

2006 ANNUAL REPORT

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY



From the Chairman and the President

We are pleased to report on a great year for American Bird Conservancy in 2006—and that means a great year for birds. With support from its growing list of friends and supporters, each year ABC is able to save more rare species, protect more land, and effectively address more threats to birds. And each year, ABC gains additional partners and new, innovative solutions to the problems facing birds. We now believe ABC will not just stanch the loss of our precious avifauna, but can often make strides in its recovery. Please read this 2006 Annual Report to enjoy our conservation highlights and to reflect on the beneficial effects of your support.

Already in 2007, ABC has protected 25 sites for some of the rarest species on Earth in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Peru, and Ecuador. We have also expanded our habitat conservation work into new geographies such as the Appalachians. ABC has reduced threats ranging from destruction of Piping Plover habitat to collisions with communications towers to needless poisoning of birds from toxic pesticides. In 2007, we are leading an effort to reintroduce Western Bluebirds to the San Juan

Islands in Washington, are continuing our fight to save Laysan Albatrosses from lead-based paint poisoning on Midway Island, and are leading the transformation of bird monitoring by bringing together stakeholders to improve and unify accepted practices. Also in 2007, we expect membership of our Bird Conservation Alliance to surpass 200 organizations.

ABC's supporters are the key to our success, and we appreciate each and every one, large and small. Many of you have become our friends as well. We care what you think, and encourage you to contact us with your ideas, thoughts, and concerns.

We wish we could report on all of the almost 200 projects ABC has underway to protect birds now, but we want to be brief: we have much more to get out and do! We hope you take great pride in the part you are playing with ABC, and we thank you again for your direction and support.



Ken Berlin
Board Chair, ABC



George Fenwick
President, ABC





Sanderling: Al Perry

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 habitat is protected and properly managed.

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 is a membership organization that is consistently rated an “Exceptional” Four Star charity by the independent group Charity Navigator—their highest rating.





SAFEGUARDING the RAREST

2006 Highlights

ABC provided financial and technical support to in-country partner organizations for the acquisition of 31 tracts of land plus two ground-breaking conservation easements in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru. For the third year in a row, ABC secured critical habitat for site-restricted, endangered species, permanently protecting four Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE) sites. In all habitat for more than 1,000 bird species was safeguarded, including 30 globally threatened bird species in Latin America, and dozens of neotropical migrants such as the Cerulean, Golden-winged, Prothonotary, Canada, and Mourning Warblers.

COLOMBIA

New El Dorado Reserve Created for Santa Marta Parakeet: ABC and partner Fundación ProAves acquired the key nesting and foraging habitat for the Santa Marta Parakeet, a species identified as a top priority for protection by the Alliance for Zero Extinction. Just outside of this spectacular new reserve, ABC and ProAves recently completed the Jeniam Ecolodge to help sustain the El Dorado Reserve. The first visitors had the good luck to observe a species of screech-owl new to science!



Johnson's Tody-Tyrant: Heinz Plenge

Warbler Reserve. ProAves will operate the farm as habitat for the Cerulean Warbler and other migrants, and plans to use profits from the sale of the coffee to manage the reserve.

ABC, ProAves, Thanksgiving Coffee, and the American Birding Association are working together to market Cerulean Warbler Conservation Coffee in the United States. This delicious coffee can be ordered through ABC's website (www.abcbirds.org).

New Chestnut-capped Piha Reserve Created: In collaboration with Conservation International, ABC and ProAves also created the Arrierito Antioqueno bird reserve, the only known site in the world for the endangered Chestnut-capped Piha and seven endangered frog species. The reserve is also key habitat for ABC Green List migrants such as the Olive-sided Flycatcher.

Shade Grown Coffee Farm Acquired as Habitat for Cerulean Warblers: ABC also provided support to Fundación ProAves to acquire a shade grown coffee plantation in the buffer zone of the existing Cerulean

ECUADOR

New Reserve Created for Rare, Local Birds and Neotropical Migrants: ABC provided support to Fundación Jocotoco to create the new Narupa Reserve in the montane forest of the Río Hollín Valley. The reserve will protect core habitat for more than 300 species of birds, including the globally vulnerable Military Macaw and Coppery-chested Jacamar, and neotropical migrants such as the Cerulean Warbler.

Tapichalaca Reserve Expanded: With support from ABC, Fundación Jocotoco was able to add over 1,482



ABC member Robert Giles (left) with Adriana Sierra (right), director of the newly-created Arriero Antioqueno Bird Reserve in Colombia. This new reserve protects the endangered Chestnut-capped Piha and seven threatened frog species. Photo: Fundación ProAves, www.proaves.org

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acres to the Tapichalaca Reserve, safeguarding key habitat for the endangered Jocotoco Antpitta. Additionally, improvements were made to the ecolodge to encourage greater ecotourism at the reserve as a means of providing steady, long-term support for its management. ABC also supported environmental education and enforcement to prevent cutting of wax palms in Tapichalaca and adjacent Podocarpus National Park for Palm Sunday celebrations. The palms provide vital nest sites for the endangered Golden-plumed Parakeet.

Yanacocha, Yunguilla, and Jorupe Reserves Expanded:

With assistance from ABC, Fundación Jocotoco made significant additions to four of its reserves to increase habitat for more than a dozen globally threatened species, including the Black-breasted Puffleg, Pale-headed Brush-Finch, and Blackish-headed Spinetail.

PERU

Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva Private Conservation Area

Expanded: Working with ABC's partner Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN), the Abra Patricia Reserve was increased by 1,606 acres in 2006, providing significant new protected habitat for the globally threatened Ochre-fronted Antpitta, Johnson's Tody-



Using more common palm species for religious decorations preserves wax palm stands. Wax palms provide vital nesting habitat for endangered birds such as the Golden-plumed Parakeet. Photo: Fundación Jocotoco.

Tyrant, and Long-whiskered Owlet, plus a host of other rare species. A new ecolodge is being constructed on the reserve, and is scheduled to be open for visitors in September 2007.

Endangered Hummingbird Protected: With support from ABC, the first conservation easement with a local farming community in Peru was signed between ECOAN and the local community of Pomacochas to protect the endangered Marvelous Spatuletail. Conservation plans for the area include a visitors center run by the local community, and a larger protected area nearby that will conserve a range of other highly threatened bird species.

Elsewhere in Latin America

ABC also led successful efforts elsewhere in the hemisphere. ABC helped launch an Andean Migratory Bird Monitoring Program, provided critically needed resources to Sierra de Bahoruco National Park in the Dominican Republic to protect the Bay-breasted Cuckoo, and funded removal of invasive species threatening the critically endangered Juan Fernandez Firecrown in Chile.



Juan Fernandez Firecrown: Frederic Johow



Black-breasted Puffleg: Steve Blain

Snowy Plover: Tom Grey, Riparian habitat in Wyoming (background); FWS



CONSERVING HABITATS

2006 Highlights

In 2006, ABC worked with hundreds of partners—local and international, private and public—to successfully incorporate the best available science and bird conservation objectives into the way millions of acres of private and public lands are managed in the United States. Internationally, ABC provided support to in-country partners to reforest lands, replace unsustainable farming practices with environmentally friendly silvopasture practices, and remove invasive species. ABC focuses on the highest-priority sites for endemic and neotropical migratory birds.

Dickcissel: Bill Hubick



Improving Habitat for High Priority Birds in the Central Hardwoods: ABC worked with five state agencies, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, USDA Forest Service, Wildlife Management Institute, and the National Wild Turkey Federation to improve more than 30,000 acres of critical habitat for declining bird species. Grassland management that included planting native, warm-season grasses, mowing, 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 exotic plants helped to restore habitat for many native plant and animal species. A new partnership, focusing on restoration of short-leaf pine ecosystems across the Ozarks, has begun work that will improve habitat for high priority species such as the Bachman's Sparrow and Brown-headed Nuthatch on over 6,000 acres in the next few years. Although the pine-dependent Red-cockaded Woodpecker has been extirpated in the region, partners are working to restore enough habitat to re-introduce the species.

Polylepis Forests Restored in the Peruvian High Andes: ABC's ongoing efforts to protect and replant *Polylepis* forests in the High Andes has benefitted globally endangered bird species such as the Royal Cinclodes, White-browed Tit-Spintail, and Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant. In 2006, ABC and in-country partner Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN) worked with 17 indigenous communities on three key programs. Together they planted 87,000 *Polylepis* saplings, established multi-use forest plantations within community reserves, and distributed over 100 high-efficiency clay stoves and 133 tons of wood from renewable sources to reduce demand for *Polylepis* trees for firewood.

Royal Cinclodes (below): Valère Clavierie; Polylepis forest (right): Mike Parr





José Balderrama, from the Center for Biodiversity and Genetics in Cochabamba, Bolivia, inspecting *Polytepis* seedlings prior to planting. Photo: Mike Parr

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Managing Habitat for High Priority Birds in the Northern Rockies: ABC continued work with partners in the Bighole Valley of Montana, where private landowners have signed conservation agreements to protect more than 225,000 acres of riparian habitat. These lands are prime nesting areas for priority species including Sandhill Cranes, Long-billed Curlews, and Willow Flycatchers. This work includes partnering with The Nature Conservancy to generate a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant to place easements on 3,216 acres of wetland and sagebrush habitats, and to manage grazing on another 1,244 acres of riparian and sagebrush habitats to benefit priority bird species including Greater Sage-Grouse.

Ensuring Greater Funding for Bird Conservation: ABC policy staff served as the primary advocates for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Improvement Act of 2006. This important bill provides an effective international framework for the protection of neotropical migratory birds in the Western Hemisphere. The Act's grant program has a proven track record of reversing habitat loss and degradation, and of advancing innovative management and habitat restoration strategies for a broad range of neotropical birds. From 2002-2006, partners in 42 states and 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries have been involved in 186 projects sponsored by the Act. More than \$17.2 million in federal funding has leveraged an additional \$89 million for bird conservation. ABC led the successful effort to pass the renewed Act in both the House and Senate, and secured 2007 funding at \$4 million in a challenging budget environment.

Nesting Habitat Conditions Improved Along Rivers and Coasts: ABC worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and state and federal agency partners to improve or create sandbar nesting habitat

for federally endangered Interior Least Terns and threatened Great Plains Piping Plovers on the Missouri, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Red Rivers. As part of a large, multi-year initiative, ABC also helped improve coastal habitat conditions in Florida for Snowy Plovers, Piping Plovers, and other shorebirds by consulting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and several state agencies on ways to reduce or mitigate the negative impacts of coastal engineering projects.



Masafuera Rayadito: Andrea Suardo

Nestboxes Installed to Help One of Chile's Rarest Birds: The critically endangered Masafuera Rayadito is a small, brown bird in the neotropical ovenbird family (*Funariidae*). It numbers roughly 250 individuals and is only found on the tiny Alexander Selkirk Island in the Juan Fernandez Archipelago, some 500 miles off the coast of Chile. A cavity nester, its population is limited by the loss or damage of much of the natural forests on the island from domestic goats, fires, and timber extraction. With funding from ABC's William Belton Conservation Grants Program, local conservationists installed 81 artificial nest boxes. Work during the 2007 field season will include monitoring the use of the boxes and their success in augmenting the rayadito population.



ELIMINATING THREATS

2006 Highlights

Throughout the United States, bird species are declining at an unprecedented rate. Habitat loss is a significant factor, but equally lethal to bird populations are problems that conserving land will not prevent. Dozens of threats affect bird populations, and new ones arise each year. ABC draws the necessary partnerships and resources together to meet the challenge of addressing each of these threats—and gets results.

ABC Advocacy Results in Moratoriums on Horseshoe Crab Take to Benefit Declining Shorebirds: Delaware Bay is a critical stopover site for tens of thousands of migrating shorebirds who depend upon the availability of horseshoe crab eggs to complete their annual journeys to their Arctic breeding grounds. In 2006, ABC and its partners were successful in persuading New Jersey and Delaware to voluntarily enact two-year moratoriums on the take of horseshoe crabs to benefit declining shorebirds, particularly the *rufa* subspecies of the Red Knot. In addition, the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission imposed further restrictions on horseshoe crab fishing in the Mid-Atlantic.

ABC Ensures Seabird Bycatch Language Added to Reauthorized Magnuson-Stevens Act: In 2006, Congress voted on the reauthorization of Magnuson-Stevens, the 30-year-old law that oversees fishery management in U.S. waters. ABC used this opportunity to push for amendments to the Act that would prevent albatross and other seabird mortality by U.S. fishing vessels without decreasing or impeding fishing efficiency. Through effective advocacy on Capitol Hill, ABC policy staff successfully included language that creates a mandatory bycatch reduction program. Senate Commerce Committee staff agreed to allow fisherman to tap federal grant money, to upgrade equipment that would reduce seabird bycatch, and to make seabird bycatch a priority



Black-browed Albatross: Wejens Dimmlich

for federal funding within the bill. This new bycatch program will directly benefit dozens of seabird species, including the endangered Short-tailed Albatross, from needless death caused by longline fishing.

Marine Debris Research, Prevention, and Reduction Act Passed: ABC lobbied for passage of this new act, which creates a program to identify and clean up significant marine debris sites. Albatrosses and other seabirds die when they ingest floating plastics or become entangled in discarded fishing equipment. The problem is a major threat to their populations. Funding for the provisions within the Act has been authorized at \$12 million over the next four years. ABC will now work to



These Golden-winged Warblers, among other bird species in this photo, were killed colliding with a single communications tower. Photo: Andrew Paulios/WBCI

In 2006, ABC and its partners inched closer to a solution to prevent the unnecessary deaths of as many as 50 million birds per year at the more than 100,000 communication towers in the United States.

ensure that Congress appropriates these funds so this crucial work can begin.

Preventing Bird Collisions with Communications Towers: In 2006, ABC and its partners inched closer to a solution to prevent the unnecessary deaths of as many as 50 million birds per year at the more than 100,000 communication towers in the United States. Due to ABC's advocacy, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) concluded that medium intensity white strobe lights are preferred over red steady-burning lights for aircraft and bird safety, and has begun a rulemaking process that could further reduce avian mortality at towers. ABC has successfully encouraged thousands of people to write to the FCC supporting the proposal, and to demand that the FCC amend its rules to require tower applicants to prepare an environmental assessment if a proposed tower or antenna facility may affect migratory birds. ABC is also leading a coalition of national conservation organizations (including National Audubon Society, Defenders of Wildlife, and Environmental Defense) in direct negotiations with wireless communications industry leaders to develop 'best practices' for the proper lighting and siting of towers.



Clapper Rail: Ashok Khosla

Protecting Endangered and Declining Bird Species from Predation by Feral Cats: To assist land managers in assessing the impacts of cat predation on birds and identifying sites in need of protection, ABC published and distributed a new report, *Impacts of Feral and Free-ranging Cats on Bird Species of Conservation Concern: A Five-State Review of New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, and Hawaii*. ABC also worked with partners to humanely remove cats from the breeding habitat of Piping Plovers, California Clapper Rails, Western Snowy Plovers, Hawaiian Petrels, and California Least Terns.

Removing Dangerous Pesticides from the Environment: In 2006, the National Pesticide Reform Coalition (NPRC), led and facilitated by ABC, worked to influence the registration of more than 70 dangerous pesticides, inert ingredients, or compounds. Three pesticide families were also re-evaluated: rodenticides (rat poisons), carbamates, and organophosphates. ABC and NPRC members provided scientific arguments and data to persuade EPA to restrict or cancel the most dangerous chemicals in each of these pesticide families. One of the most significant achievements in 2006 was EPA's proposal to cancel carbofuran, one of the original "Fatal Five" pesticides targeted for cancellation by ABC's Pesticides and Birds program due to its extreme toxicity to birds and other wildlife. This major win is the culmination of more than nine years of steady pressure on EPA to remove this pesticide from use. EPA has also proposed removing the most toxic rat poisons from the public consumer market, reducing the potential for poisoning birds due to careless use of these chemicals. EPA further proposes to market all consumer rat poisons in bait stations, which will prevent the direct poisoning of birds by bait put out for rodents.

Globally rare bird species that benefited from ABC's efforts in 2006

Ash-throated Antwren
 Bearded Guan
 Black-and-tawny Seedeater
 Black-breasted Puffleg
 Black-fronted Wood-Quail
 Blackish-headed Spinetail
 Black Tinamou
 Blossomcrown
 Chestnut-capped Piha
 Cinnamon-breasted Tody-Tyrant
 Coppery-chested Jacamar
 Golden-Plumed Parakeet
 Grey-backed Hawk
 Grey-breasted Flycatcher
 Grey-cheeked Parakeet
 Grey-headed Antbird
 Henna-hooded Foliage-Gleaner
 Jocotoco Antpitta
 Johnson's Tody-Tyrant
 Lesser Nothura
 Little Woodstar
 Long-tailed Woodnymph
 Long-whiskered Owlet



Marvelous Spatuletail
 Masked Mountain-Tanager
 Military Macaw
 Ochre-bellied Dove
 Ochre-fronted Antpitta
 Olive-sided Flycatcher
 Pale-headed Brush-Finch
 Royal Sunangel
 Rufous-headed Chachalaca
 Rufous-necked Foliage-Gleaner
 Rusty-headed Spinetail
 Santa Marta Antpitta
 Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant
 Santa Marta Parakeet
 Santa Marta Sabrewing
 Santa Marta Warbler
 Slaty Becard
 Speckle-chested Piculet
 Spot-winged Parrotlet
 White-breasted Parakeet
 White-browed Guan
 Yellow-eared Parrot

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We are honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, business, and others who have donated to support ABC's work. While space constraints prevent us from listing all of our donors, we are sincerely grateful for each member and every gift. We would also like to thank those who gave anonymously through the United Way or Combined Federal Campaign.



Falcon Club members play an indispensable role in annually providing unrestricted working capital for ABC, touching every program and project.

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Linda Winter, Director of *Cats Indoors!* Campaign
Hana Young, Administrative and Program Assistant

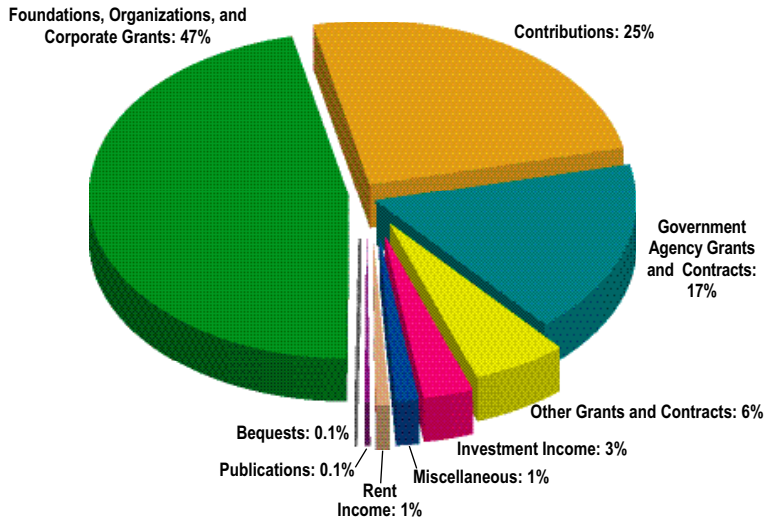
Field Offices

Bob Altman, Northern Pacific Rainforest BCR Coordinator
Dan Casey, Northern Rockies BCR Coordinator
Susannah Casey, GIS Coordinator
Alicia Craig, Director of Bird Conservation Alliance
Jane Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Central Hardwoods Joint Venture
Coordinator
Dan Lambert, Northeast Bird Monitoring Program
Coordinator
Casey Lott, Waterways Program Coordinator
Brian Smith, Appalachian BCR Coordinator

2006 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ANNUAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation, Organization, and Corporate Grants	\$ 2,615,464
Contributions	\$ 1,401,896
Government Agency Grants and Contracts	\$ 966,154
Other Grants and Contracts	\$ 322,022
Investment Income (including Unrealized Gain/Loss)	\$ 182,784
Miscellaneous	\$ 80,817
Rent Income	\$ 37,034
Publications	\$ 5,256
Bequests	\$ 5,000
Total Annual Support and Revenue	\$ 5,616,427



ANNUAL EXPENSES

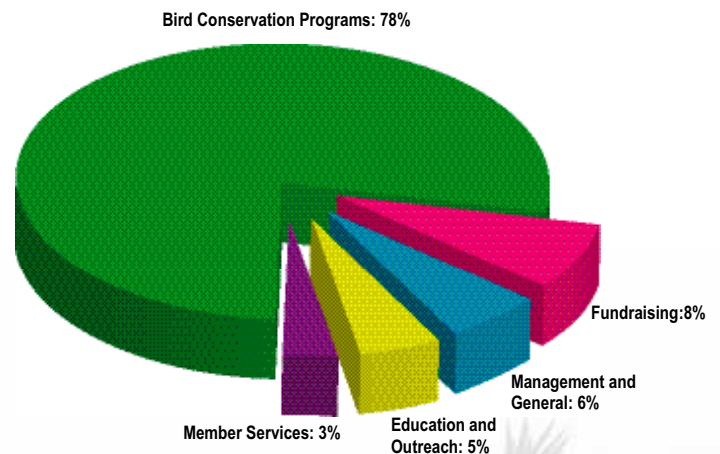
Program

Bird Conservation Programs	\$ 3,890,351
Education and Outreach	\$ 248,114
Total Program Services	\$ 4,138,465

Supporting Services

Fund raising	\$ 414,653
Management and General	\$ 306,310
Member Services	\$ 157,534
Total Supporting Services	\$ 878,497

Total Annual Expenses	\$ 5,016,962
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American Bird Conservancy's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2006, 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).



Golden-winged Warbler: Robert Royse

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