



Speak Out for Birds and the Laws that Protect Them

Dear Bird Conservation Community,

There are several months remaining in the 115th Congress with lots of unfinished business affecting birds, including pending harmful provisions in both the Farm Bill and the Interior Appropriations bill. And our voices are making a difference: harmful Endangered Species Act (ESA) riders affecting the Greater Sage Grouse and Lesser Prairie Chicken were recently dropped from the Defense bill. Please read through to the end for a new staff announcement!

[ALERT: Farm Bill at Risk due to Harmful Riders](#)

The Farm Bill provides critical funding for bird conservation and habitat improvements and the House and Senate are now working to reconcile their differing versions of the bill. Unfortunately, the House Farm Bill contains numerous exemptions to the Endangered Species Act (ESA), including for dangerous pesticides, and other provisions harmful to science-based management of public lands.

[TAKE ACTION: Please ask your Senators and Representative](#) to oppose any version of the Farm Bill that contains legislative riders harmful to wildlife and our environment. With your help, the Farm Bill can continue to be an important conservation tool for conserving America's birds.

[Birds Threatened by Proposed Rollback of Endangered Species Act Protections](#)

The Endangered Species Act is threatened by harmful new regulations and legislative loopholes. Most recently, the Marbled Murrelet — a threatened Pacific seabird — has become the target of a legislative rider in the House Interior Appropriations Bill to prevent ESA-required habitat protection for the species in Washington State. In addition, the Bi-State Greater Sage-Grouse population, which numbers only 2,500 birds, would be stripped of the possibility of ESA listing.

[TAKE ACTION: Please click here](#) to help protect the Endangered Species Act by asking your Senators and Representative to oppose bill language that would exempt species from ESA protection.

[Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act – Needs Senate Republican Leadership](#)

Up to 1 billion birds die each year from collisions with buildings and glass. New construction can incorporate bird-friendly building design strategies which minimizes additional costs. The Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act would help prevent the deaths of millions of birds by including bird-safe building materials and design features into public buildings. Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act - Senate bill, S. 1920 and House bill, H.R. 2542 has been introduced and is gaining support.

TAKE ACTION: Please click [here](#) and ask your Senators and Representative to support and cosponsor the Federal Bird-Safe Buildings Act.

North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) Toolkits Available

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative’s National Bird Conservation Priorities are now available and you can [find the document on their website](#). NABCI also has a new [Relevancy Toolkit](#), a resource designed to facilitate conversations between the bird-focused community and other partners whose broad goals may align with bird conservation outcomes. Some partners may wish to pull out a few examples and create a handout tailored to a specific audience; for example, [this sample one-pager](#) may be useful to build connections with the USDA and affiliates.

Alliance for Zero Extinction Gaining Influence

We are pleased to report that the first-ever national ordinance in support of the Alliance for Zero Extinction was signed by Brazil. This commits Brazil to identify and map sites holding the last known populations of highly threatened species. We are also pleased to report the inclusion of AZE sites in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)’s SBSTTA-22 recommendations for accelerating progress on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12. Please find the recommendations here: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/recommendations/sbstta-22/sbstta-22-rec-04-en.pdf>.

Endangered Cranes Find an Ally in Kansas Utility Companies



Whooping Crane family. The work to reduce the threat of colliding with powerlines is taking place in Kansas around the Quivira National Wildlife Refuge and Cheyenne Bottoms — important stopover areas between the species’ wintering and breeding grounds. Photo by Richard Seeley/ Shutterstock

Endangered Whooping Cranes are safer during their twice-yearly migratory journeys, thanks to years of effort by Kansas utility companies to identify and mark powerlines that pose the greatest risk to the birds. Although rare, collision with powerlines is the greatest known source of mortality for fledged Whooping Cranes.

“Whooping Cranes number only about 750 in the world, including more than 500 that migrate between Aransas Wildlife Refuge in Texas and their Canadian breeding grounds,” said Steve Holmer, Vice President of Policy at

American Bird Conservancy. “We’re grateful for the work by Westar Energy and other companies who are helping to make the Whooping Crane’s long-distance journey safer and more likely to succeed.”

And, one more thing.....

Bird Smart Wind Campaigner Holly Goyert Joins ABC Advocacy Team

American Bird Conservancy is pleased to announce that Holly Goyert, Ph.D., joined the team as our new Bird Smart wind campaigner on August 16. Holly comes to ABC from the University of Massachusetts where she researched avian exposure to offshore wind development and tracked the movements of the Endangered Roseate Tern and the Threatened Piping Plover and Red Knot. Holly will be leading efforts to halt improperly sited wind projects in the Great Lakes and other important bird areas, to influence policies and leasing decisions affecting offshore wind development and impacted species, and to advance mitigation policies to reduce bird mortality. Holly's email is hgoyert@abcbirds.org.

Inside Bird Conservation is produced by American Bird Conservancy. Past editions and other issue updates are available on the [Bird Conservation Alliance website](#). Please forward to interested conservationists. To subscribe, please send a message to sholmer@abcbirds.org.

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