CARE) certification course, collectively reaching an estimated 20,800 tourists

800+

participants in Experiencia Ambientalía across 7 WHSRN sites, where the Discover Shorebirds curriculum was implemented

Expanded the geographic reach of the Manomet Conservation Sciences Small Grants Program

by supporting awardees in three new countries — Brazil, Mexico, and Nicaragua — including the program's first-ever Small Grant awarded 2025 in Central America

FISHERIES & COASTAL RESILIENCE

450,000

quahogs distributed to Brunswick and Phippsburg mudflats for wild shellfish stock enhancement

2,070

invasive European green crabs monitored and removed from Casco Bay eelgrass beds since monitoring began



23

sites with collaborative monitoring advancing understanding of River Herring life history

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

129%

increase in citations of Manomet science since the Open Science Initiative began



17

GPS tags deployed on Hudsonian Whimbrels in the Gulf Coast of the United States in partnership with universities and state agencies



750,000

Wilson's Phalaropes recorded at 57 sites during the International Simultaneous Survey of Flamingos and Shorebirds in Argentina, Peru, Bolivia, and Chile.



7,680

surveys across 24 countries at ~700 sites through the International Shorebird Survey



Flagship Species, Hemispheric Impact: Manomet's Work on Shorebird Conservation



Shorebirds connect an extraordinary range of habitats across the Western Hemisphere. A single species may breed in the Arctic and, within the same year, rely on Gulf Coast marshes, Andean peatlands, or saline lakes in South America. That connectivity is under urgent threat. Two recent Manomet-coauthored studies document some of the steepest declines of any bird group in the Americas—driven by habitat loss, disturbance, and climate change.

More than half of North American shorebird species have declined by 50% or more, with losses accelerating in recent generations, and 16 species have been uplisted on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List. Immediate, coordinated action is required to halt and reverse these declines.

Understanding where shorebirds travel and where they face the greatest pressures is essential to reversing these trends.

Manomet's shorebird work brings together population monitoring, migratory-connectivity mapping, and identification of critical breeding, stopover, and non-breeding sites across the Americas. We partner with local communities, governments, researchers, and site-based organizations to translate that knowledge into on-the-ground conservation—protecting habitat, improving management, and filling key information gaps along their flyways.

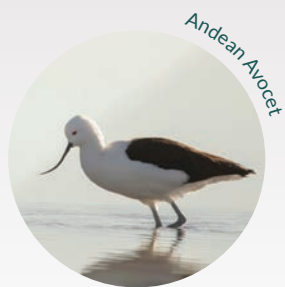
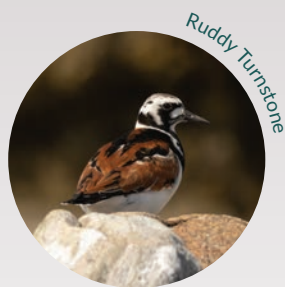
The American Oystercatcher is proof that coordinated conservation works. With over 20 years of coordinated conservation, its U.S. population rose by 45%, reaching nearly 15,000 birds, while many other shorebird populations declined. That recovery resulted from collaborative, science-driven actions: better monitoring, seasonal protection of nesting

areas, disturbance reduction, and outreach that built public support for effective management. Today, this effort serves as a proven template for scaling targeted, community-led conservation across species and regions—and the American Oystercatcher initiative remains an active and vital part of that effort.

Inspired by the enduring success of the American Oystercatcher recovery, Manomet is now scaling that model through a flagship-species strategy focused on eight additional shorebirds that represent key habitats, major conservation challenges, and opportunities for action across the hemisphere. They include the **Ruddy Turnstone**, **Hudsonian Whimbrel**, **Buff-breasted Sandpiper**, **Wilson's Phalarope**, and **four South American endemics: Andean Avocet**, **Diademed Sandpiper-Plover**, **Magellanic Plover**, and **Fuegian Snipe**. These species are catalysts for broader conservation, alongside ongoing programs targeting numerous other species and promoting coastal resilience. Some species benefit from years of research and conservation; others—especially several South American endemics—are now receiving the foundational attention they urgently need. The goal is not only to improve outcomes for individual species, but to protect the ecosystems they represent and the many birds that share them. The flagship species focus our efforts, and the conservation value extends far beyond them.

OUR FLAGSHIP SPECIES

Building on the American Oystercatcher recovery, Manomet is now applying that model to eight additional flagship shorebirds representing key habitats and major conservation challenges.





Manomet crew scouting for Hudsonian Whimbrel roost in Texas © Benjamin Clock Conservation Media

What follows are a few examples of work we have conducted in the past year illustrating how our flagship approach works on the ground.

HUDSONIAN WHIMBREL

The **Hudsonian Whimbrel** exemplifies hemispheric-scale conservation: it breeds in the Arctic and winters as far south as Patagonia. One study estimates their population has declined by more than 70% over the past 30 years. Learning precisely where and when Whimbrels depend on key habitats—and which links in that chain are weakest—will reveal the drivers of decline and allow us to apply these findings to other birds that share their pattern of migration.

Manomet coordinates the Whimbrel Working Group, a network of researchers and conservationists that combine decades of study to build the evidence needed to

guide conservation actions across the flyway. Through coordinated tracking, field surveys, demographic modeling, and local partnerships, we are closing critical knowledge gaps. Dawn-and-dusk roost surveys in Texas and Louisiana recorded nearly 15,000 Whimbrels, while deployed trackers followed individuals through the year, clarifying movement patterns and timing. In Brazil and the Guianas, we work with communities, government, and non-government stakeholders to assess protected-area networks, identify gaps, build capacity, and ensure shorebirds are incorporated into management plans—because strengthening protected-area management delivers lasting gains.



Juvenile Hudsonian Whimbrel © Andrea Ferreira

On Cape Cod, satellite-tagging of juveniles has documented their first southbound migrations to key Caribbean and South American sites, yielding vital data on habitat use and first-year survival.

WILSON'S PHALAROPE

Inspired by the path of the **Wilson's Phalarope**, hope flows from South to North. The species depends on a network of saline lakes across the Americas—highly productive ecosystems now imperiled by water diversion, climate change, and rising salinity. Many of these lakes are experiencing declining water levels, with consequences for wildlife and human health. A striking example is the Great Salt Lake in the United States, which reached historic low water levels in 2023, putting the ecosystem at risk of collapse and exposing toxic lake-bed dust that threatens both wildlife and public health.

Laguna Mar Chiquita, Argentina's largest saline lake and a Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) Site, hosts approximately 50-70% of the Wilson's Phalarope population from September to March. Due to the lake's hemispheric importance, Manomet launched Experiencia Ambiental in 2021, an environmental education program that trains young leaders to steward saline lake ecosystems. The program has since expanded along the Wilson's Phalarope migratory route to seven sites across the hemisphere, with the goal of building local awareness, immersive education, and enduring leadership for these ecosystems. To date, more than 800 participants have been involved with the program, demonstrating that communities are central to long-term stewardship success.

That grassroots momentum is matched by cross-border science. Because Wilson's Phalaropes gather in large numbers at relatively few key sites, tracking movements among those sites is essential to their protection. Implemented in January 2025, the International Simultaneous Survey of



© Pablo Gigy Gregoret

Flamingos and Shorebirds mobilized more than 170 volunteers in Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Peru to survey roughly 700 sites, generating new distribution and abundance data—including nearly 750,000 Phalaropes recorded at 57 sites—and establishing baselines that managers need to act on.

At Laguna Mar Chiquita, Manomet, and partners recently deployed radio transmitters on Wilson's Phalaropes and installed Motus receiver stations to reveal fine-scale movements within and among sites. Built on years of international collaboration with NGO partners, government agencies, universities, and local groups, this work is sharpening our knowledge of migration ecology and identifying priority sites for protection. In short, data gathered across the Americas, and stewardship cultivated in the south are converging; science maps where action is needed and empowered communities translate that knowledge into lasting conservation.



Shorebirds are nature’s early warning system—sensitive indicators of global environmental health whose declines often signal broader ecological stress, so protecting them yields benefits far beyond any single species.



Diademed Sandpiper-Plover © Adobe Stock

SOUTH AMERICAN ENDEMIC

Finally, we have focused on **four South American endemics** that are among the hemisphere’s more secretive shorebirds — elusive, scarcely studied, and wrapped in mystery. With little baseline data on their numbers, trends, movements, or habitat needs, our work is focused on understanding these mysteries.

The Andean Avocet is a High Andean saline-lake specialist, endemic to the Altiplano, and an indicator of Altiplano wetland health. In 2025, during the International Simultaneous Survey of Flamingos and Shorebirds, a total of 2,385 Andean Avocets were counted within its known distribution—slightly more than in a similar survey in 2020—suggesting a small but apparently stable population. The Fuegian Snipe, endemic to Patagonia, remains one of South America’s least known shorebirds. Manomet’s support has advanced understanding of its movements, timing, habitat selection, and threats. For example, not all individuals migrate each year; some appear to be residents and survive extreme winters below -14°C . That work has also helped increase local and scientific attention to this largely unknown Patagonian endemic.



Pablo Gigy Gregoret placing a nanotag on a Wilson's Phalarope © Courtesy



FROM TOP TO BOTTOM: Scanning the field for Whimbrels
 © Courtesy, Hudsonian Whimbrels © Alan Kneidel,
 Experiencia Ambiental volunteers © Andrea Ferreira, and
 juvenile Hudsonian Whimbrel © Alan Kneidel

Across the rest of the flagship species portfolio, Manomet is building the same kind of foundation.

By studying shorebird habitats, threats, and conservation responses, Manomet helps guide solutions that sustain biodiversity, strengthen climate resilience, and support the people who depend on healthy coasts, wetlands, and grasslands. Equally vital are the people - local communities, land managers, NGOs, and governments - whose engagement makes conservation possible and enduring.

Our flagship species help focus efforts and investment, but the aim is broader: to reverse declines in shorebirds across the hemisphere.



One Family

Four Generations of Manomet Support



In the summer of 2025, Laura Twichell and her son shared that they were inspired by the nine flagship species of our shorebird campaign and wanted to make a gift to Manomet Conservation Sciences to mark his 9th birthday. The family's connection to Manomet dates back to the 1980s, when his great-grandfather, Dave Twichell, first became involved, marking the beginning of a long history of support and commitment.

Dave had been a science teacher and a headmaster of two schools before joining Harvard's education faculty. He was also an avid birder and photographer who developed a unique way of photographing birds up close in a box – an innovation that had a broader impact than he might have imagined.

As it happened, in 1983, when noted ornithologist, artist, and author David Allen Sibley was a young

Manomet banding intern, he found himself looking over Twichell's shoulder and sketching some of the birds in Dave's "birdbox." Sibley shared this experience at a reunion of Manomet banders and interns this past October, noting that it was a formative moment in his early bird-drawing days.

"When I arrived in the fall of 1983, I was thrilled to see so many warblers. That same season, photographer Dave Twichell was at Manomet capturing beautiful images of birds. He worked with a glass-fronted box, where birds were placed for a few minutes to settle, surrounded by natural-looking perches that he had arranged. Photographing through the glass, he created images that felt true to life. Watching him work gave me the opportunity to sit nearby and sketch."

Sibley has gone on to sell more than 2.5 million copies of his illustrated bird books, and Dave



Twichell served on Manomet's Board for many years, offering faithful support alongside his wife, Ethel "Smoke" Twichell.

Thinking about her family's connection to Manomet, Laura says, "I inherited a love of birds and care for the environment from my grandfather, and I am glad to have Manomet's help in inspiring similar sentiments in my son. Birdwatching together has brought us a lot of joy, and I remember Grampie fondly through this activity. I am proud to continue to support Manomet in his memory – and to bring my son into this tradition as well."

When Dave Twichell passed away in 2013, his collections of thousands of bird photos were donated to Manomet.

Over the years, the Twichell children had children of their own, with involvement and support for Manomet continuing across each successive generation, now spread across the country. With the gift from Laura's son, a fourth generation of the Twichell family giving to Manomet has been launched. Manomet Conservation Sciences President Lizzie Schueler reflects, "This family stands out as an example of consistent, dedicated support and is an example to others in times when organizations like ours are working so hard to earn the trust and financial contributions of younger people. On behalf of our staff in 10 countries across the Americas, I thank the entire Twichell family!"

If you are part of a multi-generation Manomet family, let us know! Drop us a note at family@manomet.org!



FROM TOP LEFT TO BOTTOM: Mourning Warbler and female Black-and-white Warbler © Dave Twichell, Dave Twichell © Courtesy, and David Allen Sibley book cover



Fisheries Project Manager Jessie Batchelder conducts a green crab survey at Sandy Point Beach in Yarmouth, Maine
© Marissa McMahan

Turning the Tide on Green Crabs – From Monitoring Numbers to Understanding Ecosystem Impacts

For over a century, European Green Crabs (*Carcinus maenas*) have inhabited Maine's coastline. Likely introduced in ship ballast water in the early 1800s, these relentless invaders thrive in a wide range of conditions, reproduce rapidly, and consume nearly everything in their path. As ocean temperatures rise, green crab populations are exploding, putting Casco Bay's fragile coastal ecosystems under severe stress. They threaten many shellfish, including commercially valuable species such as soft-shell clams and mussels. In addition to predation, they burrow into the banks of salt marshes, causing significant destabilization and erosion, and ravage eelgrass beds by uprooting and clipping the seagrass while foraging.

Manomet has been researching green crabs since 2016, with work focusing on fishery development efforts, and is now working to understand long-term population trends and the relationship between green crabs and the important habitats they impact.

Eelgrass beds are a vital piece of marine ecosystems, known as the 'nursery of the sea' because they provide habitat for a variety of species, including lobster, oysters, and flounder. Yet eelgrass is vanishing worldwide. Casco Bay alone has lost 72% of its beds since 2001. To understand this decline, Manomet Conservation Sciences has joined forces with Casco Bay Estuary Partnership, Friends of Casco Bay,

Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and Team Zostera to study eelgrass health and pinpoint the threats posed by green crabs.

Since June 2024, Manomet has been setting green crab traps in eelgrass beds in Casco Bay. Once a month, the team goes out with partners from Madeline Point Oyster Farms, a local oyster farm in Yarmouth, Maine, to set traps for 24 hours. After hauling the traps, the team counts and sexes all crabs and measures a subsample from each trap. In addition to trapping crabs, GoPro video footage is recorded during each trap set to document green crab behavior on eelgrass beds. Green crabs are only one possible factor for the decline of eelgrass beds, but by combining this information with our partners' research on water quality, bed density, and structure, we are building the most detailed understanding yet of the pressures on Casco Bay's underwater forests – knowledge that will guide future protection and restoration of these important habitats.

We're also turning these threats into opportunities.

In addition to examining the impacts of green crabs on eelgrass beds, we are also working to increase awareness and harvest opportunities for green crabs as a food source. Recently, Manomet Conservation Sciences worked with Greencrab.org and other partners on Green Crab Week, a celebration that

brought together over 50 restaurants across nine states to showcase the culinary delicacy of eating the invasive species.

Since 2024, our team has trapped and documented 2,070 invasive European Green Crabs in two eelgrass beds in Casco Bay. What began as a pilot at two sites has grown into a bold, multi-site initiative now spanning nine additional monitoring locations and the planned restoration of three acres of eelgrass beds in Great Salt Bay, in Damariscotta, Maine. The expansion of this work has brought in new partners, including the Maine Coastal Program, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Wells National Estuary Research Reserve, UMaine, Bowdoin College, and the Gulf of Maine Fish and Wildlife Service. Our work's reach has drawn national attention, including from a researcher from Washington State, who visited to exchange knowledge on monitoring and mitigating this destructive invader, a relatively new threat on the West Coast.

The pilot program is now a driving force for change, uniting partners, advancing innovation, and restoring hope for Casco Bay's eelgrass. Through expanded monitoring, new techniques, and ambitious restoration, we are charting a path to protect these essential underwater nurseries for generations to come.

Crab Roe and Corn Salad
© GreenCrab.org



Harvesting European Green Crab
© GreenCrab.org



Fueling a Flight to the Arctic



Ruddy Turnstone
© Alan Kneidel

New research is uncovering the connection between horseshoe crab eggs, migratory bird health, and the habitats that sustain shorebirds across the Atlantic Flyway.

Throughout the year, Ruddy Turnstones will consume just about anything that is even remotely edible. Among shorebirds, they are a rare generalist and have been observed dining on unlikely food sources such as dead fish, French fries from tourists, and regularly stealing food from the beaks of other birds. But as the seasons turn to spring, Turnstones preparing to launch north from staging sites along the US Atlantic Coast drastically refine their palates to seek out a very specific, seasonally abundant, and highly nutritious food. To bulk up for long flights to remote Arctic riverbanks and beaches, Turnstones gorge themselves on the eggs of horseshoe crabs.

A key Ruddy Turnstone stopover site on Cape Cod.

Each spring, a few thousand Ruddy Turnstones, which represent about two percent of the entire Atlantic Flyway population, gather on Monomoy

National Wildlife Refuge in Massachusetts. During this time, this stretch of shoreline becomes a lifeline for these hungry birds. Here, they find massive spawning aggregations of horseshoe crabs laying millions of eggs—timed perfectly to fuel the Turnstones' journey to the Arctic.

Our research on the Turnstones of Cape Cod is just beginning.

In FY25, Manomet kicked off a collaborative research effort with the University of Rhode Island, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to better understand how Ruddy Turnstones use this site—and how it connects to the broader flyway. In 2025, our field team deployed four satellite transmitters and eight radio transmitters on Turnstones, allowing us to follow their movements. Where do they go next? How long do they stay? Which



© Andrea Ferreira

habitats are essential along the way? Over the next several years, this effort will expand to build a clearer picture of how individual birds connect habitats across an entire flyway. This multi-year tracking study will grow, with five additional satellite transmitters deployed in 2026, followed by continued deployments in 2027.

But tracking where shorebirds go is only part of the story. Understanding whether they can successfully refuel is just as critical.

To understand how important horseshoe crab eggs in Massachusetts are as a food source to Ruddy Turnstones and many other shorebird species like Red Knot, our team is digging deeper, literally. By collecting sediment samples along spawning beaches and identifying invertebrates to estimate total biomass, we measure how much food is actually available. We then pair those data with stable isotope analysis of small blood samples collected from the tracked birds to understand what Turnstones are really eating and how important horseshoe crab eggs are in their diet. These samples also give us a window into bird conditions, helping us understand whether sites are providing enough energy for Turnstones to keep moving north.

Together, these data offer something we have never had before – a direct link between food availability, diet, and bird condition. And this work does not stop at Cape Cod. By aligning it with parallel research in Delaware Bay, another important stopover site, we are helping to build one of the first directly comparable datasets across major points in the Atlantic Flyway. In collaboration with our partners, this will lead to a flyway-scale understanding of migratory connectivity, linking the places Ruddy Turnstones use with the resources they depend on to survive.

The impact is far-reaching. With this knowledge, conservation partners can make more informed decisions about which habitats to protect, how to manage horseshoe crab harvest, and where to focus efforts for the greatest benefit. At a time when migratory birds face mounting challenges, this kind of targeted, science-driven action is essential.

For Ruddy Turnstones, success is not just about reaching the Arctic. It depends on every stop along the way.



© Andrea Ferreira

One Life, Many Flyways: Remembering Shiloh Schulte

Shiloh Schulte belonged to the hemisphere's wild edges.

From the Arctic tundra to the relentless coasts of Tierra del Fuego, he followed shorebirds across vast landscapes with curiosity and a humble wonder. But what made him extraordinary was the way he made people feel drawn into something larger than themselves. Across the Americas, Shiloh built friendships and partnerships that strengthened shorebird conservation and shaped the lives of those who knew him.



Shiloh's path in conservation began early. At 18, he worked in Alaska's wild Colville River Delta, an experience that shaped the rest of his life. He later earned a B.S. in Wildlife Biology from the University of Vermont and a Ph.D. from North Carolina State University, where he studied the ecology and population biology of American Oystercatchers along North Carolina's Outer Banks. Over his career, he banded hundreds of birds across the eastern United States, often reaching remote islands by kayak or small boat.

In Alaska and on Cape Cod, he helped reveal the extraordinary migrations of Hudsonian Whimbrels through satellite tracking. In South America, he worked alongside partners to advance shorebird conservation across the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN). In Chile, he supported the first satellite tagging of a Magellanic Plover—one of the rarest shorebirds in the world. In tribute, the tagged bird was renamed "Shiloh."

American Oystercatchers returning to Atlantic beaches offer one of the clearest measures of Shiloh's impact. Through years of leadership in the American Oystercatcher Working Group, he helped unite researchers across states and countries to better understand and protect the species. Thanks to these collective efforts, the population has increased by 45% over the past 17 years. His steady leadership—and infectious humor—helped create a community that was both highly effective and deeply supportive.

Carrying that work forward is now a responsibility shared by all who learned from him. On



June 4, 2025, Shiloh died in a helicopter crash during fieldwork in Alaska. He was 46 years old. The news spread quickly through the shorebird community, echoing across the hemisphere where his work and friendships had left a lasting imprint.

Through his work, sites across the Americas became more than points on a map. They became part of a shared effort to protect the places migratory shorebirds depend on. The knowledge he generated, and the community he helped build, continue to guide that work today.

Shiloh believed that conservation succeeds when people work together.

Across the hemisphere, Shiloh's legacy lives on—in the birds he studied, the partnerships he strengthened, the countless colleagues and friends he inspired, and in every shorebird that soars, carrying his work forward.

Equipping Teachers, Inspiring Future Conservation Leaders

How do we empower and support the next generation of conservation leaders? At Manomet, one answer is clear: invest in teachers.





© Wade Institute

The impact of this work reaches far beyond the workshop itself. Collectively, these educators will reach an estimated **1,900 students** each year, and potentially **50,000** over the course of their careers.

Our new relationship with the Wade Institute for Science Education brings together two organizations united by a shared commitment to experiential science education. Together, we are expanding access to the knowledge, skills, and tools that teachers, students, and communities need to better understand the natural world, and help shape a more sustainable future.

Following the merger with the Wade Institute, Manomet launched its first professional learning workshop for educators. Last August, 19 teachers came to Manomet's headquarters to explore songbirds, shorebirds, and stewardship. They learned about songbird science and landbird conservation in the banding lab, participated in an International Shorebird Survey at Ellisville Harbor, and engaged with activities from Manomet's Discover Shorebirds curriculum.

Throughout the workshop, participants deepened their teaching practice through approaches

such as phenomenon-based learning while also earning Massachusetts professional development points and graduate credit.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive: participants highlighted the quality of facilitation and the immediate applicability of what they learned. Inspired by Manomet's conservation work, they left with new tools and resources to bring straight back to their classrooms.

As one participant put it, the training was "the most helpful and personalized" they had ever attended, while others described it as "incredible, useful, engaging, and well-balanced."

Since that first workshop, Manomet has served hundreds of additional teachers and thousands of their students through the Wade Institute.

Powering the Future Without Sacrificing It: Shorebirds and the Green Hydrogen Frontier

Chile's windswept southern frontier holds extraordinary promise. In the Magallanes and Chilean Antarctic Region, vast renewable energy potential could position the country to produce up to 13% of the world's green hydrogen, helping drive a global transition away from fossil fuels. Wind turbines power this process by generating the renewable electricity needed for electrolysis—the splitting of water into hydrogen and oxygen. But realizing that vision could require more than 13,000 square kilometers of turbines, transforming one of the most ecologically important landscapes on Earth. At the center of this transformation lies Bahía Lomas, a designated Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) site in Tierra del Fuego and the most important wintering ground in South America for the rufa subspecies of Red Knot. Each year, these birds arrive after traveling thousands of miles, relying on this single landscape to survive. They share it with the Magellanic Plover, one of the rarest shorebirds in the world, with fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining. For these species, there is no alternative. Disruptions here, including poorly sited wind farms and cumulative industrial impacts, could alter migratory pathways, interfere with flight behavior, and jeopardize feeding, breeding, and survival across an entire hemisphere.

Manomet Conservation Sciences is working to ensure that the clean energy transition does not come at the cost of biodiversity. Through our Flyways Program, and in partnership with the Bahía Lomas Center at Universidad Santo Tomás, we are bringing science, policy, and collaboration together to guide smarter decisions. By generating critical baseline data on species biology and populations, including satellite tracking, engaging directly with government and



The Magellanic Plover, one of the rarest shorebirds in the world, with fewer than 1,000 individuals remaining.



Magellanic Plover © Ricardo Matus

industry, and evaluating environmental impacts, the team is helping chart a path where renewable energy and wildlife conservation can coexist.

This work has already yielded results.

The team has mapped how shorebirds and waterfowl use the landscape, identifying potential “safe corridors” where development can avoid the most sensitive habitats. Aerial surveys and satellite tracking reveal migration routes and flight behavior in unprecedented detail. An expert advisory group composed of shorebird specialists from Centro Bahía Lomas, la Red de Observadores de Aves y Vida Silvestre de Chile, and el Centro de Rehabilitación de Aves Leñadura is providing technical guidance on major industrial proposals and ensuring that public and private decisions are grounded in the best available science.

“The scientific work carried out with Manomet Conservation Sciences has allowed us to anticipate risks and potential impacts,” says Carmen Espoz Larraín, Director of the Bahía Lomas Center. “Our goal is to provide solid evidence to support informed decision-making.”

The green hydrogen industry is currently advancing through environmental impact assessments while awaiting clearer market signals to scale up its projects. In this context, Manomet, together with its partners in southern Chile, has played a key role in strengthening environmental permitting processes by providing decision-makers with the best available science on shorebird migration and life cycles. The team has also worked with the Ministry of the Environment to propose safe flight corridors for birds. Through these efforts, we are helping ensure that biodiversity is meaningfully integrated into a just energy transition.

This is conservation at a global crossroads.

As nations race to scale up renewable energy, Manomet Conservation Sciences is demonstrating that it is possible to meet climate goals while safeguarding the species and ecosystems that depend on these landscapes. In Chile, that means protecting one of the world’s great shorebird and waterfowl strongholds while helping build a cleaner, more sustainable future for all.



Environmental Education activity at Lagoa do Peixe
© Fabio Arruda

The major focus of the Manomet–SAVE Brasil partnership was engaging the communities of Tavares and Mostardas.

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

SAVE Brasil and the Power of Community-Led Conservation

Shorebirds don't recognize borders, and neither does the conservation work required to protect them. Manomet's long-standing collaboration with SAVE Brasil is built on that reality: a partnership between organizations working along the same flyways and toward similar goals. Together, we connect people with migratory shorebirds on both ends of their journeys, building local knowledge and stewardship that sustains conservation over the long term. One of the most powerful examples of this shared work is unfolding at Lagoa do Peixe National Park in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.

Designated by the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN) as a Site of International

Importance in 1990, Lagoa do Peixe is one of the most critical stopover sites for long-distance migratory shorebirds in southern South America. However, since its designation as a National Park in 1986, the area has faced longstanding conflicts with surrounding communities, who were excluded from the protected area's creation process. Recognizing that effective conservation depends on local participation, Manomet Conservation Sciences partnered with SAVE Brasil to build a coalition of local stakeholders to support the park. This coalition worked to address key threats to biodiversity and develop mid- and long-term actions to reduce conflicts while ensuring lasting protection for shorebirds and their habitats.

The major focus of the Manomet–SAVE Brasil partnership was engaging the communities of Tavares and Mostardas, whose residents had limited interaction with the park and little knowledge of migratory shorebirds or their ecological importance. This disconnect was reflected in a statement by the mayor of Tavares at a migratory bird festival, questioning both the area’s conservation importance and the interest it attracted from visiting birdwatchers.

To bridge this gap, in 2019, SAVE Brasil, with support from Manomet, introduced the Discover Shorebird Curriculum through teacher training programs in local schools. Since then, multiple workshops have been held, and the curriculum has been incorporated into annual lesson plans as part of the “Friends of Shorebirds Schools” initiative. In 2025, SAVE Brasil provided training to more than 200 education professionals through school-based pedagogical meetings. Over time, students began sharing their knowledge with their families, spreading awareness of shorebirds, their migrations, and the importance of Lagoa do Peixe as a critical habitat.

SAVE Brasil expanded its outreach to include local fishermen through the 2025 campaign “Lagoa do Peixe is Ours.” These fishermen harvest shrimp in the same shallow waters that shorebirds use for feeding. SAVE Brasil visited fishing camps, learned about local practices, and initiated conversations about shorebirds with 12 fishermen. Many were already familiar with the birds through their children’s education. During that year’s migratory bird festival, SAVE Brasil also organized a birdwatching excursion for interested fishermen, providing equipment and guidance.

These combined efforts have significantly improved relationships between the park and surrounding communities.

As noted by a teacher from Tavares, Franciane Araújo Terra, “By fostering knowledge, providing teacher training, and strengthening communication among educators, fishermen, and environmental authorities, SAVE Brasil helped build a sense of belonging and stewardship for the conservation of Lagoa do Peixe within the community, ultimately improving quality of life.”



Shared Birds, Shared Communities

The reach of this partnership extended far beyond Brazil. SAVE Brasil and Manomet partnered with Nature Canada to connect First Nations communities in Moosonee and Moose Factory, James Bay, with schools in Mostardas and Tavares—linking communities thousands of miles apart through their shared migratory birds. In 2025, virtual teacher-student exchanges facilitated cross-cultural knowledge sharing, and two Cree Elders later visited Lagoa do Peixe to learn about shared species and local fishing traditions. They documented their journey in the article, “Migrating with Shorebirds, Where the Stars Are Upside Down.”

It is a reminder that birds connect us—and that the partnerships we build along the flyway matter just as much as the science.

Staff Spotlight

Stephen Brown, Ph.D., Vice President of Science

A Vermont native who grew up on a farm in Shaftsbury, Stephen Brown pursued his passion for the natural world at Hampshire College, the University of Michigan, and Cornell University, earning a doctorate in wetland restoration for birds. In 1997, he joined Manomet Conservation Sciences as Director of the Shorebird Recovery Program, drawn by the same conviction that still drives him today: rigorous science, done well and shared widely, can turn the tide for the birds and habitats we stand to lose. Now serving as Vice President of Science, Stephen supports Manomet's work across all programs—improving its rigor, increasing its application to real-world problem solving, and making it as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Over more than three decades, Stephen has shaped some of the most important shorebird conservation initiatives in North America.

He was the lead author of the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, which brought together wildlife managers and policymakers from all 50 states to develop a coordinated strategy for reversing shorebird declines. He also co-led the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Conservation Business Strategy and co-founded the Arctic Shorebird Demographics Network. Stephen has led groundbreaking research in the Arctic, uncovering



critical insights into the factors that limit shorebird populations and pioneering innovative methods to track their numbers across the Western Hemisphere.

In 2024, Stephen joined an elite group of 580 scientists when he was elected a Fellow of the American Ornithological Society, the highest honor in North American ornithology. When not in the field, he can be found skiing or hiking near his home in Rockingham, Vermont—a carbon-neutral homestead powered by solar energy and heated with sustainably harvested wood.



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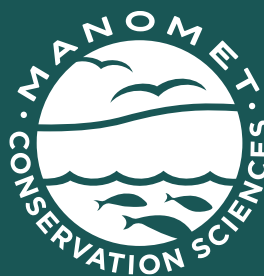
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Widewater Society

The Widewater Society is a group of individuals who have pledged to give Manomet future support through bequests or other deferred gifts. Starting in 2003, it was named after the house on the bluff (Widewater), generously donated by the Ernst family, where Manomet is still headquartered. We are grateful to the following Widewater Society members who have made a bequest or planned gift to Manomet.

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If you have already included Manomet in your long-range plans, please let us know. Become a member of the Widewater Society and create your own legacy. Please contact Ashley Baker at 508.290.1290 or abaker@manomet.org.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30, 2025

Assets:

Current Assets:

Cash	\$1,259,496
Grants and pledges receivable	931,226
Prepaid expenses and other	208,087
Total current assets	2,398,809

Investments	33,338,611
Property and Equipment, net	1,076,541
Construction in Process	363,118
Total assets	\$37,177,079

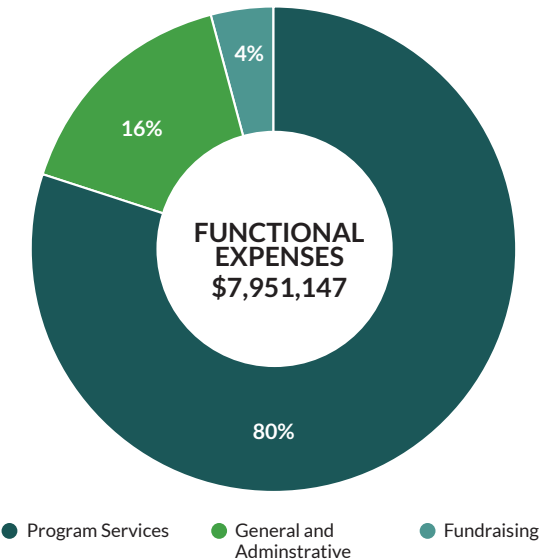
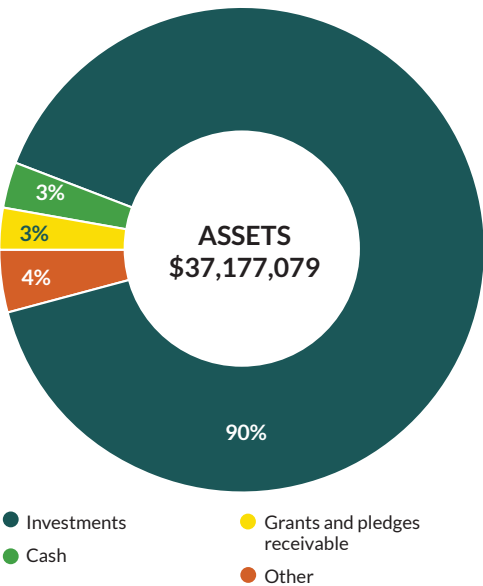
Liabilities and Net Assets:

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$541,793
Conditional grant advances	9,201
Total liabilities	550,994

Net Assets:

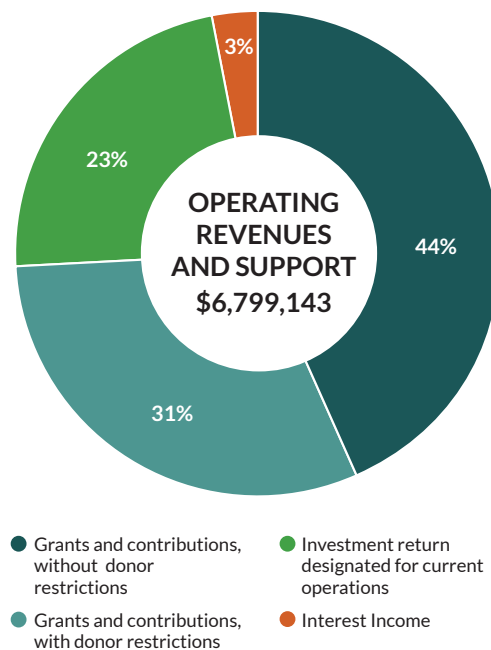
Without donor restrictions	6,032,631
With donor restrictions	30,593,454
Total Net Assets	36,626,085
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$37,177,079



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

For the year ended September 30, 2025

Operating Revenue and Support:	Total
Grants and contributions—with donor restrictions	\$2,085,476
Grants and contributions—without donor restrictions	\$2,982,600
Investment return designated for current operations	1,552,516
Interest and other income	178,551
Net assets released from restrictions	
Total operating revenue and support	<u>6,799,143</u>
Operating Expenses:	
Program services	6,338,496
General and administrative	1,298,215
Fundraising	314,436
Total operating expenses	<u>7,951,147</u>
Change in net assets from operations	(1,152,004)
Non-Operating Activities:	
Investment return, net	2,882,730
Endowment contributions	2,005,000
Contribution income - aquisition	1,165,454
Investment return designated for current operations	(1,552,516)
Total non-operating expenses	<u>4,500,668</u>
Change in net assets	3,348,664
Net Assets:	
Beginning of year	<u>33,277,421</u>
End of year	<u>\$36,626,085</u>



STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

For the year ended September 30, 2025

	PROGRAM SERVICES	GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE	FUNDRAISING	TOTAL
Personnel and related expenses:				
Salaries	\$2,686,992	\$547,758	\$243,178	\$3,477,928
Payroll taxes and fringe benefits	658,832	134,306	59,626	852,764
Total personnel and related	<u>3,345,824</u>	<u>682,064</u>	<u>302,804</u>	<u>4,330,692</u>
Other expenses:				
Professional fees and development	2,313,705	148,102	7,816	2,469,623
Travel	430,669	-	-	430,669
Office and other supplies	115,837	203,733	3,816	323,386
Depreciation	58,832	100,169	-	159,001
Equipment	40,341	68,690	-	109,031
Insurance	20,083	34,196	-	54,279
Bank charges and fees	-	42,292	-	42,292
Advertising	-	18,969	-	18,969
Miscellaneous	9,150	-	-	9,150
Facility and related expense	4,055	-	-	4,055
Bad debt	-	-	-	-
Total other expenses	<u>2,992,672</u>	<u>616,151</u>	<u>11,632</u>	<u>3,620,455</u>
Total expenses:	<u>\$6,338,496</u>	<u>\$1,298,215</u>	<u>\$314,436</u>	<u>\$7,951,147</u>



OUR SUPPORTERS

We express our gratitude to the individuals, private foundations, and government agencies whose generous contributions provided critical support for our mission between October 1, 2024, and September 30, 2025. This supporters report was prepared with great care; however, if errors have occurred, please contact Ashley Baker at 508.290.1290 or abaker@manomet.org.

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Hudsonian Whimbrel
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