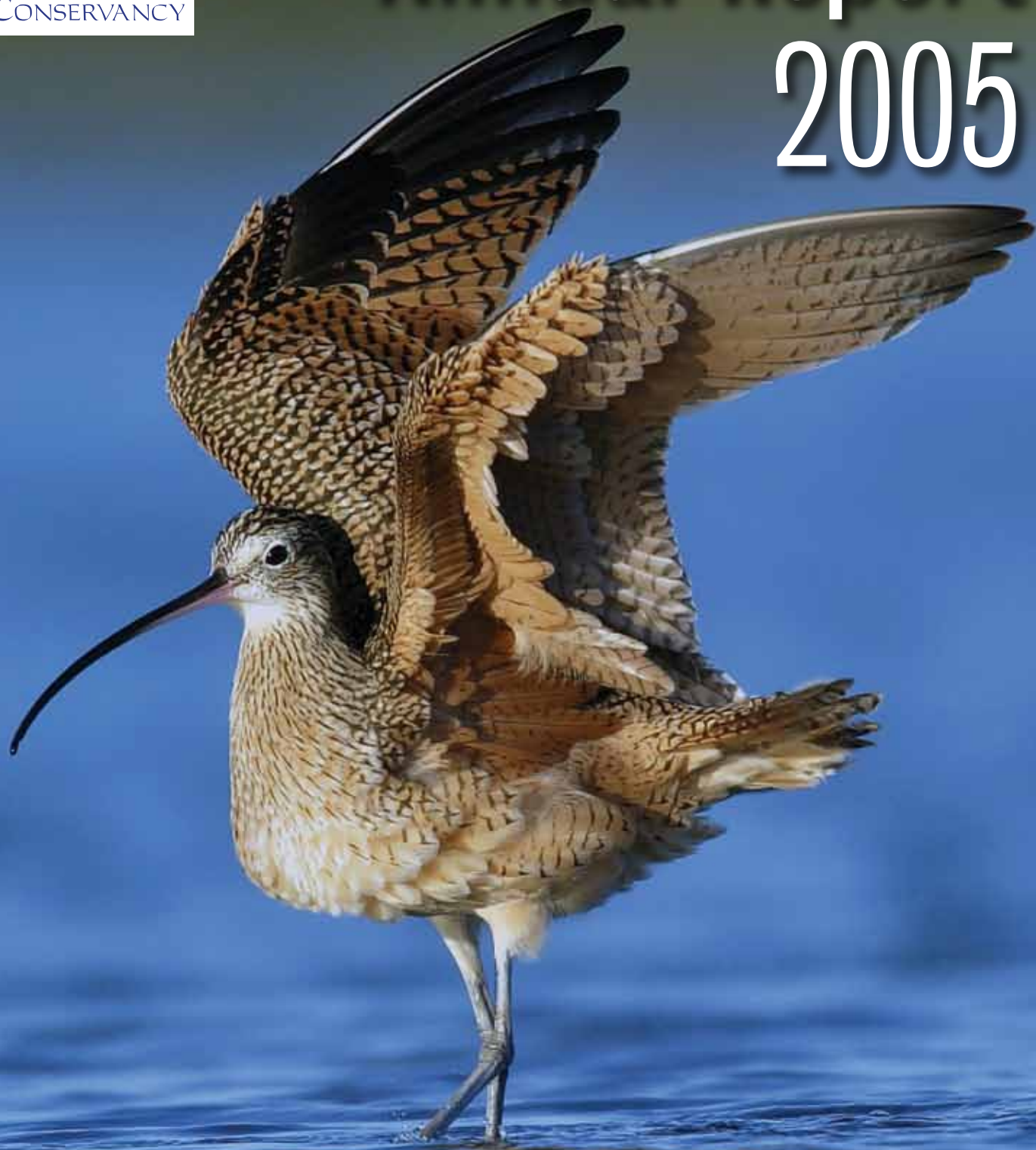




Annual Report 2005



American Bird Conservancy—the future of bird conservation

From the Chairman

I write this in my last year as Chair of ABC's Board before I rotate off under our term limit policy that ensures a healthy turnover of Directors. During my nine years on the Board, I have seen ABC grow dramatically in prominence, capability, and achievement. Who could have guessed that a small bird group with an initial total budget of a few hundred thousand dollars could expand so rapidly that it could successfully help protect over 30 bird species through land acquisition in 2005 alone? Who could have predicted ABC's leadership in developing collaborative bird conservation plans across the United States? And who could have imagined ABC's effectiveness in building the partnerships and coalitions needed to address so many issues ranging from pesticide abuse, to cat predation on birds, to endangered species protection, to longline fishing bycatch of albatrosses?



ABC is leading the way in addressing the top priority threats to birds, and is developing a comprehensive program to halt extinctions and restore populations. For example, there are 88 sites in the Americas where a bird species is down to its last stronghold. Many remain unprotected. With your help, ABC will try to protect as many as half these sites in the next five years. Keystone wildlife legislation, such as the Endangered Species Act, is under relentless attack and can only be protected if organizations such as ABC show creative leadership, as demonstrated by our recent report showing the positive impact of the Act on endangered birds. "Bird versus man" problems such as the impact of communication towers on migrating songbirds beg for realistic solutions and trustworthy organizations like ABC to implement them. In summary, bird conservation needs to be led by tough, realistic, smart organizations with broad public support. ABC is such an organization and I know that it will keep producing results. I hope you will give it increasing support, as I will in the years ahead.

—Ken Berlin

From the President

For the 12th straight year, American Bird Conservancy has enjoyed its best year ever. Whether conserving habitat or advocating for beneficial legislation, your support has enabled ABC to take the lead in saving our birds, and to do each job efficiently and well.

Over time, bird lovers throughout the Americas have come to know and trust ABC and to rely on the quality of its work—we identify the problems, find the right people and organizations to collaborate with, and implement the solutions. As you read through this report, you will see just how far ABC's reach now extends. From Alaska to Chile, ABC is working to safeguard the rarest bird species, restore habitats, and reduce threats.

While we look back with pride at our achievements of the past year, we understand that without you, our supporters, we could have accomplished none of them. So, how best



to thank you? Firstly, we pledge to continue to make sure that your donations go directly to fund on-the-ground bird conservation. Our commitment to this goal is demonstrated by our four-star rating from the independent group, Charity Navigator. ABC has earned this highest rating for four consecutive years, showing that we consistently devote resources to where they are most needed—the birds. We will also continue to make sure that the highest priority threats to birds are being addressed, the last refuges for the most endangered species are adequately protected, and that habitats across the continent remain viable places for all our birds to thrive.

But to all our friends and partners that we have gained over the years, perhaps the only way to thank you properly is to promise that we aim to make 2006 ABC's 13th consecutive best year ever.

Thank you again for trusting ABC with your support.

—George Fenwick



*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

— Margaret Mead

Fuertes's Parrot chick/Fundación ProAves



About American Bird Conservancy

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is the only 501(c)(3) organization that works solely to conserve native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. ABC acts to safeguard the rarest bird species, restore habitats, and reduce threats, while building capacity in the conservation movement. ABC is the voice for birds, ensuring that they are adequately protected; that sufficient funding is available for bird conservation; and that land is protected and properly managed to maintain viable habitat.

ABC sets the bird conservation agenda by using the best science available to determine the highest priorities and the best solutions, and then communicating these priorities to the conservation community and the public through alliances, partnerships, and networks. ABC counts among its staff some of the foremost experts in bird conservation in the United States, and partners with many others throughout the Americas.

ABC is a membership organization that is consistently awarded a top, four-star rating by the independent group Charity Navigator.





SAFEGUARDING the RAREST

Preventing bird extinctions is one of ABC's primary goals. Our first line of defense has been to identify the places throughout the Americas where endangered bird species are restricted to a single remaining site. We undertake projects to protect these sites through land acquisition and restoration. All projects are conducted in partnership with local groups and communities to ensure the best conservation outcome. ABC also identifies and protects key sites for wider-ranging endangered species that suffer from a variety of threats. In the United States, ABC works to maintain a strong Endangered Species Act, and to implement specific actions to safeguard our rarest and most vulnerable bird species.

Selected 2005 Achievements

Habitat Acquisition

Land purchase to protect the rarest endemic species:

ABC provided financial and technical support to Fundación ProAves (Colombia), ECOAN (Peru), Fundación Jocotoco (Ecuador), Mindo Cloud Forest (Ecuador), and Panama Audubon to purchase 46 key tracts of land to create four new bird reserves and expand nine others. This network of reserves protects a diverse range of Globally Threatened species, including the Colorful Puffleg, Dusky Starfrontlet, Royal Sunangel, Gorgeted Wood-Quail, Long-whiskered Owlet, Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, Blue-billed Curassow, and Ochre-fronted and Jocotoco Antpittas. ABC also raised funds to develop ecotourism that will help provide a sustainable future for several of these sites. Furthermore, various species new to science have been discovered at the reserves, including a species of frog, a species of ginger, and several butterflies. At one Colombian reserve, field surveys revealed one of the world's most endangered primate species, the variegated spider-monkey.



Alonso Quevedo, President of Fundación ProAves, with a Yellow-eared Parrot/Fundación ProAves

The first known photograph of a male Dusky Starfrontlet/
Fundación ProAves



In 2005, ABC helped buy more land for endangered birds in more Latin America countries than any other conservation group.

Habitat Restoration

Conservation of Critical Andean Ecosystems and their Endemic Birds: ABC continued to support our partner ECOAN in its work to protect *Polylepis* forests in the high Andes of Peru. Working with 19 indigenous communities, more than 70,000 saplings were planted in 2005 alone, restoring habitat for the Endangered White-browed Tit-Spinetail, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and the Critically Endangered Royal Cinclodes, all dependent on *Polylepis* forest. The project also provided fuel-efficient stoves and alternative fuel sources for these communities, reducing their dependency on *Polylepis* wood for cooking. ECOAN also negotiated a ten-year lease with the Pomacochas community for 74 acres of key habitat for the Endangered Marvelous Spatuletail. This enigmatic hummingbird has a tiny range and population. Habitat restoration has already begun, with the local community helping to plant more than 10,000 native trees.

Conservation of the Juan Fernández Firecrown, Chile: In 2005, efforts to save this Critically Endangered hummingbird continued, in partnership with the Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy, through the control of invasive plants that threaten breeding habitat. Community support is also being built to help future firecrown conservation and monitoring efforts.

Conservation Planning

Alliance for Zero Extinction: To prevent further bird extinctions in the Americas, ABC helped to form the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE). AZE is a coalition of 63 biodiversity conservation groups in 18 countries that have jointly identified the 595 places on Earth where one or more endangered species of bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian, or conifer is confined to a single remaining



ABC, in partnership with the National Geographic Society, published a global AZE site map detailing endangered sites and species.

site. In the Americas, 89 endangered bird species trigger 88 AZE sites. ABC is working with partners throughout the region to safeguard these sites and their species as an irreplaceable legacy for the future. During 2005, AZE published a landmark paper in the **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences** detailing the site identification process. The paper generated worldwide publicity, and several members of ABC staff and board were among its lead authors. ABC also published a global AZE site map in partnership with the National Geographic Society, and launched a web site (www.zeroextinction.org) that provides an interactive global map of AZE sites. ABC field conservation programs are currently active at 19 AZE sites, and ABC plans to expand this effort to eventually safeguard all AZE bird sites in the Americas.

Strategies for species and habitats: ABC provided funding for BirdLife Brasil to develop a conservation plan for the critically Endangered Alagoas Foliage-Gleaner, and supported Fundación ProAves in the development of a conservation plan for the Critically Endangered Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird and Mountain Grackle.

Advocacy in Action

Securing crucial federal funding for rare Hawaiian birds: ABC alerted the Bird Conservation Alliance (see page 16) to support efforts by the Hawaii Endangered Bird Program to prevent the cancellation of federal funding for some of America's rarest species. Captive-breeding and re-introduction efforts for such imperiled Hawaiian endemics as the Small Kauai Thrush (Puaiohi), Palila, and Maui Parrotbill will now continue unabated.

2006 and Beyond

ABC aims to prevent further bird extinctions in the Americas by:

- **Creating new bird reserves and expanding existing reserves to ensure the survival of some of the rarest species in Latin America and the Caribbean:** Some planned land purchases include a new reserve in the Saltillo region of northern Mexico to safeguard the global stronghold of the Endangered Worthen's Sparrow, expanding the new Abra Patricia reserve to protect 23 Globally Threatened bird species, and protecting the Critically Endangered Stresemann's Bristlefront in the Atlantic forests of Brazil.
- **Restoring habitat for rare and declining bird species through innovative management solutions:** For example, in collaboration with Fundación ProAves, ABC is funding the construction and installation of artificial nest boxes for the Endangered Santa Marta Parakeet as a means to overcome a critical shortage of natural nest cavities.
- **Ensuring a strong U.S. Endangered Species Act:** By lobbying Congress using tools such as ABC's report **American Birds, an Endangered Species Act Success Story**, we aim to make sure that elected officials do not permit America's foremost wildlife protection law to be weakened by special interest groups.

ABC staff member George Wallace surveys the landscape at Abra Patricia / Mike Parr



2005

HIGHLIGHT

ABRA PATRICIA RESERVE, PERU



Abra Patricia is a pass located in northern Peru on the east slope of the Andes. From the pass, an unbroken panorama of virgin forest stretches down to the Amazonian lowlands of eastern Peru. The area comprises steep slopes characterized by mid-montane cloud forest and a unique stunted ridge-top scrub forest with abundant epiphytes, bamboo thickets, and scattered palms and tree ferns. The area is the global stronghold of the Endangered Ochre-fronted Antpitta and Long-whiskered Owllet, conferring on it Alliance for Zero Extinction status. In addition, 21 other Globally Threatened Species are found here, including the Royal Sunangel, Ash-throated Antwren, and the poorly-known Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant. The forest is also close to the Utcubamba River watershed, where the highly range-restricted, endemic, and Endangered Marvelous Spatuletail is found.

With a generous grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, ABC partnered with the Peruvian conservation group ECOAN to purchase 5,200 acres of land to form the Abra Patricia Reserve. This new reserve will help protect the area from significant threats that include deforestation for pasture lands and hardwood timber extraction, and poaching.

Following the land purchase, three reserve guards and a manager have been contracted. Designs for a new eco-lodge, aimed at generating conservation revenue, are being drawn up. Nature tourism has only just started in northern Peru, and it is hoped that ECOAN, in collaboration with nature tour companies, and local and national governments, will be able to draw more interest to this unique and vibrant region.

This initial purchase marks the first stage in what is hoped will end up being an even larger reserve. Negotiations are already underway for the purchase of three neighboring properties, as well as a conservation concession with the Government of Peru on surrounding public lands, bringing the total reserve size close to 25,000 acres.

ECOAN and ABC have also joined forces to undertake an ambitious new project—the creation of a massive conservation corridor. Spanning some 6.5 million acres, this corridor links the Marañon dry forests and the Alto Mayo reserve, encompassing a wide range of ecosystems, home to some 300 bird species. Planning has already begun, and a team of scientists is identifying the most important habitat fragments for further conservation work.

With a generous grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, ABC partnered with the Peruvian conservation group ECOAN to purchase 5,200 acres of land to form the Abra Patricia Reserve.



RESTORING HABITATS



A small percentage of the approximately 800 bird species that occur regularly in the United States are currently provided protection under the Endangered Species Act. Yet nearly one quarter are on the ABC Green List due to declining populations, small ranges, or high threats. ABC focuses conservation attention on high priority species through a comprehensive habitat program that works with a diverse array of partners in delivering bird conservation across the U.S. landscape.

Selected 2005 Achievements

Habitat Restoration

Managing habitat for high priority birds in the Central Hardwoods:

ABC worked with state agencies in five states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Wildlife Management Institute, National Wild Turkey Federation, and others to improve more than 100,000 acres of critical habitat for declining bird species. Grassland management that included planting native, warm-season grasses, conservation-sensitive cutting, and prescribed burning benefited such ABC Green List species as the Dickcissel and Henslow's Sparrow. Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush populations also benefited from forest management practices employed to increase mid- and understory vegetation in forest ecosystems, and efforts to control invasive exotics helped to restore habitat for many native plant and animal species.

Protecting key habitat in south-central Montana:

ABC worked with partners to successfully protect or improve more than 80,000 acres of key habitat for a suite of ABC Green List species. A partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service helped identify and prioritize habitats for grassland species such as the Long-billed Curlew, McCown's Longspur,



Wood Thrush/ClipArt.com.



Painted Bunting/Patricia Vette, BackyardBirdCam.com.

and Sprague's Pipit around Montana's Rocky Mountains, which encompass one of the largest remaining blocks of native grassland in the West. ABC also partnered with the Bitter Root Land Trust, USDA Forest Service, and the National Forest Foundation to guide logging activities and acquisition of conservation easements on thousands of acres of ponderosa pine forests supporting populations of Lewis's Woodpeckers and Flammulated Owls. ABC also helped private, state, and non-profit partners secure conservation easements and restore over 5,800 acres of wet meadows and riparian areas for the Trumpeter Swan and Sandhill Crane.

Safeguarding habitat in the Pacific Northwest:

ABC worked with a diverse group of partners including the Columbia Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, to secure approximately \$2 million in federal funding towards the permanent protection of over 4,000 acres, and

Golden-winged warbler/
John Blackmer, River Bend Nature Center



Working closely with public and private partners, ABC is improving habitat management practices for birds across millions of acres of forest, grassland, wetland, farmland, and riparian landscapes.

the restoration of a further 1,000 acres of significant estuarine, wetland, agricultural, and riparian habitat for ABC Green List species such as the Willow Flycatcher, and other birds including the Dusky subspecies of Canada Goose and the Sandhill Crane.

Managing southern pine habitat for declining bird species: ABC worked with the American Forest Foundation to develop and distribute Best Management Practices to more than 8,000 private family foresters who manage 3.6 million acres of forest in the Southeast. The Painted Bunting, Brown-headed Nuthatch, and other ABC Green List species will benefit. The project is supported by former President Jimmy Carter.

Creating silvopasture for biodiversity and people: ABC is working with hundreds of small-scale farmers to improve the quality of more than 20,000 acres of heavily impacted pasturelands in Colombia, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica by encouraging the adoption of silvopasture techniques. These include using fences of living trees instead of posts, setting aside natural remnants of riparian and secondary forest, and leaving or planting trees and shrubs in pastureland. More than 20 species of neotropical migrants, including ABC Green List species such as the Golden-winged and Canada Warblers, have already been documented in the new silvopastures.

Advocacy in Action

Reauthorizing the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA): The NMBCA is the only U.S. conservation law dedicated solely to providing funding for migratory bird conservation. Thanks to continued advocacy efforts by ABC and other members of the Bird Conservation Alliance, the Act was unanimously approved by the Senate Environment and Public Works

Committee—an important victory. ABC continues to advocate on Capitol Hill for full funding of NMBCA in a difficult federal budget climate.

Conservation Planning:

Identifying priority Bird Habitat Conservation Areas in the West: ABC produced plans that assessed bird conservation priorities for key habitats throughout the Inter-Mountain West. The plans include 14 million acres of grasslands supporting most of the global breeding populations of the Swainson's Hawk and Long-billed Curlew. The plans also include approximately 39 million acres of sagebrush, which support the majority of the Greater Sage-Grouse population, and all of the populations of Gunnison Sage-Grouse, and Brewer's and Sage Sparrows.

ABC President George Fenwick with former United States President Jimmy Carter. Mr. Carter participates in the American Forest Foundation's Tree Farm System, which supports Best Management Practices, also promoted by ABC. Photo/Drue DeBerry, AFF



Science and Monitoring:

Coordinating the first range-wide survey for the Interior population of the federally listed Least Tern: ABC and the Army Corps of Engineers brought together biologists from across the tern's entire nesting range (along the Mississippi, Missouri, Arkansas, Red, Platte, and other major rivers) to provide the first complete picture of its numbers and distribution. The survey will form the foundation of ongoing efforts to devise a range-wide monitoring plan for the tern, which is threatened by dams, channelization projects, and water level manipulation for barge traffic.

2006 and Beyond

ABC aims to halt declines to bird populations by:

- **Encouraging private landowners to implement bird conservation programs:** For example, ABC is advocating for expanded landowner incentives under the Farm Bill, and developing habitat management guides for landowners to help species such as the Swainson's Warbler and Swallow-tailed Kite.
- **Increasing the capacity and commitment of federal and state land management agencies to implement priority bird conservation objectives:** For example, ABC is ensuring that objectives for non-game species, such as the Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers,



Greater Sage-Grouse/FWS



Dickcissel/Bill Hubick



Black Scoters/Gary Smyle

are incorporated into the goals of agencies and public-private conservation partnerships.

- **Conserving bird habitat and bird populations at those Important Bird Areas which are essential for the survival of priority bird species:** ABC is working with partners in the Ozark National Forest of northern Arkansas on ecosystem improvement projects designed to benefit Green List species such as the Bachman's Sparrow.



Least Tern/Bill Hubick

2005

HIGHLIGHT CONSERVING THE CERULEAN WARBLER

Today, there are approximately 250,000 pairs of Cerulean Warblers in the world, yet in the mid-1960s there were nearly three times as many. This precipitous decline has placed the warbler in the highest category of the ABC Green List, and if it were to continue, could spell extinction for the species.

The warbler faces a variety of threats on its breeding and wintering grounds. New research, sponsored by ABC, shows that as many as 35,000 Cerulean Warblers may be killed each year in collisions with lighted communication towers during night migration. Furthermore, key wintering habitat in the Andes of northern South America is fast being converted to “sun coffee” plantations that strip the land of trees. Breeding and staging habitat in the United States is also under threat from such destructive practices as mountaintop mining.

In 2005, ABC and its partner group, Fundación ProAves, purchased land to create the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve, the first protected area established in Latin America specifically for a neotropical migratory songbird. We are also working with coffee growers in surrounding communities to encourage the maintenance of “shade coffee” plantations that leave some tree canopy intact for ceruleans, and helping to find a market for their coffee among U.S. consumers.

ABC has also filed a lawsuit to force changes in the lighting and siting of communication towers to reduce bird mortality, designed habitat management plans for the Cerulean Warbler in the Central Hardwoods Bird Conservation Region, and supported research to identify key staging areas for the species in Central America.

Cerulean Warbler © Robert Royse

In 2005, ABC and its Colombian partner, Fundación ProAves, established the first reserve specifically for the Cerulean Warbler in South America.





REDUCING THREATS

Each year, approximately 2.5 billion birds are killed in the U.S. because of human actions.

In combination with habitat loss, this mortality poses a grave risk to many species, yet is mostly avoidable at relatively low cost and inconvenience. ABC leads the bird conservation community in identifying the highest priority threats, enlisting partners, and finding solutions to eliminate large-scale mortality and reverse population declines.

Selected 2005 Achievements

Advocacy in Action

Preventing deadly bird collisions at communications towers:

ABC, in partnership with Friends of the Earth, Forest Conservation Council, and Earthjustice, filed two lawsuits against the Federal Communications Commission to prevent bird mortality at towers along the Gulf Coast and in Hawaii. ABC will continue to press its case in the courts in 2006 to protect such ABC Green List species as the the Bay-breasted and Golden-winged Warbler, and the Globally Endangered Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel.

Preventing deadly pesticides from killing birds:

ABC and its partners in the National Pesticide Reform Coalition blocked a move by Louisiana rice growers to gain an exemption to use the banned and highly toxic pesticide, carbofuran. The move would have impacted ABC Green List species such as the American Avocet, American Golden-Plover, King Rail, and Gull-billed Tern.

Reducing the threat to albatrosses from lead paint

on Midway: Midway Atoll is home to the world's largest breeding colony of Globally Threatened Laysan



American Golden-Plover/Dale & Marian Zimmerman



Bay-breasted Warbler © Robert Royse

and Black-footed Albatrosses. Lead paint is flaking off abandoned military buildings on the island, and thousands of curious young albatrosses have been eating it, with fatal consequences. ABC advocacy efforts have led to effective temporary remedies including the erection of exclusion fences around the buildings. These measures have proven 100% effective in the short-term, but ABC continues to press for removal of the paint—the only permanent solution to the problem.

Protecting native birds from predation by domestic cats:

ABC provided support to statewide **Cats Indoors!** campaigns in New Jersey, Minnesota, Florida, and Hawaii, as well as to dozens of local campaigns across the country. This program is designed to convince the public that birds and cats are safer when cats are kept indoors. ABC also continued outreach to over 14,000 veterinarians and professional vet associations across all 50 states.

Black-footed Albatrosses/ClipArt.com

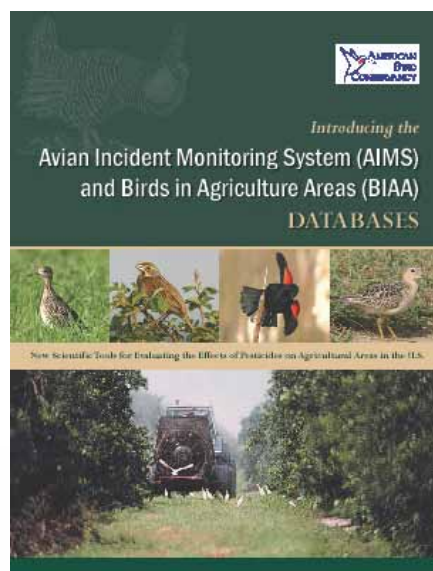


ABC has campaigned to reduce albatross bycatch on longlines. Analysis of recent data shows that mortality has decreased substantially since the implementation of conservation measures.

Science and Monitoring

Evaluating the impacts of pesticides on birds: With the support and participation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other partners, ABC completed development of the Avian Incident Monitoring System (AIMS), as a centralized source of reliable field data on the effects of pesticides on birds. Available to the public online at www.abcbirds.org/aims, this database is now being used in the evaluation of pesticide impacts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a wide range of other regulatory agencies, conservation organizations, and universities.

Assessing how birds use agricultural lands: In collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and George Mason University, ABC developed the Birds in Agricultural Areas (BIAA) database to assist government agencies, farmers, pesticide manufacturers, and scientists in their efforts to reduce pesticide impacts on wild birds. This data is available online at www.abcbirds.org/biaa.



In 2005, ABC issued this report introducing the new Avian Incident Monitoring System (AIMS).

2006 and Beyond

ABC aims to reduce human-caused bird mortality by:

- Promoting practical solutions to bird collisions with communications towers and lighted buildings:** ABC will continue to monitor tower kills across the country and work with industry and regulatory agencies to press for the adoption of lighting, siting, and construction policies that attract fewer birds and significantly reduce fatal collisions.
- Reducing the threat to declining songbirds posed by stray and feral cats:** For example, ABC will be working with partners to remove cats from sensitive areas in the “hotspot” states of Hawaii, Florida, California, New Jersey, and New York.
- Removing the most harmful pesticides in current use and changing how new chemicals are approved:** For example, ABC is currently pressing for a ban on carbofuran, the most lethal pesticide to birds still in use in the United States, and seeking to dramatically restrict the use of a suite of rat poisons responsible for raptor



Gull-billed Tern/Scott Streit/www.bird-friends.com



Feral cat with remains of Gila Woodpecker/Dawn Grafe/FWS

and owl deaths across the country. ABC is also working collaboratively with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to improve the way wildlife is considered in the pesticide registration and re-registration processes.

- Halting albatross and other seabird mortality in longline fisheries globally:** Strategies include advocating for the inclusion of language that protects seabirds in key U.S. fisheries legislation such as the Magnuson-Stevens Act.
- Addressing priority regional threats to birds:** For example, by advocating for a moratorium on the take of horseshoe crabs in and around Delaware Bay, ABC aims to ensure that sufficient food is available for the declining Red Knot and other migratory shorebirds.

2005

HIGHLIGHT ALBATROSSES OFF THE HOOK

Analysis of recent bycatch data shows that years of work by ABC and other members of the Bird Conservation Alliance are paying off, as the number of albatrosses and other seabirds killed on Alaskan and Hawaiian longline hooks has decreased substantially since the implementation of conservation measures.

Between 1994 and 2002, an average of 801 globally-listed Laysan and Black-footed albatrosses were killed per year in Alaska and 2,048 in Hawaii. Contrast that with annual averages of 198 albatrosses killed in Alaska and 122 in Hawaii between 2002 and 2004 and the evidence is striking—mitigation measures, such as paired streamer lines in Alaska and side-setting in Hawaii, work to prevent seabird deaths. From 1993-2002, an annual average of 14,300 seabirds were killed on Alaskan longline hooks; from 2002-2004 mortality is down to 5,018 seabirds annually. In both the Alaskan and Hawaiian fisheries, more hooks are being set than ever before to meet the growing global demand for ocean fish, making these statistics all the more encouraging.

The effects of this reduction in bycatch are already beginning to be seen. This year, Midway Atoll, saw the highest number of nesting Laysan Albatrosses since counts began in 1991. Midway is the world's most important breeding site for both Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses, both of which began to increase again on the island after significant declines in the 1990s, when longline mortality was at its height.

Despite these advances, ABC continues to push for implementation of proven measures to eliminate seabird mortality on longlines in the United States and globally. ABC has been the only non-governmental organization working to ensure that the Magnuson-Stevens Act, the major legislation governing U.S. fisheries, addresses the issue of seabird bycatch. In 2005, ABC was successful in having seabirds added to sections of an important Senate bill dealing with reauthorization of the act.

Laysan Albatross and chick/ClipArt.com



Record numbers of albatrosses are now nesting on Midway Atoll, the world's most important site for both Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses.



LEADING COLLABORATIVE CONSERVATION

ABC is the conservation partnership organization that makes the whole greater than the sum of its parts.

One of our main strengths is our ability to bring organizations, institutions, government agencies, private companies, and individuals together to achieve the best conservation results. ABC plays a leadership role in many alliances and partnerships, focusing efforts on priorities and highlighting new challenges. ABC also uses a broad communications network to galvanize public support for bird conservation.

Selected 2005 Achievements

Alliances

The Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA) was formed by ABC in 2004 to connect all non-profit groups in the Americas that share a common concern for bird conservation issues. There are almost 150 members, spanning from Canada to Colombia, and ranging from large international biodiversity organizations to research institutions and local birdwatching groups. ABC helps identify priorities for the Alliance, and disseminates information, builds consensus, and initiates action on the most important issues facing birds. In 2005, the BCA supported efforts to defeat proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act, helped ban songbird trade in the European Union, helped prevent the mortality of birds at communication towers, and gained better protection for the Red Knot and other shorebirds in Delaware Bay.

The National Pesticide Reform Coalition was formed by ABC and other organizations concerned with the negative impacts of pesticides on wildlife and people. ABC facilitates the Coalition and plays a leading role in addressing and gaining support for bird issues. The Coalition helps bring pressure on the U.S. Environmental



Yellow-eared Parrot/Fundación ProAves



Red Knot/ClipArt.com

Protection Agency (the federal authority that licenses pesticides) to cancel the most harmful chemicals, change the use of others so they do not impact birds, and ensure that wildlife is fully considered in agency decisions.

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI) and Partners in Flight are both coalitions of government agencies, private organizations, conservation groups, bird initiatives, and individuals dedicated to bird conservation through cooperative habitat management. Both of these international bird conservation initiatives focus on conserving bird populations. ABC played an important role in the formation of NABCI in 1999, and has helped steer the course that both coalitions have set to achieve ambitious landscape-oriented goals.

ABC also leads or takes part in many other partnerships, coalitions, and alliances, including a coalition of **Cats Indoors!** campaign activists that includes veterinarians, scientists, and wildlife rehabilitators working to reduce domestic cat predation on wild birds; the Bird

Amigos de las Aves ecological group tending to endangered wax palms. Photo/Fundación ProAves.



Through its alliances, ABC is able to directly engage hundreds of organizations and thousands of individuals in bird conservation.

Conservation Funding Coalition, which consists of groups that advocate for increased federal funding for bird conservation; the Wind Power Coordinating Committee and the Communication Tower Working Group, both of which seek to find cooperative answers to the problems of bird kills at tall structures; and the Alliance for Zero Extinction (see page 5).

International Partnerships

In 2005 ABC worked with a range of non-governmental organizations in Latin America to conserve rare bird species by purchasing key tracts of land to create new bird reserves, and by managing habitat on existing reserves. ABC provides the funding these groups need to purchase and manage the reserves and assists them in identifying priorities and finding solutions. Among the groups ABC worked with in 2005 are: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (Peru), Fundación Jocotoco (Ecuador), Fundación ProAves (Colombia), Fundación Cracidae (Peru), Pronatura Noroeste (Mexico), Panama Audubon, Asociación Armonia (Bolivia), Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy (Chile), GAIA (Nicaragua),

Fundación Pico Bonito (Honduras), and Endemicos Insulares (Mexico). For more information on ABC's international projects and partners, visit www.abcbirds.org/international.

Involving the public

ABC used **BirdWire**, its electronic news and action network, to engage the public on a variety of issues including shorebird conservation in Delaware Bay, halting attacks on the Endangered Species Act, and land purchase to save endangered species in Latin America and the Caribbean. ABC also distributed news and information on important bird conservation issues through **Bird Conservation** magazine and **Bird Calls** newsletter, including the impact of hurricanes on birds in the Gulf Coast, the threat to birds from wind turbines, and lead poisoning of albatrosses on Midway Atoll.

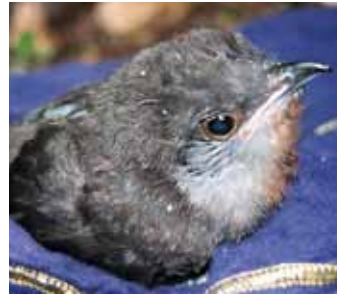


Women in the community of Tastayoc (Abra Málaga) received high-efficiency clay stoves from ECOAN, through funding from ABC. Photo/Hugo Arnal.

2006 and Beyond

ABC will continue to build the bird conservation movement to help support conservation goals by:

- **Engaging the broadest possible constituency in bird conservation:** For example, by doubling the number of bird groups in the Bird Conservation Alliance, ABC will dramatically increase the voice for birds across the United States.
- **Publishing the book, *Bird Conservation in the United States*:** which sets out priorities for bird conservation in the Americas and provides recommendations for action.
- **Monitoring and reporting on the response of bird populations to conservation actions: are we succeeding and if not, what more is needed?** By developing a scorecard for bird conservation programs,



Bay-breasted Cuckoo chick/Lance Woolaver



Alagoas Foliage-Gleaner/Dante Buzetti

ABC can demonstrate how bird populations are responding to conservation efforts.

- **Promoting bird conservation, and educating decision-makers, birders, and the public on bird conservation issues and priorities:** ABC is tracking the key issues affecting birds and bird conservation, reporting on them in ABC's publications, and ensuring a growing audience for our message through media and outreach efforts.

ABC staff and friends visit the new Santa Marta reserve in Colombia. From left to right: ABC President, George Fenwick; former ABC Board member, Alan Weedon; ABC Vice President for Development, Rita Fenwick; Sandy Power, ABC Board member, Stuart White; and ABC Director of International Programs, Paul Salaman.



HIGHLIGHT

SAVING THE EASTERN RED KNOT

The migration of the **rufa** subspecies of the Red Knot along the East Coast of the United States is a miracle of nature. Not only does it have one of the longest annual journeys of any bird (20,000 miles from Arctic Canada to Patagonia and back), but its northerly migration has evolved to coincide precisely with the spawning of thousands upon thousands of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay. Red Knots, along with other shorebirds such as Sanderlings and Semipalmated Sandpipers, feed on the horseshoe crab eggs to fuel the final leg of their migration to the Arctic tundra.

Unfortunately, commercial interests have recently threatened this ancient relationship. Horseshoe crabs make good bait for channeled whelk (also known as conch). Demand for this popular Asian delicacy has so depleted horseshoe crab numbers that Red Knot populations have crashed, making the extinction of the **rufa** subspecies of the Red Knot a real possibility.

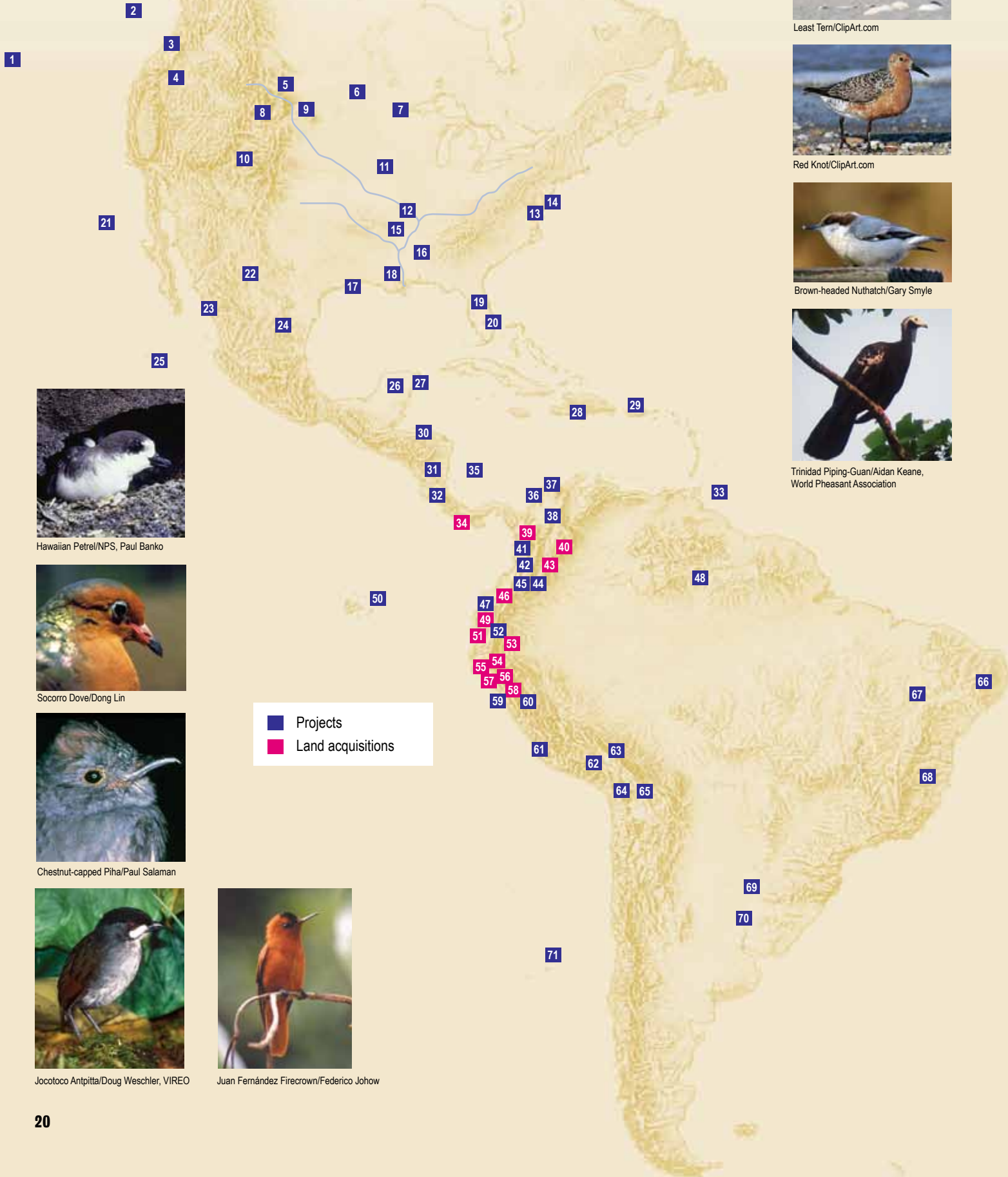
ABC and its partners have waged an eight-year battle to improve prospects for the horseshoe crab and the shorebirds that rely on it. These efforts began to pay off in 1998 with the first horseshoe crab harvest restrictions in Delaware, Maryland, and New Jersey. In 2000, a 1,500-square mile marine reserve was established in the mouth of Delaware Bay, and Virginia landings were capped following a tough political struggle. ABC also worked to support fishermen by distributing bait bags that reduce the amount of horseshoe crab bait needed by half. In 2004, new coast-wide quotas were set and beach harvesting was banned in Delaware and New Jersey during horseshoe crab spawning.

Despite these successes, the struggle goes on, as Red Knots in the eastern flyway continue to decline and horseshoe crabs continue to be taken. Thanks to the work of ABC and partners New Jersey Audubon, Audubon New York, Audubon Delaware, Delaware Riverkeepers, National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, American Littoral Society, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and the Northern Virginia Bird Club, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission recently laid out a variety of possible management strategies that includes a two-year moratorium on the take of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay. ABC is advocating for this favored option and will continue to rally the Bird Conservation Alliance around this issue.



Red Knots...feed on the horseshoe crab eggs to fuel the final leg of their migration to the Arctic tundra.

ABC: Conservation throughout the Americas



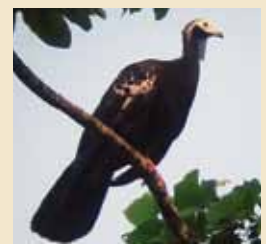
Least Tern/ClipArt.com



Red Knot/ClipArt.com



Brown-headed Nuthatch/Gary Smyle



Trinidad Piping-Guan/Aidan Keane, World Pheasant Association



Hawaiian Petrel/NPS, Paul Banko



Socorro Dove/Dong Lin



Chestnut-capped Piha/Paul Salaman



Jocotoco Antpitta/Doug Weschler, VIREO



Juan Fernández Firecrown/Federico Johow

The map opposite shows some select places across the Western Hemisphere where ABC is working to conserve wild birds and their habitats. Examples of some flagship species being targeted are given below:

U.S. Sites

1. Hawaii: Removing lead paint from Midway Atoll for the Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses
2. The Pacific: Stopping longline mortality to benefit Laysan and Black-footed Albatrosses
3. Western Washington: Waterfall nesting inventory of Black Swifts
4. Pacific Northwest: Habitat protection/restoration for Willow Flycatcher
5. Rocky Mountains Montana: Grassland management for Long-billed Curlew and McCown's Longspur
6. Prairie Potholes: Grassland conservation for Sprague's Pipit
7. Minnesota: Statewide *Cats Indoors!* campaign
8. Southwest Montana: Ponderosa pine conservation for Flamulated Owl
9. South-central Montana: Riparian and wetland habitat protection for Wilson's Phalarope and Swainson's Hawk
10. Intermountain West: Identification of bird habitat for Greater Sage-Grouse and Lewis's Woodpecker
11. Mississippi, Missouri, Red, and other rivers: Range-wide Interior Least Tern Survey
12. Missouri Ozarks: New alliance for riparian forest restoration for Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush
13. Delaware Bay: Halting horseshoe crab take for Eastern Red Knot and other shorebirds
14. New Jersey: Statewide *Cats Indoors!* campaign for Piping Plover
15. Missouri Ozarks: Glade savanna woodland restoration for Red-headed Woodpecker and Prairie Warbler
16. Alabama: Grassland restoration on corporate lands for Dickcissel
17. Gulf Coast: Stopping tower kills to benefit night migrating songbirds such as Bay-breasted and Golden-winged Warblers
18. Louisiana: Stopping the pesticide carbofuran to benefit several species including American Avocet and American Golden-Plover
19. Florida: Statewide *Cats Indoors!* campaign for Florida Scrub-Jay
20. Florida and the south: Managing southern pine habitat for Brown-headed Nuthatch and Painted Bunting

Latin American and Caribbean Sites (partner groups in *italics*)

21. Mexico: Guadalupe Island. Removing invasive species to benefit the Guadalupe Junco and Laysan Albatross. *Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas*
22. Mexico: El Carricito. Supporting indigenous community forest conservation for the Eared Trogon and Military Macaw. *Bosque Antiguo*
23. Mexico: Bahía Santa María. Restoring tidal wetlands and shrimp ponds for migratory shorebirds. *Pronatura Noroeste*
24. Mexico: Saltillo region. Land acquisition for Worthen's Sparrow and Long-billed Curlew. *Pronatura Noreste*
25. Mexico: Restoration of Socorro Island for Socorro Mockingbird, Townsend's Shearwater, and Socorro Dove. *Endemicos Insulares, A.C.*
26. Mesoamerica (Belize, Mexico, Honduras): Identifying key stopover habitat for the Cerulean Warbler. *Gulf Coast Bird Observatory*
27. Mexico: Identifying and protecting key sites for the Cozumel Thrasher. *Endemicos Insulares, A.C.*
28. Dominican Republic: Sierra de Bahoruco National Park. Developing a management plan for the Bay-breasted Cuckoo and La Selle Thrush. *Grupo Jaragua*
29. Puerto Rico: Study of the Puerto Rican Nightjar. *Sociedad Ornitológica Puertorriqueña*
30. Honduras: Upper Aguán Valley. Land purchase/protection for the Honduran Emerald. *Fundación Parque Nacional Pico Bonito*
31. Nicaragua: Matiguás. Creating bird-friendly silvopasture for migratory and resident birds. *Gaia*
32. Costa Rica: Esparza. Creating bird-friendly silvopasture for migratory and resident birds. *Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica*
33. Trinidad: Conservation of the Trinidad Piping-Guan. *University of the West Indies*
34. Panama: El Chorrogo. Land purchase/protection for the Three-wattled Bellbird and neotropical migrants. *Panama Audubon Society*
35. Colombia: San Andrés Island. Monitoring migratory and resident birds, such as the San Andrés Vireo and Cerulean Warbler. *Fundación ProAves*
36. Colombia: Isla de Salamanca. Searches for the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird. *Fundación ProAves*
37. Colombia: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. Research on the Santa Marta Parakeet. *Fundación ProAves*
38. Colombia: La Forzosa. Study and conservation of the Chestnut-capped Piha. *Fundación ProAves*
39. Colombia: Dusky Starfrontlet Bird Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Dusky Starfrontlet and Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer. *Fundación ProAves*
40. Colombia: Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Cerulean Warbler and Gorgeted Wood-Quail. *Fundación ProAves*
41. Colombia: Jardín, Antioquia. Establishing shade coffee conservation easements for the Cerulean Warbler. *Fundación ProAves*
42. Colombia: Quindío. Implementing bird-friendly silvopasture for migratory and resident birds. *Fundación Calidris*
43. Colombia: Serranía de las Quinchas. Land purchase/protection for the Blue-billed Curassow and White-mantled Barbet. *Fundación ProAves*
44. Colombia: Tolima. Supporting the Parrot Bus and Palm Sunday campaigns to protect the Yellow-eared Parrot. *Fundación ProAves*
45. Colombia: El Mirador Bird Reserve. Community involvement for the protection of the Fuertes's Parrot and Golden-plumed Parakeet. *Fundación ProAves*
46. Colombia: Mirabilis Swarovski Bird Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Colorful Puffleg and Munchique Wood-Wren. *Fundación ProAves*
47. Colombia: Pangan Bird Reserve. Conserving threatened endemics such as the Chocó Vireo and Banded Ground-cuckoo. *Fundación ProAves*
48. Guyana: Conservation of the Red Siskin. *South Rupununi Conservation Society*
49. Ecuador: Rio Canandé Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Great Green Macaw and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis. *Fundación Jocotoco*
50. Ecuador: Galapagos Islands. Protecting the Mangrove Finch by controlling parasitic flies. *Charles Darwin Research Station*
51. Ecuador: Mindo area. Land purchase/protection for the Gray-backed Hawk and Plumbeous Forest-Falcon. *Mindo Cloud Forest Foundation*
52. Ecuador: Yanacocha Nature Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Black-breasted Puffleg. *Fundación Jocotoco*
53. Ecuador: Narupa Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Military Macaw and Coppery-chested Jacamar. *Fundación Jocotoco*
54. Ecuador: Yunguilla Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Pale-headed Brush-Finch. *Fundación Jocotoco*
55. Ecuador: Buenaventura Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the El Oro Parakeet. *Fundación Jocotoco*
56. Ecuador: Tapichalaca Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Jocotoco Antpitta and the Golden-plumed Parakeet. *Fundación Jocotoco*
57. Ecuador: Jorupe Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Slaty Becard and Blackish-headed Spinetail. *Fundación Jocotoco*
58. Peru: Abra Patricia Reserve. Land purchase/protection for the Ochre-fronted Antpitta and Long-whiskered Owlet. *ECOAN: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos*
59. Peru: Laquipampa Reserved Zone. Conservation of the White-winged Guan. *Asociación Cracidae Peru*
60. Peru: Marañón-Alto Mayo Conservation Corridor. Conservation of key sites for the Marvelous Spatuletail. *ECOAN: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos*
61. Peru: Status survey and conservation plan for the Junín Grebe and Junín Rail. *ECOAN: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos*
62. Peru: Vilcanota watershed. Habitat restoration and community conservation for the Royal Cinclodes and Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant. *ECOAN: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos*
63. Peru: Ecotourism development and community conservation with the Infierno indigenous community for the Harpy Eagle. *Rainforest Expeditions*
64. Peru and Bolivia: Status survey and conservation plan for the Titicaca Flightless Grebe. *Asociación Armonía and ECOAN: Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos*
65. Bolivia: Cuenca Cotacajes. Study of the Bolivian Spinetail. *Asociación Armonía*
66. Brazil: Serra do Urubu. Long-term conservation of threatened forests to benefit the Alagoas Foliage-gleaner. *SAVE Brasil*
67. Brazil: Canudos Biological Station. Land purchase/protection for Lear's Macaw. *Fundação Biodiversitas*
68. Brazil: Balbina Forest Reserve. Surveys for Stresemann's Bristlefront and Banded Cotinga. *Universidade Federal de Ouro Preto/Fundação Biodiversitas*
69. Paraguay: Searching for threatened birds in Southeastern Paraguay. *Guyra Paraguay*
70. Argentina: Establishing an action plan for grassland birds, such as Entre Rios and Marsh Seed-eaters, in northeastern Argentina. *Aves Argentinas*
71. Chile: Juan Fernández Islands. Habitat restoration and community conservation for the Juan Fernández Firecrown. *Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy*

Ways of Supporting ABC

In 2005, for the fourth year in a row, ABC was given the top ranking of an “Exceptional” Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator (www.charitynavigator.org), an independent monitoring organization. This rating is your assurance that your gift is used to maximum benefit in protecting the birds you love for future generations.

At ABC, we get the most results for your donated dollar by keeping our operating costs low and putting the maximum resources into saving birds. With so many bird species now facing extinction in the Americas, we need to act now, and every gift is important. From a one-time contribution to a planned gift for endowment, there are many ways to support ABC. For more information on giving to ABC, visit www.abcbirds.org/membership or call Rita Fenwick at 540-253-5780.

Membership: By joining ABC, you can be a part of a growing network of birders, nature lovers, and backyard bird enthusiasts making a difference for birds throughout the Americas. For more information or to join online, go to www.abcbirds.org/membership, or send your payment in the enclosed contribution envelope.

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SAFEGUARDING THE RAREST



Santa Marta Parakeet, Fundación ProAves

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Blue-billed Curassow reserve, Colombia /Paul Salaman

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Darin Schroeder, ABC's Deputy Director of Advocacy/Gavin Shire

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Left to right: Cape May Warbler/Laura Erickson, Binoculars.com; Children birdwatching/Fundación ProAves; Dunlin/Glen Tepke; Sharp-tailed Grouse/John R. Baldwin.

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Left to right: Kentucky Warbler/Glen Tepke; Whimbrel/Glen Tepke; American Oystercatcher/AI Perry; Piping Plover and chick/Chris Davidson.



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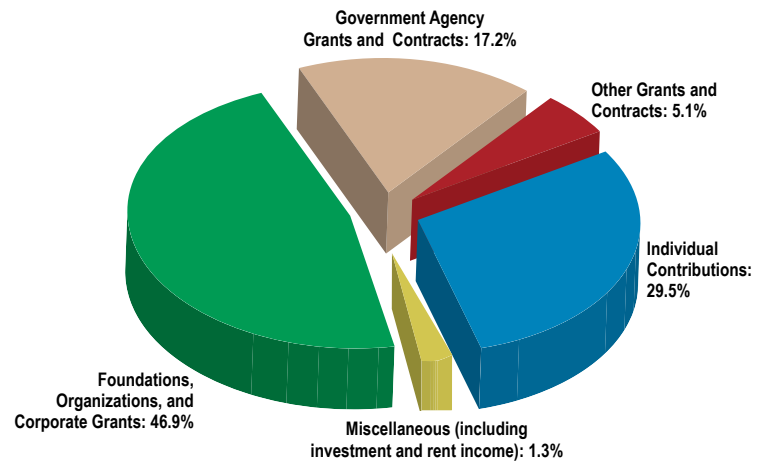


Constantino Auca and Juvenal Silva of ECOAN, with ABC's Hugo Arnal, examining a map of the Abra Patricia area/Mike Parr.

2005 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation, Organization, and Corporate Grants	\$ 2,405,631
Individual Contributions	\$ 1,512,168
Government Agency Grants and Contracts	\$ 881,421
Other Grants and Contracts	\$ 261,521
Miscellaneous (including investment and rent income)	\$ 65,751
Total Support and Revenue	\$ 5,126,581



EXPENSES

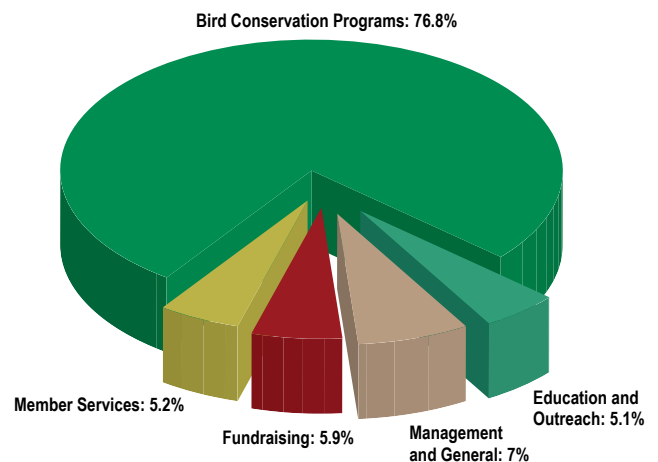
Program

Bird Conservation Programs	\$ 3,404,912
Education and Outreach	\$ 228,062
Total Program Services	\$ 3,632,974

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$ 310,746
Fundraising	\$ 261,275
Member Services	\$ 228,649
Total Supporting Services	\$ 800,670

Total Expenses **\$4,433,644**



American Bird Conservancy's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2005, were audited by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Lane & Company. A copy of ABC's complete financial statements can be obtained by contacting: American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198.



ABC is rated an "Exceptional" Four Star Charity by the independent group Charity Navigator—their highest rating. (see www.charitynavigator.org).



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trees	water	energy	solid waste	greenhouse gases
11 fully grown	6,513 gallons	8 million BTUs	523 pounds	1,360 pounds
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