

Bird Calls

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“KittyCam” Records What Outdoor Cats Get Up To

A recent study of house cats that roam outdoors for 5-6 hours every day found that nearly one-third killed birds and other wild animals. The cats, whose outdoor movements were recorded on small video cameras attached to their collars, killed an average of 2.1 animals for every 35-hour “week” they were outside. Bird kills constituted about 13% of the total wildlife kills.

Based on these results, ABC and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of a billion birds and other animals each year.

“If we extrapolate the results of this study across the country and include feral cats, its likely that cats are killing more than four billion animals per year, including at least 500 million birds,” said Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor at ABC. “Cat predation is one of the reasons why one in three American bird species is in decline.”

“I think it will be impossible to deny the ongoing slaughter of wildlife by outdoor cats given the video documentation and the scientific credibility that this study brings,” said Laura Beis, Director of Government of The Wildlife Society.

The study was conducted by scientists from the University of Georgia and the National Geographic Society’s “Cittercam” program. Small video cameras (dubbed Kitty Cams) were attached to 60 outdoor house cats in the city of Athens, Georgia. The cameras recorded the outdoor activities of the cats throughout the year.

“The results were certainly surprising, if not startling,” said Kerrie Anne Loyd of the University of Georgia, the lead author of the study. “We found that about 30% of the sampled cats were successful in capturing and killing prey, and that those cats averaged about one kill for every 17 hours outdoors or 2.1 kills per week. It was also surprising to learn that cats only brought 23% of their kills back to a residence.” Loyd said the researchers found that house cats killed a wide variety of animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs, and small snakes.

The estimate that four billion animals are killed each year by outdoor cats could be low, according to ABC. That’s because the 60-120 million feral cats in this country are outdoors every day for 24 hours a day, and not just five or six hours, like the housecats with the Kitty Cams.

A University of Nebraska study released last year found that feral cats were at least partly if not fully responsible for the extinction of 33 species of birds worldwide, that even well-fed cats in “managed” cat colonies will kill, and that feral cats prey more on native wildlife than on non-native wildlife. The study also found that most feral cats (between 62% and 80%) tested positive for toxoplasmosis, a disease with serious health implications for pregnant women and people with weakened immune systems.



Top of page photo: Wikimedia Commons

A cat’s-eye view of one of its victims, an injured phoebe chick. Photo: University of Georgia.

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New Study: Seabird Ingestion of Plastic in North Pacific On the Rise

A new study by U.S. and Canadian scientists has found that seabirds may be eating much more plastic trash than they have in the past, and that seabirds off the coast of Washington State and British Columbia are ingesting plastic at rates that are “among the highest” in the world.

The study, by Stephanie Avery-Gomm of the University of British Columbia and five other researchers, was carried out in 2009-2010 and involved the analysis of 67 Northern Fulmars that washed up dead on the shores between Long Beach, Washington, and Vancouver Island, British Columbia.

Northern Fulmars, gull-like petrels related to albatrosses and shearwaters, are particularly suitable to studies investigating trends in plastic pollution because they forage almost exclusively at sea, have vast ranges, and will snatch almost anything from the surface of the water.

The study seems to show that plastic pollution has increased in the North Pacific over the past forty years, approaching the levels previously documented only in the North Sea.

“The science on this issue is still being refined; there is much we don’t know about the impacts of plastic ingestion on birds in general and Northern Fulmars in particular,” said Avery-Gomm. “We do know that plastic in the stomach displaces space for food, and can lacerate the stomach lining. Some of the birds we looked at had gizzards completely full of plastic. We also know that plastic in the sea

absorbs an astounding level of contaminants in a very short time and that these contaminants may leach out into a bird that swallows it.”



Remains of a young Laysan Albatross killed by ingesting plastic.
Photo: Claire Fackler, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries/Marine Photobank



Northern Fulmar: Wikimedia Commons

The researchers found that the dead birds had ingested an average of 0.385 grams of plastic in the 2009-2010 study, compared to 0.12 grams in a 1987 study and 0.04 grams in a 1969-1977 study. The incidence of plastic ingestion also seems to be increasing, according to other studies. In 1968-1977, 57.9% of the fulmars in these studies had ingested plastic, compared to 84.2%, in 1988-1989 and 92.5% in 2009-2010.

“We have known about this problem for 40 years and we have we failed to do anything about it,” said Dr. George Wallace, Vice President for Oceans and Islands at ABC. “This problem will continue to worsen if we do not attend to it by developing ways to slow or stop the flow of plastics into the oceans.”

Over 95% of the ingested plastic consisted of twine, rope, fishing line, Styrofoam, hard pieces of discarded plastic (e.g., bottle caps), fiber sponge, and sheet plastic.

No-Kill Movement Means Death for Birds

Guest editorial by Travis Longcore, Ph.D.

In recent years it has become seemingly obligatory for local politicians to commit to taking a “no-kill” approach to animal control in their jurisdictions. That news might not raise the concerns of the typical bird conservationist, who may think that this simply means that unfortunate stray animals would be held in shelters long enough to find homes. But the no-kill movement is not innocuous – its mission is to stop euthanasia of any healthy cat or dog, no matter whether that animal has no prospects for a home, is feral, or is dangerously aggressive.

A fundamental element of a no-kill approach is to implement a trap-neuter-return (TNR) program for unowned cats, which stops stray and feral cats from being taken to shelters and instead promotes the unrestricted feeding and maintenance of cat colonies outdoors by “caregivers.” Bird conservationists therefore need to start paying attention to animal sheltering legislation or risk not being able to remove stray and feral cats from places where they threaten birds, whether they be back yards or nature reserves.

This no-kill approach for stray and feral cats results in increasing numbers of free-ranging cats, maintained in groups concentrated around feeding stations. Some of these cats are even redeemed from shelters by so-called rescuers and intentionally placed outside into new or existing colonies. TNR policies are generally coupled with an abandonment by local jurisdictions of traditional animal control functions for stray and feral cats. Once a TNR program is in place, rules are changed so that it becomes illegal or extremely difficult to trap and take a feral cat to an animal shelter. Cats that have been neutered and are being fed outdoors are marked by cutting off the tip of one ear, and shelters receiving such cats will return them to the person feeding them or to any “rescue” group. In jurisdictions implementing TNR, it can become a crime to interfere with cat feeders, even if the cats number in the dozens and become a nuisance in parks, alleys, and residential neighborhoods. This situation can occur almost overnight, because most states do not require that local jurisdictions control unowned cats, only unowned dogs.

The no-kill movement represents a radical agenda that prioritizes unowned cats and the rights of cat feeders over the welfare of birds and other wildlife and the rights of people who enjoy and care about them. When confronted with the staggering number of individual mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds killed by free-roaming cats, the response by no-kill advocates is often that this does not matter, unless wildlife populations as a whole are affected. To quote one such advocate from a social networking site: “Even if it were true that cats kill

Bird conservationists need to start paying attention to animal sheltering legislation or risk not being able to remove stray and feral cats from places where they threaten birds, whether they be back yards or nature reserves.

500 million birds a year, that figure still does not tell me anything. I also need to know how many birds in total die annually, and how many get born.” Scientists have documented that high predation levels can affect wildlife populations, but the more troubling issue is that feral cat advocates appear unable to feel compassion for the unnecessary suffering of hundreds of millions of individual birds and other animals, even while they insist that euthanasia of a single feral cat is immoral and reprehensible.

Bird conservationists must be honest about the options. There are many methods of promoting responsible pet ownership to reduce the number of stray animals, including roaming ordinances, low-cost and mandatory spay/neuter practices, per-household pet limits, and cat licensing laws. Effective control of free-roaming cats requires aggressive efforts that almost always will include euthanasia. And like any nuisance animal control program, the efforts must be sustained. Sanctuaries are not economically viable, cannot possibly address the magnitude of the problem, and all too often end up as hoarding situations. Given the harm done by feral cats directly to wildlife, and the risks they pose to both human and wildlife health, permanent removal must remain as an option for any strategy to protect the places birds live and breed.

Bird conservationists must also continue to articulate the importance of birds in our lives by educating the public about the nuances of the lives of birds – their intelligence, their documented communication and problem-solving skills, and their beauty – to help others understand why we care, and why the casual dismissal of hundreds of millions of annual deaths is a callous affront.



Dr. Longcore is Science Director of The Urban Wildlands Group, which, along with co-plaintiffs including ABC, successfully sued to halt implementation of a TNR program in the City of Los Angeles until environmental review of the consequences of the program is undertaken.

First-ever Report Shows Dramatic Changes in Canada's Bird Populations

The first national report on the state of Canada's birds finds that since 1970, the country's bird population has dropped by 12%, with some groups of birds decreasing by 90%.

The State of Canada's Birds examined 40 years of data and summarized the status of Canada's bird populations for eight regions, including the boreal forest, prairies, Arctic, and oceans. It found that overall, more species are decreasing (44%) than increasing (33%). The groups that declined most severely include grassland birds, migratory shorebirds, and aerial insectivores (birds that catch insects in flight, such as swallows).

The report includes a list of steps Canadians can take to maintain

healthy bird populations, and it shows that some species have profited from conservation efforts. The report says the ban on pesticides such as DDT in the 1970s helped several species of raptor, including the Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, and Bald Eagle, to recover. "Effective" management of wetlands and hunting helped boost populations of waterfowl.

Canada is home to 451 regularly occurring, native species of bird that either raise their young or spend non-breeding seasons there. Nationally, a total of 66 birds are currently classified as Endangered, Threatened, or of Special Concern. Many of these species also occur in the United States, while others pass through the U.S. while migrating.



The report is considered significant since the state of bird populations is widely seen as an indicator of broader ecosystem health; ecosystems that provide us with food, clean air, and water.

The State of Canada's Birds is a collaborative effort of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative in Canada (NABCI-Canada), whose members include federal, territorial, and provincial governments, non-governmental organizations, and private groups. A similar U.S. report, *State of the Birds*, is produced annually by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with input from ABC and over 20 other organizations.

Common Cat Parasite a Threat to Pregnant Women

Feral and free-ranging cats kill birds and other wildlife relentlessly, according to a range of studies (see page 1). But they pose other threats as well — cats are also the primary host of a protozoan parasite, *Toxoplasma gondii*.

This parasite, only shed in cat feces, has been implicated in the deaths of 16% of the southern sea otters off the coast of Santa Barbara, California. Apparently the otters contracted the disease from kitty litter flushed out to sea. The parasite has also been linked to complications in human pregnancies, including some that can be fatal.

The new study underlines the threat posed by this parasite and the cats that carry it. It found that in Cayucos, Los Osos, and Morro Bay, California, feral and free roaming cats deposit huge amounts of fecal material — 76 tons — into the environment every year. When it's on the ground, this material releases the parasites into the air where they can be ingested by other mammals, infecting muscles and organs, including brains.

Reports that this disease can spread to women have prompted the American Pregnancy Association to warn

expectant mothers to "avoid exposures to cat feces" in order to protect against transmission. The potential impacts of exposure to this parasite are said to include "premature birth, low birth weight, fever, jaundice, abnormal head size, convulsions, and brain calcification."

The exceptional amount of amount of fecal deposition found by these researchers has been linked in part to a sharp increase in the feral cat population. That in turn has been blamed on cat owners who dump unwanted pets, and ineffective efforts to control the feral cat population by instituting "trap, neuter, and release" programs.



“Little Devil” Bird May Warrant Federal Protection as Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has begun an in-depth review of the Black-capped Petrel to determine whether this elusive bird warrants federal protection as a threatened or endangered species.

The Black-capped Petrel – known locally as “Diablotin,” meaning Little Devil – acquired its nickname as a result of its nocturnal habits, its unusual, eerie calls, and its tendency to produce a haunting, flutelike sound during nocturnal flights, apparently created by wind passing over its wings.

The petrel has an estimated world population of approximately 5,000 individuals. Its nesting sites remained a mystery until 1963, when 11 nests were located in southeastern Haiti. The bird nests in burrows or crevices in cliffs and steep slopes in montane forests at an elevation of 5,000-7,500 feet. Nesting birds commute from their breeding sites in the mountains to foraging sites at sea, where they feed on squid and other invertebrates.

“This bird is in trouble and needs special conservation attention that could result from a finding of ‘Endangered’ or ‘Threatened.’”

*George Wallace
Vice President for Oceans and Islands, ABC*

The Black-capped Petrel is threatened by predation from introduced mammals, deforestation, and human encroachment in nesting areas. Urbanization and associated increases in artificial lights likely increase risks of collision with trees, wires, communications towers, and buildings. At sea, offshore energy development and oil spills may pose additional hazards.

While Black-capped Petrels are known to range up the U.S. East Coast as far as New England, their only known breeding sites are in Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Researchers suspect, that they may also be breeding on Cuba, Jamaica, and on Dominica, where they have been seen both off the coast and inland.

“This bird is in trouble and needs special conservation attention that could result from a finding of ‘Endangered’ or



The Black-capped Petrel has an estimated world population of only around 5,000 individuals birds, and urgently needs immediate conservation attention. Photo: Alfred Yan

‘Threatened,’” said Dr. George Wallace, Vice President for Oceans and Islands at ABC. “While recently discovered nesting sites in national parks in Haiti and the Dominican Republic are protected on paper, charcoal production and logging in the immediate vicinity are cause for serious concern about their long-term conservation.”

When the new review is finished, FWS will make one of three possible determinations:

- (1) Listing is not warranted, in which case no further government action will be taken.
 - (2) Listing as Threatened or Endangered is warranted. In this case, the Service will publish a proposal to list, solicit independent scientific peer review of the proposal, seek input from the public, and consider the input before a final decision about listing the species is made.
 - (3) Listing is warranted but precluded by other, higher priority activities. In that case the petrel would be placed on the “candidate waiting list,” a waiting period of indeterminate length for Threatened or Endangered status. Some species have been on that list for decades.
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New Reserve Protects One of the World's Rarest and Smallest Birds

One of the world's rarest and smallest hummingbirds, the tiny Esmeraldas Woodstar, will be protected by a new reserve in Ecuador, thanks to a cooperative effort involving Fundación Jocotoco, World Land Trust-US, ABC, and other donors.

This striking violet, green, white, and copper-colored hummingbird measures barely 2½" long; local people call it "Estrellita" (Little Star). It is thought that there are only 500-1,000 of these hummingbirds left in existence. The main causes of the species' decline are habitat loss from logging, development, cattle grazing, and agriculture. These activities have eliminated all but five percent of the forests once found in lowland western Ecuador.

Little was known about the Esmeraldas Woodstar until a few years ago, when researchers discovered its primary nesting areas along some streams on Ecuador's Pacific Coast,

near the village of Ayampe. At the time, this formerly sleepy village was becoming a magnet for beach-loving tourists. As a result, much of the woodland in the area had already been destroyed for resorts.

The new 38-acre reserve, which contains significant areas of semi-deciduous to evergreen moist forests, includes the most significant breeding spots for the tiny hummingbird. The species spends the non-breeding season (April-November) at higher elevations of the coastal mountains. Fortunately, some of that habitat is already protected by the Machalilla National Park.

"It is extremely gratifying to see the community so engaged in creating this protected area: from the children's Niños del Mar club collecting trash and recyclables with a Peace Corps volunteer to the guide-training workshops that Jocotoco has conducted," said Benjamin Skolnik, ABC's Conservation Project Specialist.



Fundación Jocotoco and ABC are actively seeking to purchase more properties to protect the Esmeraldas Woodstar and other endemics, with a long-term goal of protecting roughly 600-700 acres.

Other endangered bird species in the area that may benefit from the new reserve include the Grey-backed Hawk, the Ochre-bellied Dove, the Blackish-headed Spinetail, and the Slaty Becard. In addition to birds, the region is known for its high diversity of rare and endemic plants, and is one of the most important areas for endemic butterflies in Ecuador.

New Species of Cinclodes Found in Brazil

A new species of bird, the Cipó Cinclodes (*Cinclodes espinhacensis*), has been described in the southern Brazilian state of Minas Gerais. The discovery was described in the scientific journal *Ibis*.

The new species is closely related to the Long-tailed Cinclodes, which is endemic to Serra Geral in southern Brazil. The description presents morphological, genetic and vocal information that readily distinguishes the new species from the previously described species by its darker back, chest and

flanks, lower body mass, shorter tarsus length, lower frequency of vocalizations, and longer duration of calls. Based on DNA data, it is estimated that the divergence time between this new species and the Long-tailed Cinclodes occurred approximately 220 000 years ago.

The Cipó Cinclodes is known to exist at only a small number of locations over a range of less than 200 square miles in the southern portion of the Espinhaço mountain range in the eastern part of the county, a region with

unique fauna and flora that is threatened by rapid growth of tourism, land conversion, mining activity, burning for livestock grazing and other activities. The area, extent and quality of habitat for the new species are expected to continue declining if the habitat is not protected. The scientists who authored the description of the new species suggest it meets the criteria for global Endangered status.

New Bolivian Reserve Protects Critical Nesting Area for Rare Parrot

The rare Tucuman Parrot will benefit from protections afforded by a new reserve in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, established by ABC's partner Asociación Armonía. The 44-acre Tucuman Parrot Reserve protects the largest *Podocarpus* conifer trees in the area; these trees provide critical nesting sites for the parrot, and cones that are essential food sources for the parrot nestlings.

The new reserve is adjacent to the Quirusillas Municipal Reserve, extending the area under protection.

"This victory is the end result of an eight-month negotiation process and years of outreach with the local community. This action was a vital step because logging is advancing towards the forest surrounding the now protected reserve," said German Mercado, Administrative Director of Armonía.

Armonía has been working with the Quirusillas community since 2010 to raise awareness of the plight of the Tucuman Parrot and provide alternatives to logging that will help sustain and restore local ecosystems. New educational programs have been launched in local schools, honey production initiatives have been unveiled, and local women have been encouraged to develop handicrafts to sell and increase their participation in community decision-making.

"Establishing this reserve is one of several strategies we are using to prevent the extinction of the Tucuman Parrot in this region," said Bennett Hennessey, Executive Director of Armonía. "We also plan to erect artificial nest boxes to increase breeding opportunities for the species and to



Tucuman Parrots occur only in cloud forests on the east slope of the Andes in southeastern Bolivia and northwestern Argentina. Populations are declining rapidly due to habitat loss and capture for the pet trade. Photo: Raul Rojas

attract tourists to this reserve. Bringing tourism dollars would provide a stronger incentive for the community to continue to implement environmental protection measures."

The Tucuman Parrot is listed as Vulnerable to extinction by the IUCN - World Conservation Union. The main threats to the species are logging and the illegal pet trade. The cloud forest that is the parrot's natural habitat has been degraded by selective logging, which removes the large trees that the parrots use for nesting. Other trees have been cut down to make way for cattle ranches and farms. Currently, a local sawmill is attempting to gain logging rights to areas in the vicinity of the new reserve. If they succeed, this reserve will almost certainly become the last breeding location in the region for this threatened bird.

The creation of the reserve was made possible with funding from World Land Trust-U.S., and with the help of the Gulf Coast Bird Observatory's Tropical Forest Forever Fund, the Conservation Leadership Programme, The Whitley Awards Foundation, and Rufford Small Grants for Nature Conservation. The work of Paula Montenegro and Raul Rojas was also instrumental in making this new reserve possible.

Famous New York City Hawk Chicks Poisoned

Two Red-tailed Hawk chicks, offspring of New York City's celebrity hawks, Pale Male and Zena, are recovering from ingesting rat poison. The birds were removed from their nests in July and have been under the care of Wildlife in Need of Rescue and Rehabilitation. Because of the continued use of rat poison in the area, there are no immediate plans to return the birds to the wild.

A third chick produced by Pale Male and Zena is believed to have died after ingesting rat poison. There have been repeated incidents of hawks being poisoned in New York, and as a result, the New York City Parks Department

has promised to stop using poisons to control rats in Central Park, Riverside Park, and Theodore Roosevelt Park. Pale Male's former mate, Lima, died this past February, also from ingesting rat poison.

ABC is campaigning to have certain rat poisons removed from sale to the general public, and to restrict the packaging of other products to avoid continued danger to birds, wildlife, pets and humans. ABC is supporting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in its proceedings to cancel brodifacoum and other rodenticides after three manufacturers (Reckitt-Benckiser, maker of D-con;

Spectrum Group, maker of Hot Shot products, and Uphatech Inc., maker of Generation, Maki and Rozol) declined to conform to new restrictions imposed by the agency. The manufacturers are fighting the cancellations, and a protracted legal battle is expected. You can tell the manufacturers how you feel about their actions through ABC's action site: www.abcbirds.org/action.

Michael Stubblefield



Largest Snake Recorded in Florida Captured

A pregnant Burmese python measuring a state record 17-foot 7-inches has been captured in Everglades National Park by researchers with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The snake was carrying 87 eggs, which is also a state record for the python.

The 165-pound animal was brought to the Florida Museum of Natural History, which is working with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Everglades National Park, and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to find ways to manage Florida's invasive Burmese python population.

Native to Southeast Asia, the Burmese python is one of the deadliest and

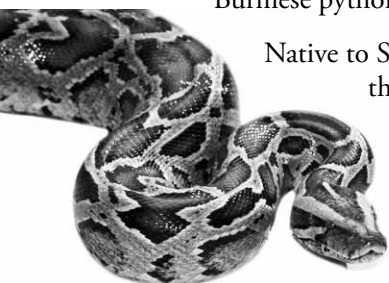
most competitive predators in South Florida. Population estimates range from the thousands to the hundreds of thousands. A USGS study published in January 2012 revealed drastic declines in the number of mid-sized mammals in the Everglades that may be associated with the rise in the invasive snake population. The most severe declines, including a nearly complete disappearance of raccoons, rabbits, and opossums, have occurred in the remote southernmost regions of the park, where pythons have been established the longest.

Burmese pythons are also known to prey on at least 25 species of native birds, ranging from the five-inch-long House Wren to the four-foot-long Great Blue Heron. Four of the bird species eaten by the pythons – Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, White Ibis, and Limpkin – are listed as “species

of special concern” by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. Scientists have also found the remains of a federally-endangered Wood Stork in one of the gigantic snakes.

“This new record snake demonstrates dramatically how well these animals have adapted to the Everglades and the danger they pose to birds and other native wildlife,” said George Wallace, Vice President of ABC.

Florida has the world's worst invasive reptile and amphibian problem. A 20-year study published in September 2011 in the journal *Zootaxa* showed 137 non-native species were introduced to Florida between 1863 and 2010. The Burmese python was one of 56 non-native species determined to be reproducing and established in the state.



Burmese Python: Roy Wood, USGS

Reintroduced Western Bluebirds Fledge on Vancouver Island, British Columbia

Western Bluebirds have produced four fledglings on Vancouver Island, British Columbia after nesting there for the first time in more than 15 years. Once common on southeastern Vancouver Island, these birds disappeared due to loss and degradation of their preferred oak habitats, especially natural nesting cavities in old oak trees, and competition for nest cavities from the aggressive, non-native European Starling. The birds were restored to the island earlier this year by The Garry Oak Ecosystem Recovery Team of British Columbia and Ecostudies Institute.

The process began when four pairs of birds, including two pairs with nestlings, were translocated from Joint

Base Lewis-McChord, Washington, to The Nature Conservancy of Canada's Cowichan Preserve on Vancouver Island. After 1-2 weeks in an aviary, the birds were released. Three of the four pairs were subsequently seen in the area, including the pair with fledglings that renested and successfully fledged four young birds from a nest-box on the preserve.

Several years ago, in a cooperative effort led by ABC, Western Bluebirds were successfully reintroduced to San Juan Island, Washington. Researchers say the species has a better chance of surviving now that it has been restored to islands at both ends of its former range.

"We were very excited to hear about this successful nesting of reintroduced

birds on Vancouver Island," said Bob Altman, ABC's Pacific Northwest Coordinator. "It increases the likelihood of recovery of bluebird populations throughout formerly occupied areas in the Pacific Northwest, and reinforces the benefit of reintroductions to address bird extirpations."



Western Bluebird fledgling; Kathleen Ballard

Trumpeter Swans Reintroduced to Montana's Madison Valley

Five Trumpeter Swan cygnets from the Wyoming Wetlands Society facility in Jackson have been released on the Granger Ranch along O'Dell Creek south of Ennis, Montana. The August 15 event was the first of five annual releases planned by Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) to increase nesting populations in suitable habitats – particularly

the swan's historic range in Montana, Wyoming, and Idaho.

The release took place on restored wetlands recently protected by an FWP conservation easement. The protection and restoration of the ranch, as well as the swan release, were engineered by a broad coalition of private, corporate, non-profit, state, and federal partners.

The 70-day-old swans were placed in a large fenced wetland enclosure, along with a flightless adult female, in order to imprint on the site. Once the young are flying, the adult will be returned to the Jackson facility.

This project is the third successful reintroduction to take place in Montana recently. The Confederated Salish and

Kootenai Tribes have released 228 swans in the Flathead Valley since 2002, and 45 nests have produced 151 wild-bred young since that time. Another 100 swans have been released in the Blackfoot Valley, and two pairs bred successfully there in 2011. These efforts are designed to help swan populations move into suitable habitats throughout the region. Marked birds have been found throughout northwestern Montana, and in British Columbia and Alberta, Canada.

The newly-released Madison Valley birds will supplement the existing populations of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, including those in the Centennial Valley (six nesting pairs) and in Yellowstone National Park (two nesting pairs).



Glen Tepke

Drought and Water Conflict Affecting Bird Populations in Klamath National Wildlife Refuge

Water brings life, and in the Klamath Basin of Oregon and Washington, that means millions of migratory birds. But today, the region harbors only a fraction of the historic numbers of birds that passed through it in the past, thanks to water diversions that have drained three-quarters of the basin's wetlands.

Earlier this spring, officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that over 10,000 migrating birds had died because of reduced water flow to the Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuge, which only received enough water to cover half its 30,000 acres of wetland marshes. That reduced flow forced the two million birds that migrate over the area to congregate in much smaller spaces, creating conditions much more favorable to fast-spreading diseases such as avian cholera. To reduce the spread of this disease, volunteers picked up carcasses of the dead birds and had them incinerated.

Because this year has been a dry one, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) stopped allowing river water to enter the refuge in December. BOR parcels out water in the Klamath Basin for a variety of users. Their first priority for water that would otherwise go to the refuge is for endangered fish found in or near the Klamath River. After that, BOR must deal with various tribal requests for water, and then with the needs of farmers.

That process left nothing for the refuge until March and April 2012, when Upper Klamath lake was full and flows down the Klamath River were sufficient to enable the BOR to provide 90,000 acre feet of water to replenish the marshes. But commercial farms still have big water guarantees that could interrupt the flow into the Refuge. Conservation groups say that means future shortages are likely.

“The consequences of shutting off water to the Lower Klamath Refuge are enormous. Federal, state, and local

officials need to come up with a plan that divides the water more equitably,” said George Fenwick, President of ABC.

The 53,600-acre Lower Klamath Refuge is a key part of the Pacific Flyway for migrating birds. Established in 1908 along the Oregon-California border, it was the nation's first waterfowl refuge. It is a varied mix of shallow freshwater marshes, open water, grassy uplands, and croplands that are managed to provide feeding, resting, nesting, and brood-rearing habitat for waterfowl and other water birds. Significant species of birds that use the reserve include the American White Pelican, White-faced Ibis, Peregrine Falcon, Northern Pintail, Gadwall, Canvasback, Western and Eared Grebes, Black Tern, Tricolored Blackbird, and Snow, Ross', and White-fronted Geese. Snow Geese and Northern Pintails seem to be the hardest hit from the disease this year.



BACKGROUND:
Klamath NWR: USFWS

LEFT TO RIGHT: Western
Grebes: Alan Wilson; American
White Pelicans: Greg Lavaty;
Northern Pintail: Alan Wilson

Conservation Groups Flag Flaws in Spotted Owl Plan

ABC has raised concerns about the proposed Critical Habitat designation for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl, charging that the draft plan fails to provide adequate habitat protections needed by the owl, and that it encourages controversial and unproven logging practices in owl habitat. ABC prepared an extensive comment letter pointing out the plan's shortcomings. The letter included suggested changes that could help ensure that the final plan protects the endangered owl.

ABC's concerns are shared by researchers with The Wildlife Society and the Society for Conservation Biology. After reviewing the draft plan for the owl the groups concluded that proposed logging levels in the owl's habitat are not supported by the "best available science," and that the plan needs to be changed to ensure that more owl habitat is protected. The organizations charged that a previous review of the Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan had been ignored and that the same flaws were now being included in the Critical Habitat Plan.

The potentially harmful draft rule and other pending plans to weaken owl habitat protection have prompted national and regional conservation organizations to call on President Barack Obama to do more to conserve the mature and old-growth forests in the Pacific Northwest. In a letter sent in July, ABC, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and over fifty other organizations sought to remind the President that "These magnificent forests provide clean drinking water for millions of Americans, a world-class tourism destination, sustainable forestry, and habitat essential to the survival of hundreds of species of wildlife."



Old-growth forest, Pacific Northwest: Steve Holmer, ABC

"The Northwest Forest Plan was a major conservation achievement that ended decades of overcutting and the destruction of magnificent old-growth forests."

*Steve Holmer
Senior Policy Advisor, ABC*



Northern Spotted Owl: Greg Lavaty

The letter calls on the Administration to continue both the late-successional and riparian reserves created by the Northwest Forest Plan as fundamental to natural resource conservation and sound climate change response.

It echoes a similar letter of Spring 2012, supporting the reserve system endorsed by 229 scientists.

Several reports by the U.S. Forest Service confirm that the current Northwest Forest Plan is preserving old-growth forests that provide essential habitat for threatened species, including Pacific salmon, the threatened Marbled Murrelet, and the Northern Spotted Owl. A 15-year study of the plan's effect on watersheds in northern California, Oregon, and Washington State that were previously heavily damaged due to overcutting and unsustainable forest management practices, concluded that the Plan is working to restore water quality.

"The Northwest Forest Plan was a major conservation achievement that ended decades of overcutting and the destruction of magnificent old-growth forests," said Steve Holmer, Senior Policy Advisor at ABC. "The plan is working, and President Obama needs to ensure its protections are maintained to give the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet a chance to rebound."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is under a court order to produce a final version of the new Critical Habitat plan by November 15, 2012.

ABC's comment letter is available at www.abcbirds.org/pdfs/comment_letter_July_5_with_photos.pdf.



Crop Insurance Leading to Conversion of Bird Habitat for Agriculture

A recent study by the Environmental Working Group and Defenders of Wildlife concluded that farmers converted more than 23 million acres of grasslands, wetlands, and shrublands to cropland between 2008 and 2011 as a result of high commodity prices and large government subsidies. The study also found that the areas with the largest conversions were areas that received the largest crop insurance subsidies from the government.

Every five years, Congress passes legislation – commonly known as the Farm Bill – that sets national agriculture, nutrition, conservation, and forestry policy. This year’s Farm Bill (S. 3240), as passed by the United States Senate in June, 2012, ends a direct payment system that pays owners of farmland a set amount regardless of whether they have planted crops; but it expands the

federal insurance program that reimburses farmers for modest losses in crops. The Federal Agriculture Reform and Risk Management Act (H.R. 6083), which was passed out of the House Agriculture Committee and has yet to be taken up by the full House, eliminates direct payments as well, but replaces them with crop insurance and other subsidy programs for peanut cotton and rice farmers.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture currently subsidizes approximately 62% of crop insurance premiums, and cost projections show that this will cost the government about \$90 billion over the next decade. The rationale for the switch from direct payments to crop insurances was that payments would go to people who are actually farming. However, under the new system, farmers would be encouraged to plant on marginal lands that would

otherwise not be profitable, such as lands prone to erosion or flooding.

Conservation groups say crops insurance removes financial risks for farmers by insuring that they will make money by planting crops on lands where crop failure is virtually certain. To take advantage of high prices being paid right now for corn, wheat, soybeans and other crops, farmers have already planted crops on millions of acres of land used by a wide range of birds, including ducks and other waterfowl.

The greatest wildlife habitat losses have taken place in the states of the Upper Midwest and the Great Plains, with millions of acres of Mountain Plover, Lesser Prairie Chicken, and sage-grouse habitat lost.

Initiative Seeks Federal Funding for Drought-Proof Pastures

A consortium of 30 conservation groups led by the National Bobwhite Conservation Initiative (NBCI) has asked the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to start encouraging subsidized ranchers to plant more drought-proof grasses when they re-establish pasturelands affected by drought.

“Most grazing land in the eastern United States, close to 120 million acres, has been converted to aggressive, exotic, forage grasses, which are not only highly susceptible to drought conditions, but also provide poor habitat for wildlife and pollinators,” said Don McKenzie, director

of NBCI, which authored the letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “We’re asking that USDA start reversing that trend for the long-term benefit of wildlife and livestock producers.”

The letter asks USDA to require that when ranchers use public funds to re-establish pasturelands, they be required to replant 20-33% of the affected acreage with drought-tolerant, native, warm-season grasses. The letter also requests that participating ranchers be compensated for their loss of livestock income during the two years that it takes to establish the native grasses.

“There is ample research showing that native warm-season forage grasses require little or no fertilizer, which reduces nutrient run-off and fertilizer costs, and that there are many other economic and nutritional benefits for the agricultural community,” said McKenzie. “Subsidizing drought-susceptible forages simply continues to set producers up for failure and harms the public’s wildlife resources.”

Signatories to the letter include NBCI’s partner quail organizations, songbird conservation alliances such as Partners in Flight, the Bird Conservation Network and Central Hardwoods Joint Venture.

To read the coalition’s letter, go to <http://bringbackbobwhites.org>.

Fed Action to Limit Albatross Deaths From Longline Fishing Not Enough

For the first time, the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has been used to set limits on the number of seabirds that can be killed or injured by commercial fishing vessels. The limits are established in a so-called “take” permit that applies to Hawaiian swordfish vessels, which have been shown to kill and injure Black-footed and Laysan Albatrosses.

Conservation groups, including ABC, had a mixed reaction to the news. On the one hand, they applauded the decision to start using the MBTA to limit seabird kills by commercial fishing fleets, but on the other, they argued that the take limits set in the new permit were too high to adequately protect seabirds.

“ABC generally supports the issuance of permits for the Hawaiian swordfish and other U.S. fisheries as a mechanism to reduce seabird bycatch, but the conditions of this precedent-setting take permit are disappointing,” said George Wallace, Vice President for Oceans and Islands at ABC. “While the government seeks to reduce seabird mortality in this fishery, that is not the likely outcome with these ineffective permits.”

Until now, only the Endangered Species Act has been used to limit seabird deaths caused by commercial longline fishing, and then only in relation to the endangered Short-tailed Albatross. The MBTA was not applied to this fishery because the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) – the federal agency that oversees the U.S. fishing fleet – asserted that the areas where it operates, federal waters and on the high seas, lie outside the jurisdiction of the act. However, officials at NMFS and the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service (FWS) appeared to change their minds in 2011, when NMFS decided to apply for a take permit to the Hawaiian swordfish fleet and FWS agreed to accept the application.

Wallace said he’d hoped that the new permit would force fishing fleets to find ways to actually take fewer Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses. It has been known for years that all of these birds are attracted to and dive on baited hooks, becoming ensnared in lines or impaled by the hooks and dragged under the surface to be drowned.

“NMFS and FWS both know about certain casual practices that unnecessarily expose seabirds to increased risk of being hooked or entangled,” said Wallace. “There is no incentive to reduce these practices if permits

authorize take in such excessive numbers, nor does the permit require any offset or compensation from NMFS for avoidable take.”

One practice that could have been halted by the take permit, but will be allowed to continue for now, involves dragging baited hooks on the surface of the water behind the fishing vessel while other lines are retrieved. This increases the exposure of seabirds to baited hooks, and leads to a higher chance of them being injured.

“A remedy for this problem does not require data analysis and multiple three-year permit terms to develop and implement. FWS has missed an opportunity to eliminate this unnecessary risk to albatrosses now,” said Wallace.

Short-tailed Albatrosses Breed Successfully Again at Midway

A pair of endangered Short-tailed Albatrosses has once again nested successfully at Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge within the Papah'naumoku'kea Marine National Monument and World Heritage Site. The single chick was last seen on June, 10, 2012 near its nest site, where it was exercising its wings prior to fledging.

This is only the second time in recorded history that Short-tailed Albatrosses have nested successfully outside of Japan. The chick was the product of the same pair that successfully fledged the first albatross chick on Midway in 2011 – a nine year-old female and 25-year-old male whose courtship began on Midway four years ago.

The chick was banded by refuge staff. It may be three to seven years before it returns to Midway to breed, provided it can navigate the threats faced by the species on the open ocean, which include being caught by longline fishing hooks, ingesting plastics, and being tangled in marine debris.

The Short-tailed Albatross is listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act and numbers fewer than 2,500 birds. Thought to be extinct until its rediscovery in 1951, the species population has rebounded following persecution for the feather trade in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



Short-tailed Albatross and chick: FWS

Secure the future for birds

One of the great natural events on the planet, the annual Western Hemisphere bird migration, is continuing to diminish, with the precipitous decline of most populations of neotropical migratory birds over the last 40 years. But we have the ability to reverse this trend and make the next 40 years positive for our birds. You can help American Bird Conservancy protect birds on their wintering, stopover, and breeding grounds for years to come by including ABC in your estate plans.

Join ABC's Legacy Circle with a bequest through your will, trust, retirement, or insurance plan, and you will help protect threatened species throughout their life cycle, reversing declines, and preventing extinctions. Your bequest will make enduring bird conservation possible, and your legacy will be protecting the birds of the Americas for future generations.

For more information on ABC's Legacy Circle, please contact Jack Morrison at 540-253-5780 or jmorrison@abcbirds.org



Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge Rat Eradication Completed

For the first time in a century, no black rats can be found on the Caribbean island of Desecheo, according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Island Conservation (IC). The island, also designated as the Desecheo National Wildlife Refuge, is an arid 360-acre piece of land lying 14 miles off the west coast of Puerto Rico. It was added to the National Wildlife Refuge System in 1976 and is noted for the presence of three endemic lizard species, two endemic spiders, an endemic whip scorpion, and the endangered Higo Chumbo cactus.

In the early 1900s, Desecheo was one of the most important seabird breeding colonies in the Caribbean region. Eight breeding species made their homes on the island, including up to 15,000 Brown Boobies, 2,000 Red-footed Boobies, and 1,500 Bridled Terns. The Brown Booby colony was likely among the largest of that species in the world.

Unfortunately, Desecheo has been decimated by exotic species virtually from the time the island appeared in historical records. Goats were noted as early as 1788. An eradication campaign began in 1998 and the goats were gone by 2010. Feral cats were noted as early as 1966 and were removed by 1987.

Also in 1966, 56 Rhesus macaques were introduced to Desecheo as part of a research program by the National Institutes for Health. The monkeys had a drastic impact on the nesting seabirds, sending populations plummeting. In 2009 there were no breeding seabirds on Desecheo.

FWS and IC worked for years to remove the macaques, finally succeeding in 2009.

That left the black rats, which were recorded on the island as early as 1912, when they were considered abundant. Black rats are well-known predators of



One of Desecheo's lizard species. Photo: Island Conservation

birds, both eggs and chicks, and they take a heavy toll on small reptiles and arthropods. They are also voracious seed eaters, which means their impact on the island's plants was devastating.

It was believed that rats would prevent the recovery of the seabird populations, and so for that reason, starting in March, 2012, FWS and IC carried out the first aerial application of rodent bait from Desecheo and its surrounding islets. This was followed by intensive monitoring to assess the effectiveness of the operations. Two years of additional monitoring will take place before the island can be officially declared free of destructive, invasive rats.



Desecheo Island (above) is an important site for breeding colonies of Bridled Terns (above right), and for several endemic lizard and cactus species (right). All photos courtesy of Island Conservation.



INTERPOL Bird Trade Crackdown

Law enforcement officers from all over the world turned their attention to the booming black market for Latin American birds last spring. With the help of INTERPOL they launched a three-month global crackdown known as Operation Cage, arresting nearly 4,000 buyers and sellers and seizing more than 8,700 birds and other animals.

Raids and arrests took place at ports, airports, open-air markets, pet stores, border stops, and taxidermy shops. Along with the birds and other animals authorities found traps, guns, and ammunition.

In many countries, it is illegal to sell caged birds as pets unless it can be proven that the birds in question were raised from eggs laid in captivity.

Unfortunately, there is a global network that ignores these rules, and traps birds such as parrots in the wild and then smuggles them abroad. According to the IUCN-World Conservation Union, roughly 100 of the world's 350 parrot species are now threatened with extinction by illegal seizure for trade and habitat loss.

“Threatened birds are targeted because their rarity yields higher demand and higher black market prices for trappers and traders,” said George Fenwick, President of ABC. “In addition to the impact on wild populations, the illegal trade causes tremendous suffering to individual birds, with many dying during transportation.”

Experts on environmental crimes at INTERPOL say organized crime gangs have become more involved in the illegal wildlife trade in recent years. They say information gleaned from the arrests and seizures made in connection with Operation Cage will be used to help with future crackdowns.

“Operation Cage once again clearly demonstrates the global scale of the problem of the illegal trade in birds and other wildlife, which is not only an organized crime problem but a biosecurity risk,” said David Higgins manager of INTERPOL's Environmental Crimes Program. Higgins added that the caged birds sold on the black market often carry diseases that can pose a threat not only to other birds, but also to people.

Six South American Bird Species Now Protected Under ESA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has classified six South American bird species as Endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). All six species – the Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, Junín Grebe, Junín Rail, Peruvian Plantcutter, Royal Cinclodes, and White-browed Tit-Spintail – are the focus of intensive conservation efforts by ABC and partners. Two species, the Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant and Royal Cinclodes, are native to Peru and Bolivia, while the remaining four occur only in Peru.

The primary factor leading to the listing of these species is habitat destruction. The Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, Peruvian Plantcutter, Royal Cinclodes, and White-browed Tit-Spintail are forest species, whose ranges have

become highly-fragmented as a result of deforestation for agriculture, grazing, and fuel wood extraction.

The Junín Grebe and Junín Rail are waterbirds that are endemic to a single lake (Lake Junín). Mining activity has polluted a major river flowing into the lake at its northwestern end and has caused grebes to abandon this area for parts of the lake where pollution is lower. Other problems include ongoing manipulations in water levels for hydropower generation, mining, and threats from disease caused by contamination of the lake water. The Junín Rail is also vulnerable to increased predation when water levels are low.

All of the listed species are further at risk due to their extremely small



Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant: Fabrice Schmitt

population sizes, which compromises their ability to survive unexpected natural events.

Over the last ten years, ABC has launched many programs designed to increase protections for these species, including collaborations with Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN) in Peru, and Asociación Armonía and Instituto de Ecología in Bolivia.

Blue Vipers, Endangered Frogs, and Threatened Birds Protected by New Guatemalan Reserve

Conservationists are hailing the creation of the 6,000-acre Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve in Guatemala, which will protect some of the country's most endangered wildlife. The reserve is home to a dozen globally threatened amphibians, including five found nowhere else in the world; three species of threatened birds; and the recently discovered Merendon Palm-pit viper, an arboreal, blue-toned snake.

Tucked away in the eastern corner of Guatemala near the Caribbean Sea, and running along the Honduran border, the Sierra Caral is an isolated mountain range that has yielded several new discoveries of beetles, salamanders, frogs, and snakes over the past two decades.

The new reserve will offer protections for many birds, including threatened species such as the Highland Guan, Great Curassow, and Keel-billed Motmot. The site is also known as a haven for migratory birds including Canada, Kentucky, and Worm-eating Warblers, Wood Thrush, Painted Bunting, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

"The new Sierra Caral Reserve safeguards key stopover habitat for perhaps millions of migrating U.S. birds, making it an invaluable addition to Central America's roster of protected areas and a real benefit to U.S. bird

conservation efforts," said ABC President George Fenwick.

The forests in the new reserve are especially diverse due to the convergence of floras and faunas from both North and South America. The region is a critical component of the "Jaguar Corridor" that will permit jaguars, mountain lions, migratory birds, and other wildlife to continue moving between the continents as they have done for millennia.

This unique area was almost lost to deforestation during the past decade. Massive clear-cutting and rapid



A stream in Sierra Caral. Photo: Robin Moore

in the Sierra Caral were raised by a group of fifteen international conservation groups, led by Global Wildlife Conservation and FUNDAECO.

Marco Cerezo, CEO of FUNDAECO, said, "This land purchase lifts the last hurdle for the Guatemalan government to declare the area a National Wildlife



The creation of the 6,000-acre Sierra Caral Amphibian Reserve in Guatemala will protect some of the country's most endangered wildlife, including globally threatened frogs and salamanders.

Critically endangered red-eyed stream frog: Robin Moore

conversion of the mountain slopes into cattle pasture degraded rivers that originate in these mountains and provide freshwater for thousands of local people. Consequently, the risk of devastating landslides has risen sharply.

At one point, local communities persuaded the Guatemalan Congress to declare the area a nationally protected site; however, budgetary restrictions prevented the government from purchasing the private lands.

But this year, funds needed to purchase the last stand of primary forest

Sanctuary, something that local communities and conservationists have been desperately awaiting since 2000."

Critical support was received from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, World Land Trust-US, International Conservation Fund of Canada, ABC, Conservation International, and others.

"This is a real triumph for the planet, conservationists across North and Central America banded together to save the last stand of this unique rainforest," said Paul Salaman, CEO of World Land Trust-US.



Juvenile Merendon Palm-pitviper: Don Church

Good News and Bad News for the California Condor

California Condors, the largest flying birds found over North America, reached a milestone this spring, when the condor population passed the 400 mark. Twenty five years ago, there were only 22 condors left, and all of them were living in captivity. As of August, 2012, there are 414 condors, with more than half once again living in the wild.

Controversial captive breeding programs saved this species from extinction after the last free-flying condors were captured in the late 1980s. The species was returned to the wild in 1992, when two birds born and reared in zoos were released in the mountains of south-central California. Two decades later, 233 of the giant birds soar free over parts of California, Arizona, Utah, and Baja California, Mexico.

Most of the “rewilded” condors were born in captive breeding centers operated by the Los Angeles Zoo, the San Diego Wild Animal Park, and The World Center for Birds of Prey in Boise, Idaho. But 45 chicks have fledged in the wild since 2001, and as many as 18 could fledge this year.

Unfortunately, the environmental problem that pushed free-flying condors to the brink of extinction in the 1980s is still present in the wild today. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at least 40 condors have died of lead poisoning since 1992, and according to a new study from the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) the source of that mortality is the lead ammunition used by hunters in parts of the condor’s range.

The study, by a team of environmental toxicologists at UCSC, was published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. It concluded not only that California Condors are continually exposed to lead ammunition, but that this exposure is a threat to the recovery of the species.

Unfortunately, the environmental problem that pushed free-flying condors to the brink of extinction in the 1980s is still present in the wild today.

“We will never have a self-sustaining wild condor population if we don’t solve this problem,” said toxicologist Myra Finklestein of UCSC. “Currently, California Condors are tagged and monitored, trapped twice a year for blood tests, and when necessary, treated for lead poisoning in veterinary hospitals—and they still die from lead poisoning on a regular basis.”



California Condor and chick in nest cave: Joseph Brandt, USFWS

The study found that if one-half of one percent of the carcasses of animals shot by hunters have lead in them for ten more years, it is likely that all wild California Condors will eventually be exposed. One exposure to the carcass of an animal killed by lead ammunition can be fatal for a condor.

In 2008, the use of traditional lead ammunition was banned in the condor’s Southern California rangelands. But condors can travel hundreds of miles a day, which can take them past the reach of the lead ban. Arizona has adopted a voluntary non-lead ammunition program in the northern part of the state and many hunters are reportedly participating. A similar program is also now in effect in Utah.



Ranchers Sign up to Improve Grasslands in Key Mexican Wintering Areas for Migrating Birds

Cattle ranchers and conservation groups have started teaming up to improve desert grassland habitat for local and migratory grassland birds in the Valles Centrales Grassland Priority Conservation Area of Chihuahua, Mexico. Landowners from three key properties have signed agreements to work with the consortium of Pronatura Noreste, ABC, and Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory to improve their cattle management techniques and improve habitat for priority grassland bird species, including the Baird's Sparrow, Sprague's Pipit, and Chestnut-collared Longspur. The program is also designed to improve grassland conditions for cattle grazing, which provides incentive for ranchers to join.

Since 2006, grazing and intensive agriculture have destroyed habitat and displaced an estimated 1 million grassland birds in Valles Centrales, one of the richest areas of wintering habitat for grassland species breeding in western North America. The owners of these ranches signed initial agreements



Baird's Sparrow (above) and Sprague's Pipit (below) are priority grassland birds that should benefit from recent habitat restoration programs. Photos: Greg Lavaty, www.texastargetbirds.com

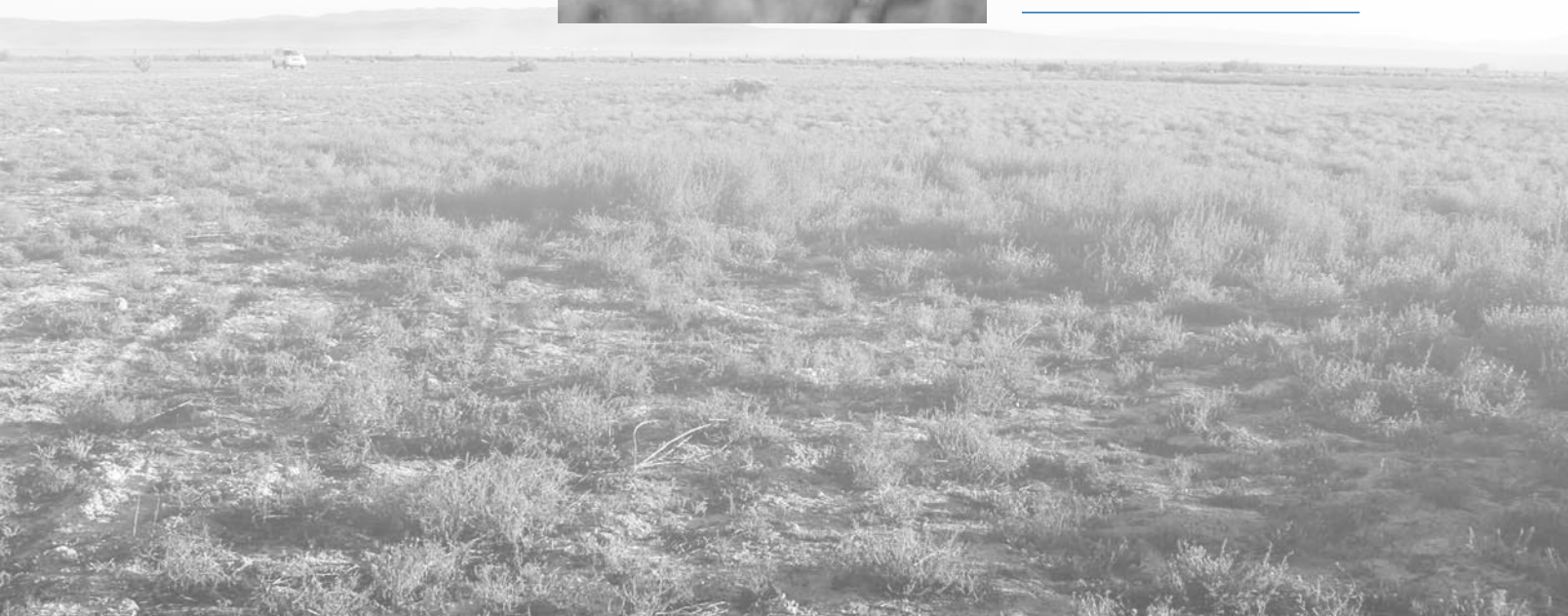


to participate in the program, saying they saw the importance and benefits of implementing improved cattle management practices and improving the quality and condition of over 182,000 acres of grassland habitat.

The project partners are now working to obtain extra funds from government and private sources to offset the costs of the management practices, such as fencing in new cattle paddocks, providing water tanks for cattle and improvements to the water distribution system. The initial properties will serve as pilot efforts that the partners hope will attract more landowners to participate in grassland conservation programs. The science behind this program was developed by the Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory.

The predominant wintering bird species in this area are Chestnut-collared Longspur, Sprague's Pipit, and Baird's Sparrow, but surveys have also found 29 priority species of high regional or continental conservation interest, including Lark Bunting, Vesper Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, and Aplomado Falcon.

Mexican grassland habitat: Pronatura Noreste



Florida Grasshopper Sparrow Struggles to Survive

Scientists and state and federal agency officials are struggling to understand why populations of the endangered Florida Grasshopper Sparrow are apparently crashing in its last three population strongholds on public lands.

This darker-backed Florida subspecies of Grasshopper Sparrow depends on dry prairie, a habitat now down to less than 15% of its original extent due to conversion to non-native grasses for cattle grazing. The subspecies was listed under the Endangered Species Act in 1986, and there have been extensive efforts to manage its remaining habitat. To maintain the appropriate structure and prevent shrubs from encroaching, prairie is burned every two years in late spring.

“Although extensive tracts of the species’ grassland habitat in south-central Florida appear to be in good condition, the birds are disappearing,” said

George Wallace, ABC Vice President. “One wonders whether the sparrow could become the United States’ next bird extinction, following the Po’o-uli in Hawai’i in 2004 and the Dusky Seaside Sparrow in Florida in 1987.”

Three main tracts of public land are said to be critical to the future of this species. Unfortunately, all have seen their Grasshopper Sparrow populations plummet in recent years. The surveys on U.S. Air Force’s Avon Park Bombing Range counted 130 singing males in 1999 but only one singing male in 2012, and at Kissimmee Prairie Preserve the number of singing males declined from 150 ten years ago to 14 in 2012. The count of 60 singing males at Three Lakes Wildlife Management Area in 2012 was also a record low.

There are apparently two Grasshopper Sparrow populations on private lands of unknown size. One proposal would

allow the new Everglades Headwaters National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area to secure some of these properties through direct purchase or bring them under management through conservation easements.

In the meantime, there are calls for increased efforts to identify the causes of the sparrow’s decline. Among the possible culprits are diseases and invasive, introduced fire ants, which can prey on nestlings.

Another problem has been a lack of public funding for land management and research. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has tried to address this problem by assigning a biologist to work full-time on the species. Audubon of Florida will post two staff at Kissimmee Prairie in 2013, and is calling on the Florida Park Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to match their commitment.

Second Mongoose Trapped on Kaua’i

Concerns are mounting that the small Indian mongoose, a voracious bird predator, is becoming established on the Hawaiian island of Kaua’i, following the capture of a second animal at Nawiliwili Harbor in Lihue on June 29, 2012. This second animal, a juvenile, was



Small Indian mongoose: Bill Hubick

caught as credible sightings of mongoose have popped up from Moloa’a in the northeast corner of the island all the way to Koke’e State Park in the uplands of west Kaua’i. The first mongoose – an adult – was captured in the vicinity of Lihue on May 23, 2012.

The mongoose is native to Asia and was introduced to Hawai’i Island in 1883 in an effort to control rats in cane fields. Subsequently it was introduced to Maui, Moloka’i, and O’ahu, but it was never deliberately introduced to Kaua’i. While the mongoose did not live up to its intended role as a rat predator, it has taken a terrible toll

on native Hawaiian birds, especially ground-nesting waterbirds and seabirds, many of which are endangered.

Absent mongooses, Kaua’i has been an important stronghold of endangered waterbirds such as Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Stilt, and Nēnē (Hawaiian Goose). In fact Nēnē have been doing so well that they have become an aircraft strike hazard at Kaua’i’s main airport, and the state’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife has been moving Nēnē to Maui and Hawai’i Island to boost populations there. This situation could change dramatically if mongoose do indeed take a foothold on Kaua’i.

Prosecutions in Illegal Transport of Exotic Game Animals in Hawai'i

Thomas Hauptman, a Maui helicopter pilot has pleaded guilty to charges stemming from his role in moving four exotic axis deer from Maui to Hawai'i Island, and bringing at least 11 exotic mouflon/sheep hybrids from Hawai'i Island to Maui in 2009. Hauptman admitted to moving one male and two female axis deer. A fourth deer died en route.

On September 13, the pilot was sentenced to one year probation and must provide 500 hours of helicopter time and cover fuel, maintenance costs, and pilot wages for flights provided to the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, the group leading efforts to eradicate axis deer introduced to Hawai'i Island. The restitution is expected to cost Hauptman more than \$300,000.

Since the focus of law enforcement investigations was originally on the movement of axis deer to Hawai'i Island, news of the reciprocal importation of mouflon/sheep hybrids to Maui was unexpected. While the mouflon have apparently been kept penned, the risk of escape is always present.

The ranch owner receiving the mouflon on Maui, Jeffrey Grundhauser, pleaded guilty to a federal misdemeanor for taking an unlicensed hunter to shoot game animals in a case stemming from the broader investigation into the interisland smuggling of harmful invasive species for hunting. He was sentenced to a \$15,000 fine and 100 hours of community service, which he will serve with the Maui Invasive Species Committee.

Daniel Rocha of Hawai'i Island received the three axis deer from Maui and released them on a private ranch. He was sentenced to 100 hours of

community service and a \$1,000 fine for having sheep in his possession without a permit.

Domestic sheep were introduced to Hawai'i Island in 1793, and mouflon were introduced in 1957 to increase the quality of feral sheep on Mauna Kea through interbreeding.

The state Division of Forestry and Wildlife confirmed the presence of destructive axis deer on Hawai'i in May 2011, when they reported that there may be as many as 100 deer spread over large areas of the island. Axis deer were first introduced to Moloka'i and O'ahu in 1868, Lana'i in 1920, and Maui in 1959. They were not introduced to the island of Hawai'i. If they were to take hold there, the consequences could be disastrous for farmers, ranchers, watersheds, and native Hawaiian bird species.

On Hawai'i Island, ranchers fear that axis deer will compete for forage with their cattle, while farmers fear the kind of crop damage that has cost Maui



Axis deer: Wikipedia.com

Palila: Michael Walther



"It is vitally important to show that the laws have teeth and will be used to protect Hawai'i's precious natural resources."

*George Wallace
Vice President for Oceans and Islands, ABC*

farmers \$1 million over the last two years. Conservationists see millions of dollars of investment in protecting sensitive natural areas on Hawai'i Island at risk. This includes decades of work to fence and exclude ungulates from Hawai'i Volcanos National park, efforts that are currently underway to fence in critical habitat for the Endangered Palila on Mauna Kea, and work to eradicate sheep and goats to enable the recovery of the forests critical to the Palila's survival.

"ABC commends the work of the law enforcement agents and the U.S. Attorney in Hawai'i that has led to these prosecutions," said George Wallace, ABC's Vice President for Oceans and Islands. "It is vitally important to show that the laws have teeth and will be used to protect Hawai'i's precious native bird species and natural resources."

ABC Sues Department of the Interior To Get the Truth on Bird Kills at Wind Power Plants

Does the public have a right to know how many birds and animals proposed wind projects are likely to kill? The wind industry says no. They say studies listing numbers and varieties of birds that might be killed at potential wind sites are confidential business documents that shouldn't be seen by the public.

But ABC says that, rather than being a trade secret, our birds are a national treasure whose future is entrusted to the American people, and that there is no better way to encourage the wind industry to build low-impact wind developments than by making wind kills public.

ABC began to push for public access to these documents more than 17 months ago, when it submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) documents related to bird and bat mortality at wind developments in Kennedy County, Texas, where coastal wind projects have been located in a major bird migration corridor.

Six months later, ABC submitted FOIA requests for other prospective and existing wind developments in multiple U.S. states. The documents requested ranged from unreleased studies of bird mortality at proposed wind power sites to mortality data from existing facilities, as well as letters and records of meetings between FWS officials and representatives of the wind power industry.

FWS offices in some states responded by releasing the documents within 90 days, as is required by FOIA, but several FWS offices in other states failed to release any documents at all.

“It’s frustrating that Americans have to sue to find out what their government is saying to wind companies about threats to birds.”

*Kelly Fuller
Wind Campaign Coordinator, ABC*

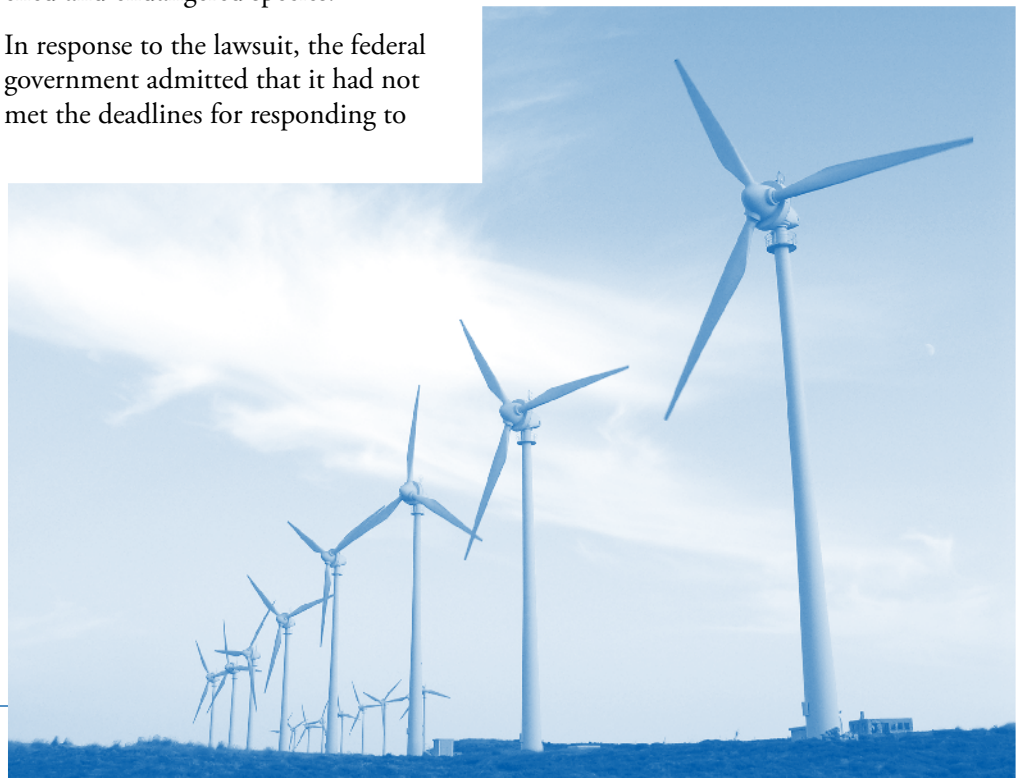
After waiting several months, ABC took the issue to court. In a lawsuit filed in June, ABC sued the U.S. Department of the Interior in order to obtain the unreleased information. ABC was represented in the suit by the Washington, D.C. public-interest law firm of Meyer Glitzenstein & Crystal.

“It’s frustrating that Americans have to sue in order to find out what their government is saying to wind companies about the threat to birds,” said Kelly Fuller, Wind Campaign Coordinator for ABC. “ABC is concerned that many of these projects have the potential to take a toll on songbirds, majestic eagles, and threatened and endangered species.”

In response to the lawsuit, the federal government admitted that it had not met the deadlines for responding to

ABC’s FOIA requests and agreed to produce all documents by September 15, 2012. ABC began receiving more of the FOIA documents shortly after the suit was filed, and Fuller says the documents received so far show that the lawsuit was worthwhile. For example, one of the documents released after the lawsuit revealed that at the prospective Goodhue Wind project site in Minnesota, the government’s Environmental Assessment for the project’s eagle take permit is being drafted by consultants hired by the wind project’s developer, and not by FWS biologists.

“ABC now knows to be alert for signs of bias in the Environmental Assessment when we review it during the permit’s public comment period, expected later this year,” said Fuller. “We look forward to receiving the rest of the FOIA documents with great anticipation.”



Golden-wings and Long-bills – Lifecycle Bird Conservation at ABC

ABC, in association with a multitude of partners, has launched a “full life-cycle” conservation project for two migratory bird species of conservation concern, the Golden-winged Warbler and Long-billed Curlew. The new projects are



Long-billed Curlew: Greg Lavaty

designed to conserve breeding, stopover, and wintering resources for the warbler and the curlew, and to insure safe passage of the birds between these areas during migration.

A Golden-winged Warbler Status Assessment and Conservation Action Plan that sets specific goals for the new program will soon be published by the Golden-Winged Warbler Working Group. That document will lay out broad conservation targets for the warbler across its breeding range of the Great Lakes and the Appalachian Mountains.

In North America ABC is helping the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources set up a series of conservation “demonstration sites” on private lands.

In Pennsylvania, private landowners are already getting involved with conservation efforts organized with the help of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Some are also signing up for conservation programs that will benefit their properties. These habitat management actions, primarily involving the creation of young forests, will also benefit species such as the American Woodcock and Ruffed Grouse.

In Tennessee, ABC is working with the University of Tennessee to improve Golden-winged Warbler breeding habitat by chemically treating and burning pastures and other marginal lands. Similar efforts are being developed by ABC and partners for Minnesota, West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina.

The new projects are designed to conserve breeding, stopover, and wintering resources for the warbler and the curlew, and to insure safe passage of the birds between these areas during migration.

In Central America, where the Golden-winged Warbler overwinters, ABC is working to create a corridor of protected lands connecting the El Jaguar Reserve and the Cerros de Yali Protected Area in Nicaragua. Efforts continue to engage additional private landowners in this area, which has been identified as an important wintering area for Golden-wings.

Shade coffee plantations have also been identified as helpful to Golden-wings and other migrant songbirds

such as the Wood Thrush and Tennessee Warbler. Along with reforesting riparian areas and areas around existing forests, ABC is encouraging farmers to add shade trees to their coffee plantations and to convert their sun varieties to shade coffee.

ABC is also part of a consortium that is working on annual life cycle conservation programs for the Long-billed Curlew. That group is developing new management recommendations for Long-billed Curlews in both sage and grassland habitats in the Intermountain West. ABC and others hope to have these practices adopted and implemented by both public and private landowners across the curlew's breeding range.

On the curlew's wintering grounds, ABC and Mexican partner Pronatura Noreste are working together to create a community reserve. The creation of this reserve will help secure the full protection of one of the largest remaining grassland areas in Mexico — a critical wintering area for the Long-billed Curlew.



Golden-winged Warbler: Laura Erickson

Colombia Mega Dam Could Destroy Habitat for Threatened Macaw and Newly Discovered Wren

Celebrations over the discovery of a new species of wren in Colombia ended abruptly when it was revealed that much of its habitat – also the habitat for a threatened species of macaw – is in danger of being flooded by a new hydroelectric dam project.

The discovery of the Antioquia Wren (*Thryophilus sernai*) in the Central Andes of Colombia was announced in the July edition of *The Auk*. Shortly afterwards, it was confirmed that the wren's habitat could be flooded when what has been called the largest power station in the country is finished in about seven years. The nearly \$5.5 billion, 738 ft. tall Pescadero-Ituango hydroelectric dam will flood 15 square miles of habitat, drowning all six locations where the newly identified bird has been confirmed so far.

Of equal concern is the likely flooding by the dam of habitat for the last colony in the region of the threatened Military Macaw. This spectacular green, red, and turquoise parrot has

scattered, sparse populations throughout Central and South America, including one colony 15 miles upstream from the dam—well within area targeted for flooding.

“This region of Colombia is a world-class birding tourism destination, and the government understands how valuable birds are to the economy. So this may be a factor in mitigation efforts and may help in the survival of the newly discovered wren and the macaw,” said Benjamin Skolnik, ABC Conservation Specialist.

One such mitigation action that could be taken by the government would be the protection of non-flooded habitat upstream of the dam. If enough suitable habitat could be conserved there, it might be possible to safeguard viable populations of the macaw and wren populations against losses due to logging, cattle grazing and agriculture.

Detailed environmental impact studies should explore these possibilities as well as other measures to conserve remaining habitat.

“Bird conservation efforts have a history of giving back to local communities for the long haul in a fashion that has been a win-win for all concerned,” said Lina Daza Rojas, Executive Director of Fundación ProAves, ABC's Colombian partner. “The conservation programs are helping to not only protect and rehabilitate the land and forests, but they also provide improved habitat for birds and other wildlife that ultimately bring in tourism dollars. And we've demonstrated a variety of conservation and farming techniques that benefit wildlife, while at the same time offering equal or even higher farming returns.”



Carlos Estaban Lara



Greg Homel, Natural Elements Productions

The newly discovered Antioquia Wren (far left) and the Military Macaw (left) could lose key habitat if the Pescadero-Ituango hydroelectric dam is built in Colombia's Cauca Valley (pictured in background)

Background photo by Carlos Estaban Lara, 2012

Second Millerbird Translocation a Success

An ambitious, historic effort to save one of the United States' rarest bird species from extinction reached another milestone recently when 26 Millerbirds were captured on the northwestern Hawaiian island of Nihoa and released by biologists on Laysan Island, some 650 miles away.

This second such translocation took place in August and was carried out by a team of biologists from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), ABC, and other organizations as part of a multi-year effort to restore Millerbirds to Laysan Island.

Millerbirds disappeared from Laysan nearly 100 years ago, after introduced rabbits and other animals devoured their habitat. The introduced animals were removed from Laysan in the early 20th Century, and FWS has been working to restore Laysan's native vegetation for more than two decades.

Last year, in the first phase of this translocation effort, 24 Millerbirds were successfully moved from Nihoa to Laysan. Since their September 10, 2011 release, this group of birds has thrived, producing 17 young. With the 26 Millerbirds brought to Laysan this year, the team has now translocated 50 "founder" Millerbirds—the initial target number set by the conservation team for giving the species the best possible chance of establishing a

self-sustaining population on Laysan. "Certainly, there is much more to be done," said George Wallace, ABC Vice President for Oceans and Islands. "But so far, the results are even better than we had hoped."

Two biologists will remain on Laysan through the end of October, and one will remain through the winter to monitor the newly released Millerbirds, the young produced in 2012, and the adults translocated in 2011. Close observation of the first group of translocated Millerbirds over the past 11 months has yielded significant new scientific information about the species, such as details of their breeding, the fact that pairs can produce more than one brood in a season, and a still-emerging picture of how young birds mature and enter the breeding population.

The newly translocated birds are already setting up breeding territories, and one of the new arrivals has paired with a bird that hatched out on Laysan this spring.

A self-sustaining Millerbird population on Laysan will ensure that the species can't be wiped out by a single catastrophic event on Nihoa – for example, a hurricane – or by the accidental introduction of an alien predator or disease.



Banded Millerbirds explore their new home on Laysan. Photo: Cameron Rutt



Millerbird nest with egg, Laysan. Photo: Cameron Rutt



The *MV Searcher*, anchored off Laysan Island, transported both cohorts of Millerbirds from Nihoa to Laysan in 2011 and 2012. Photo: Cameron Rutt, 2012

BIRDS IN BRIEF

Rusty-faced Parrots Use Nest Box for First Time, Fledge Chick

For the first time ever, a pair of globally vulnerable Rusty-faced Parrots has successfully raised a chick in a nest box. The pair laid a single egg in a box at the Colibri del Sol Reserve in Antioquia, Columbia on April 11. The chick fledged from the box on July 13.

Fundacion ProAves, ABC's partner in Colombia, placed 41 nest boxes in the reserve in 2003, because mature trees and palms that provide the natural cavities that the threatened parrots use were being cut down for timber and firewood. It is hoped that more parrot pairs will use the nest boxes in the next breeding season.



Rusty-faced Parrot in nest box: Björn Welander

New Visitor Center in Brooklyn Reflects Bird-Friendly Design

Botanical gardens often consist of glass buildings set in landscaped areas, a combination that poses an especially dangerous collision threat for birds. In May, however, the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens opened a Visitor Center that has been hailed as proof that bird-friendly architecture can be a part of good design. Architects Marion Weiss and Michael Manfred have added ceramic dots called "frit" in vertical lines to the windows of the new

building, spaced in way that is designed to signal 'no fly zone' to birds. The new visitor center will be monitored for collisions over its first year to evaluate this risk and the general success of the glass.

ABC Adds Three Reserves to ConservationBirding.org

ABC has added two new destinations and updated four others on its *ConservationBirding.org* website, a unique resource that helps conservation-minded birders plan trips to see some of the rarest birds in Latin America while contributing to their conservation. The sites are in Peru and Bolivia and are home to such rarities as the Long-whiskered Owlet and Marvelous Spatuletail (Peru) and Red-fronted Macaw (Bolivia). Come visit!

Study Shows Growing Shade Coffee and Cacao Helps Birds

While natural forests provide the best habitat for tropical forest birds, wooded "shade" plantations are also quite useful. That's the gist of a study from the University of Utah, which found

that coffee and chocolate plantations that leave some of the native forest trees standing provide four times more bird diversity than open farmland.

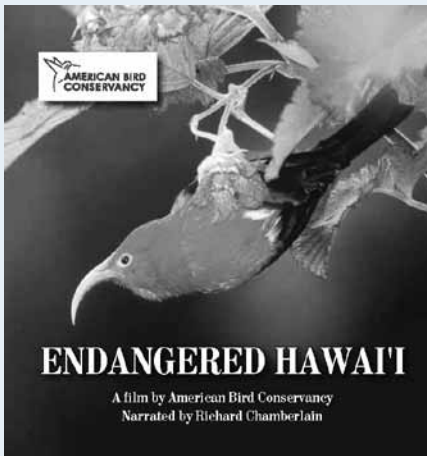
ABC and its international partners have produced and planted more than 950,000 native trees and coffee bushes in agroforestry and silvipasture systems in Nicaragua, Colombia, and Peru in an effort to provide more habitat for tropical birds.

ABC Documentary on Endangered Hawaiian Birds Now Available

ABC's new 30-minute film, titled *Endangered Hawaii'i*, narrated by actor Richard Chamberlain, is now available for purchase on DVD. The film, which features stunning color footage of Hawaii'i's birds, explores the extinction crisis that has caused Hawaii'i to become known as "The Bird Extinction Capital of the World." ABC produced the film with funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. DVDs are available for \$9.95 plus shipping at www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/oceansandislands/hawaii/endangered_hawaii.html



Shade-grown coffee: Mike Parr



The conservation of Hawaiian birds is a top priority for ABC, which is working with state, federal, and non-government partners to implement on-the-ground projects designed to protect a variety of threatened species.

Bay-breasted Cuckoo Festival Spreads Conservation Message

The first-ever Bay Breasted Cuckoo Festival was recently held on the north side of the Sierra de Bahoruco in the Dominican Republic. The festival, which coincided with annual patron saint festivals, was designed to help local people better understand the biology, ecology, and conservation needs of the endangered Bay-breasted Cuckoo, known locally as the “Cua”.

ABC and the Sociedad Ornithologica de la Hispaniola have been working with the Ministry of Natural Resources and local communities around the Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve and Bahoruco National Park to reduce threats to delicate dry forest habitat used by the cuckoo.



Bay-breasted Cuckoo: Cesar Abrill

Maui Parrotbill Getting Help on the Ground and From the Air

Hawaiian Airlines wants to help conserve the Maui Parrotbill, a critically endangered Hawaiian honeycreeper. The airline recently added the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project (MFBRP) to their “Give Wings to Great Causes” flyer miles donation program for 2012.

Patrons of Hawaiian Airlines can now donate frequent flyer miles to MFBRP, allowing people working for the project to travel within the Hawaiian Islands free of charge for inter-island scientific, training, and conference events. The program can also be used to bring scientists from the U.S. mainland to Maui.

Currently, the remaining 450 parrotbills are restricted to a 15-square mile area of the windward side of east Maui.



Maui Parrotbill: Michael Walther

German Restaurant Modified Following Bird Collision Lawsuit

In what may prove to be a landmark case involving the issue of bird collisions with glass, a restaurant on the Drachenfels Plateau, a popular tourist destination in Germany, has been covered over with a tarp following a ruling that the builders of the recently completed structure did not do enough to reduce bird collisions.

The Drachenfels Plateau is located in the Siebengebirge, or Seven Mountains National Park in Germany. The plateau is part of a protected area covered by environmental regulations protecting the land and its wildlife. When the local district approved plans to develop a restaurant for the 450,000 tourists who visit the Drachenfels and opened a competition to design the facility, Friends of the Earth Germany (BUND) advised that designs should take into account the potential of glass collisions by bird species of concern resident in the area, including Peregrine Falcons, Cirl Buntings, Rock Buntings, and Eagle Owls.

A design for the restaurant was approved, including use of a type of glass, Ornilux, which appears transparent to humans but incorporates a UV pattern visible to birds. After the approval, BUND sued, on the grounds that other glass more effective at preventing collisions was available, although patterns on that glass would be visible to humans. In a recent decision, the court ruled in BUND’s favor. The restaurant remains covered by tarps pending appeal.

If you have questions or want more information on our articles, contact Bob Johns at 202-234-7181, x210, or e-mail bjohns@abcbirds.org

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Help Protect Birds and the Environment!

Did you know the Environmental Protection Agency still uses birds as “canaries in the coal mine” to determine whether the more than 200,000 pesticides registered for use in the United States cause unintended harm to wildlife and the environment; the environment we all share?

Scientists have long known that birds provide an excellent measure of whether ecosystems are intact and healthy, and that bird conservation is an integral part of all biodiversity conservation. Whether viewed through the larger lens of climate change or the smaller lens of community-based reserves, birds are seen prominently. Invariably, conservation actions for birds benefit all of us.

Will you help ABC demonstrate the strength of our commitment to birds and the environment with a much-needed extra donation this fall? Your support will help ABC:

- ✓ Work with the Environmental Protection Agency to help cancel or restrict ten dangerous rodenticides that pose unnecessary risk to children, raptors, and other wildlife.
- ✓ Protect birds and other pollinators from the devastating effects of neonicotinoids, a new class of deadly pesticides.
- ✓ Oppose poorly sited wind power developments and continue to advocate for mandatory guidelines for the wind industry to protect migratory birds and iconic species such as Bald and Golden Eagles.
- ✓ Continue to design and test glass treatments that will prevent millions of birds from colliding with windows.
- ✓ Protect seabirds, including Waved Albatrosses in Ecuador, by working with commercial and artisanal fisheries to reduce bycatch; and Newell’s Shearwaters in Hawai’i by working with partners to build fencing and remove invasive predators.



U.S. Department of Labor

Donate today using the enclosed envelope or online at abcbirds.org. As an ABC member you are part of a tremendous constituency that protects birds and the environment—thank you for your generous support.