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Front cover: Illustration of the predicted 'carrying capacity for species richness' (Sk) for native landbirds across portions of North America not strongly influenced by land use. Sk is based on annual primary productivity, interannual variability in productivity and potential evapotranspiration. Sk tends to be low in the west and the north where the bulk of protected areas are located, and high in the eastern US and Lake States - regions dominated by private lands and high human population densities. Habitat conservation and restoration in these more populated regions has high potential payoff (see Hansen et al., pp. 817-831).

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