



# Annual Report

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# 2007



From the Chairman and the President

# In the Catbird Seat



Gray Catbird: Greg Lavaty

A member recently mentioned that he thought American Bird Conservancy is “in the catbird seat.” This saying, popularized by the writer, James Thurber, is generally used to mean one is in a high, prominent, and advantageous position, and so we were flattered by the compliment. In nature, though, it is more often the mockingbird that sits high and visible for all to see, while the catbird makes a big stir but remains hidden deep in the bushes. Maybe this is even truer of ABC—always effective but not always seen!

Recently the *New York Times Magazine* described ABC as “a smaller, feistier group.” We are proud of being small, nimble, and at the same time feisty in the defense of birds and their habitats, and that’s why we chose neither the catbird nor the mockingbird, but the hummingbird as our symbol.

In our 2007 Annual Report, you will see that ABC has no peer in establishing reserves for the rarest birds across the Americas, from Mexico to Brazil; that ABC is a leader in conserving habitats for declining birds in the United States, from reforesting abandoned Appalachian coal mines to re-establishing Western Bluebirds on the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington; that ABC succeeds like no other in solving the widest range of policy issues affecting birds—from restricting toxins deadly to birds to reducing death from collisions with communications towers, wind turbines, and buildings.

ABC is prominent among bird conservation insiders, but in terms of visibility with the general public, we do not yet enjoy widespread recognition for our achievements. One reason for this is that we care much more about what is achieved than who is given credit. We initiate, join with, and support other bird and conservation organizations in a common cause on collective initiatives to save birds and their habitat. As a result, ABC sometimes does not get the national coverage it deserves. This is why ABC created the Bird News Network this year—a new way of raising ABC’s profile while simultaneously increasing public understanding of both

the threats to birds and what is being done to overcome them. Please have a look at BNN on ABC’s website, [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)—we guarantee you’ll enjoy it.

Your support is fundamental to our success, and it has increased exponentially through your support of ABC’s American Birds Campaign, a drive based on measurable conservation outcomes. We are pleased to report, at the campaign’s halfway point, that we are well past our expectations in protecting birds and their habitats! Thank you for being on our team!

But despite what we have already achieved with your help, ABC is just getting started. This year promises to be ABC’s best in expanding reserves for rare species. However, much more needs to be done to meet the increasing challenges to our environment, so we have undertaken a brand new *Act for Songbirds* Campaign to greatly increase funding for America’s migratory birds. We’ve also dedicated new positions to address the threat of bird collisions with glass, and to finance the long-term management of key ABC reserves through the sale of carbon credits. ABC will soon be launching a new initiative to answer the most important questions in bird conservation science, and to help establish science-based goals and to objectively evaluate the success of our actions. Maybe they can straighten us out about where the catbird sits too!

Thank you again for your support, and best wishes,



Jim Brumm  
*Chairman, ABC*



George Fenwick  
*President, ABC*



## About American Bird Conservancy

American Bird Conservancy conserves native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, safeguarding the rarest species, restoring habitats, and reducing threats, while building capacity in the bird conservation movement.



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

Prothonotary Warbler: Greg Lavaty

# Safeguarding the Rarest

# HIGHLIGHTS



Akekee: Jack Jeffrey

ABC helps prevent the extinctions of some of the world's rarest species. Although the primary focus of all ABC projects is bird conservation, many other imperiled mammals, reptiles, and amphibians also benefit from ABC actions.

## Protecting Key Sites for Endangered Species (Americas)

In 2007, ABC advanced protection at 22 of the 77 sites in the Americas identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction as the last refuge of one or more endangered bird species. This included the acquisition of more than 11,000 acres of land to create five new reserves and add to six others. ABC also provided technical and financial assistance to partners for the construction of ecolodges or field stations at five of the reserves.

## Supporting a Robust U.S. Endangered Species Act (United States)

In 2007, ABC worked to strengthen provisions for America's most imperiled bird species by providing scientific arguments concerning recovery plans and Critical Habitat proposals for the threatened Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet. ABC petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service requesting protection under the ESA for two Hawaiian species, the Akekee and Akikiki.

## Protecting Seabirds (Argentina and Peru)

ABC continues its efforts to protect albatrosses and other endangered seabirds from threats such as longline fishing. In 2007, ABC facilitated the drafting of an Argentinean National Plan of Action for the conservation of seabirds, and advanced seabird conservation in Peru's artisanal fishery through education, workshops with fishermen, and increased observers on fishing boats.



## Historic Conservation Easement Signed (Peru)

ABC provided Peruvian partner Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN) with support in signing a conservation easement with the Pomacochas community to protect and manage 74 acres of habitat at Huembo for the endangered Marvelous Spatuletail. This conservation easement is the first of its kind in Peru. ABC is also assisting ECOAN in designing the Huembo Visitors' Center, which will become the focus for environmental education and community-based conservation activities in the area. ECOAN and the community have also planted 14,000 saplings at the site to expand habitat for the Spatuletail.



ABC provided funding to Colombian partner Fundación ProAves to purchase the first tract of the El Mirador Bird Reserve to protect the Fuertes's Parrot. Photo: Fundación ProAves, [www.proaves.org](http://www.proaves.org).

In 2007, ABC facilitated the drafting of the first Argentinean National Plan of Action for the conservation of seabirds.





Lear's Macaw: Fundação Biodiversitas

# SAFEGUARDING the RAREST

## The Robert Wilson Challenge

A generous challenge grant from the Robert W. Wilson Trust enabled ABC and its partners to create or expand eight reserves in 2007 at sites identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction as being the last refuge for one or more endangered or critically endangered species.

### **New Reserve Created to Protect the Stresemann's Bristlefront (Brazil)**

ABC provided support to Brazilian partner Fundação Biodiversitas to acquire 988 acres of highly threatened Atlantic rainforest, protecting the only known habitat for the critically endangered Stresemann's Bristlefront. This spectacular new reserve also provides important habitat for dozens of other rare species, including the endangered Banded Cotinga, Brown-backed Parrotlet, yellow-breasted capuchin, and maned three-toed sloth.

### **Canudos Biological Reserve Expanded to Protect the Lear's Macaw (Brazil)**

ABC provided support to Brazilian partner Fundação Biodiversitas to acquire eight properties totaling 3,233 acres at the Canudos Biological Station. Canudos is an essential roosting site and the sole protected area for the critically endangered Lear's Macaw. Recent surveys put the macaw population at 751 birds, up 151 from last year, and a tremendous improvement over the 2001 figure of just 246 birds.

### **New Reserve Created to Protect the Fuertes's Parrot (Colombia)**

ABC provided funding to Colombian partner Fundación ProAves to purchase the first 1,559-acre tract of the new Fuertes's Parrot Reserve. The reserve also protects eleven other globally threatened species of birds, mammals, and amphibians, including the Brown-banded Antpitta and spectacled bear.

### **Jorupe Reserve Expanded to Benefit Threatened Dry Forest Birds (Ecuador)**

In collaboration with ABC and World Land Trust-USA, Ecuadorian partner Fundación Jocotoco added 429 acres to the Jorupe Reserve, which was established in 2004 near the border with Peru. The reserve now protects approximately two square miles of high quality deciduous Tumbesian forest, supporting a rich diversity of endemic

and rare species of plants and animals, including the endangered Blackish-headed Spinetail, Slaty Becard, and Gray-backed Hawk.

### **Pauxi Pauxi Reserve Formed (Colombia)**

Eight properties totaling 2,861 acres were acquired by ABC and Fundación ProAves in 2007 to form this new reserve in central Colombia. The forest protects multiple threatened species, including the vulnerable Helmeted Curassow (*Pauxi pauxi*, after which the reserve is named) and the critically endangered Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird. The reserve is also at the heart of a key wintering area of the Cerulean Warbler.

### **Long-Whiskered Owlet Protected at Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva Reserve (Peru)**

ABC enabled Peruvian partner ECOAN to acquire and manage three additions to the reserve at Abra Patricia, and helped finance construction of a new ecolodge that will help make the reserve self-sustaining. Abra Patricia now encompasses more than 6,000 acres that protect essential habitat for the critically endangered Ochre-fronted Antpitta and the endangered Long-whiskered Owlet.



Dave Geale examines a Long-whiskered Owlet during a bird-monitoring project at the Abra Patricia Reserve. Photo: ECOAN.

# SAFEGUARDING the RAREST SPOTLIGHT



This mural in the town of Loja, Ecuador, was painted by local schoolchildren and shows the biodiversity found in the Tapichalaca Reserve. Javier Robayos/ Fundación Jocotoco

## ABC's Tropical Andes Program: Conservation in action thanks to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation



Members of the local community have helped ABC and ECOAN plant more than 120,000 *Polylepis* saplings as part of reforestation initiatives in the high Andes of Peru: ECOAN

In 2007, ABC completed work on a three-year \$2.37 million grant from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. The grant helped ABC expand its programs and partnerships in the tropical Andes, and in particular to implement conservation projects at a number of Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, key public protected areas and private nature reserves. Rare species to benefit include the Marvelous Spatuletail, Long-whiskered Owlet, and Jocotoco Antpitta. American Bird Conservancy is very grateful to the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for their support, which helped leverage more than \$1 million in additional funding for this project and played a pivotal role in the success of our work in the

Andes. We also extend our thanks to our wonderful partner groups in the region, especially to Fundación Jocotoco and Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN).

The grant is helping conserve some of the most threatened bird habitats in the Andes. Work has focused on Perú and Ecuador, but also included select activities in Venezuela, Colombia, Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia. Two new private reserves were created at previously unprotected sites with the support and involvement of local communities, government agencies, universities, and other non-profits including the increasingly well-known Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva private reserve in northern Peru, one of the most important and beautiful sites in the region. The Tapichalaca Private Reserve in Ecuador was expanded by nearly 3,000 acres. At the same time, existing public protected areas—notably Podocarpus National Park in Ecuador and Bosque de Protección Alto Mayo in Peru—also stand to benefit from the development of birding tourism destinations adjacent to their boundaries, and from shared management objectives resulting from the grant. The conservation of *Polylepis* forest, which has been reduced to just a fraction of its original range in the Andes, also advanced through the planting of more than 120,000 *Polylepis* saplings, and from new commitments from all seven Andean countries to implement national *Polylepis* conservation strategies that were prepared with financial and technical support from ABC.



Jocotoco Antpitta: Franco Morochó



Golden-plumed Parakeets: Franco Morochó

In late 2007, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation renewed their support for ABC with a second three-year grant of more than \$1.5 million to improve the protection of two private reserves and five public protected areas in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia, to expand the Tingo Maria National Park in Central Peru, and to establish a new regional protected area in the Mizque River Valley in Bolivia. Part of this new initiative is to develop long-term funding sources for the continued protection of these areas through birding tourism and other sustainable development projects with local communities.

Abra Patricia Reserve (background): Hugo Arnal



# Safeguarding the Rarest

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**I**n 2008, ABC and its partners will advance the protection of endangered bird species by continuing to create or expand bird reserves at Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and other sites essential to the conservation of threatened species, including the Abra Patricia Reserve in Peru (for the Ochre-fronted Antpitta), the Pauxi Pauxi Reserve in Colombia (for the Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird and the Helmeted Curassow), the Guapi Assu Ecological Reserve (REGUA) in Brazil (for the Red-billed Curassow), and Buenaventura Reserve in Ecuador (for the El Oro Parakeet).

ABC will also focus on developing long-term funding for these reserves through ecotourism, endowments, and sustainable businesses such as shade grown coffee and the new “Women in Conservation” program in the buffer zones of Colombian reserves, which will provide local women with the resources to produce and sell crafts.

Some of the new species that ABC expects to focus on internationally are the Red-fronted Macaw in Bolivia, the Bay-Breasted Cuckoo in the Dominican Republic, and the Waved Albatross in Ecuador and Peru. Domestically, ABC is pursuing Endangered Species Act listing for three of America’s rarest birds, the Akikiki and Akekee in Hawaii, and the Red Knot in the continental United States. All are declining rapidly and lack the federal protection of the Act.

ABC will also push for the United States to sign the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP) to further reduce the threats to these endangered seabirds from longline fishing, habitat loss, marine debris, invasive species, and contaminants.

Waved Albatrosses: Daniel J. Lebbin



# Conserving Habitats

## HIGHLIGHTS



Western Bluebird: Tom Grey

ABC conserves habitat by working with hundreds of private, government, and non-government partners, particularly through the Joint Venture partnership system. ABC influences how land is used, presses for better habitat protection, and helps increase funding for bird habitat restoration efforts. ABC also works at key sites to benefit populations of target conservation priority birds.

### Joint Venture Support

In 2007, ABC provided support to more than 80 partners in Joint Ventures across the country, which collectively manage more than nine million acres of habitat for 25 high-priority bird species, including the Flammulated Owl, Cerulean Warbler, and Long-billed Curlew. ABC also helped Joint Venture partners raise more than \$3 million for bird conservation habitat projects, and helped influence President Bush's announcement of a major new initiative to ramp up bird habitat conservation through additional funding for Joint Ventures, the creation of three new Joint Ventures, and new funding for five priority projects in Mexico. ABC helped partners in the Intermountain West JV raise more than \$2.4 million in 2007 through NAWCA and other grants.

### Restoring Abandoned Minelands for Declining Bird Species (Virginia and Ohio)

ABC has joined forces with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in their Appalachian Regional Restoration Initiative. Under this program, ABC will help reforest abandoned minelands that once provided breeding habitat for a variety of birds, such as the declining Cerulean Warbler and the Wood Thrush. Through careful habitat identification and targeting of reforestation efforts, the project will balance the needs of the Cerulean Warbler and other mature forest-dependent birds with those of other species such as the Henslow's Sparrow and Golden-winged Warbler that require more open habitat.



American Dipper: Ted Ardley

### Restoring Sagebrush and Riparian Habitats (Montana and Idaho)

ABC partnered with Ducks Unlimited, Avista Corporation, the Trust for Public Land, the Conservation Fund, and the Clark Fork Conservancy in protecting and restoring 6,131 acres of habitat for the Sandhill Crane, Long-billed Curlew, Harlequin Duck, Willow Flycatcher, and American Dipper in Montana and Idaho. In Cascade, Montana, ABC worked with a local ranch to restore and protect riparian habitat on their land using funds from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, a local utility company, and the Montana Conservation Corps. A permanent conservation easement was procured in 2007 for the entire property, providing long-term habitat protection for the Bald Eagle, Sandhill Crane, and many other species.

### New Guide Published for Land Managers (Pacific Northwest)

ABC and the U.S. Geological Survey jointly published a new guidebook to assist land managers in conservation and management activities that benefit breeding birds





Olive-sided Flycatcher: Ted Ardley



Hermit Warbler: Jim Scarff

in young conifer forests of the Pacific Northwest. The guide provides information on suitable habitat conditions for approximately 90 breeding bird species, including the Band-tailed Pigeon, Hermit Warbler, Olive-sided Flycatcher, and Sooty Grouse.

### ***Polylepis* Reforestation Project Advances (Peru and Bolivia)**

To protect the critically endangered Royal Cinclodes and other bird species dependent upon the *Polylepis* forests of the High Andes, ABC has partnered with ECOAN in Peru and Universidad Mayor de San Andres in Bolivia to work with indigenous communities. More than 300,000 *Polylepis* saplings have been replanted, and fuel-efficient clay stoves and alternative fuel distributed to local communities to reduce the demand for *Polylepis* wood.



Planting *Polylepis* seedlings: ECOAN

### **Bringing Back the Western Bluebird (Washington)**

In 2007, ABC and its partners were successful in reintroducing Western Bluebirds to the San Juan Islands off the coast of Washington state, as part of a five-year program to re-establish this species throughout its former range. The Western Bluebird was formerly a common nesting species all over northwestern Washington, but populations have declined dramatically over the last 50 years due to changes in land management practices that removed standing dead trees, and from competition for nesting cavities from the introduced European Starling.

### **Improving the Science Behind Conservation**

In November 2007, ABC and the National Audubon Society joined forces to produce WatchList 2007, a comprehensive list of the birds of conservation concern in the United States. The WatchList (available at [www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist](http://www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist)) identifies 210 species using criteria developed by Partners in Flight and unifies many disparate lists that had been produced previously. ABC also led an initiative in the Northeastern United States to successfully establish the first standardized bird monitoring program to measure the response of bird populations to conservation actions. ABC plays a key role in developing the science behind landbird conservation delivery throughout the Joint Venture system, particularly in the Central Hardwoods, Appalachian Mountain, Intermountain West, and Pacific Coast JVs.

### **Oaks and Birds Initiative**

ABC led the *Quercus and Aves* (Oaks and Birds) project, a multinational initiative spanning from Canada to Costa Rica, to restore declining oak ecosystems for species such as the Golden-cheeked and Red-faced warblers.

Phases III and IV of this ongoing project have emphasized securing conservation status for critical oak and oak-pine sites in Klickitat County, Washington, Chiapas, Mexico, and near Monte Cristo National Park, El Salvador.



Red-faced Warbler: Greg Lavaty



# CONSERVING HABITATS SPOTLIGHT



Flammulated Owl: Michael Woodruff

## Conservation of Cavity-Nesting Birds in Ponderosa Pine Forests of Western North America

**W**ith seed funding from the National Forest Foundation and Wildlife Conservation Society/Doris Duke Foundation, ABC is working with the American Forest Foundation and other partners in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington to reverse population declines on public and private lands of four WatchList species: the Lewis's Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, Williamson's Sapsucker, and White-headed Woodpecker.

Lewis's Woodpecker is one of the highest priority species for conservation in the United States not protected by the Endangered Species Act. Scientists believe the reasons for its steady decline are the loss and degradation of its primary habitat, mature stands of ponderosa pine, as well as a reduction in the number of nesting sites and competition for nesting sites with European Starlings.

ABC and its partners aim to increase populations of these species through habitat management and restoration activities at privately owned sites, and to conduct outreach to more than 5,000 landowners managing approximately six million acres of forest. The project has set a target of increasing the population of Lewis's Woodpeckers by 10% in 15 years. Already, more than 500 private ponderosa pine landowners have been provided with information on "best management practices" for ponderosa pine ecosystems and their associated priority birds.



Lewis's Woodpecker: Ashok Khosla

Ponderosa pine habitat: Dan Casey



# Conserving Habitats

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## LOOKING AHEAD

Few pieces of funding legislation have the track record of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, which provides grants for work to save migrant birds throughout the Americas. In past years, ABC has been a major force in reauthorizing and gaining appropriations for the Act. For example, in 2007, ABC successfully helped raise the funding level from \$4m to \$4.5m. However, the \$6m maximum currently authorized by the Act falls far short of the need for conservation funding, and as a result, many worthy projects do not get funded each year.

ABC is now beginning a major campaign for early reauthorization of the Act, with the aim of pushing

maximum funding to \$20 million. This will mean far fewer important projects will be turned away due to lack of funds. ABC's *Act for Songbirds* campaign will involve both legislative work on Capitol Hill and grass-roots engagement by ABC's core constituents and other concerned citizens. Expect to hear much more about this effort in coming months.

In 2008, ABC will also be reinforcing its key role in the Joint Venture system through support of the Pacific Coast Joint Venture, and by working with partners on creating implementation plans for the Appalachian, East Gulf Coastal Plain, and Rio Grande Joint Ventures.

Scaled Quail: Ashok Khosla



# Eliminating Threats

## HIGHLIGHTS



Piping Plover: Bill Dalton

ABC reduces threats that cumulatively kill billions of birds each year in the United States by working collaboratively with non-profit partners, industry groups, government agencies, federal and state regulators, and individuals.

### Leading Key Alliances

In 2007, ABC led the Bird Conservation Alliance, which now stands at more than 200 member organizations, to tackle conservation issues affecting conservation of the Red Knot, Grenada Dove, and Northern Spotted Owl. ABC also leads the National Pesticide Reform Coalition (NPRC) to protect birds and other wildlife from the hazards of toxic pesticides, and a national *Cats Indoors!* network that encompasses organizations, federal and state regulators, and individuals working to prevent the predation of priority bird species by free-roaming domestic cats.

### Restricting Carbofuran

ABC and other NPRC members scored a huge victory for bird conservation when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the total cancellation of the pesticide carbofuran, one of the most deadly chemicals to birds. The manufacturer is fighting this decision, but ABC and Coalition members stand ready to support the EPA against any action that may be brought to reverse the outcome.

### Birds, Pets, and Children to be Better Protected from Rat Poisons

Thanks to the efforts of ABC and other NPRC members, major restrictions were proposed on the use of rat poisons. These poisons are used in baits sold to the general public, and result in the deaths of non-target wildlife such as hawks and eagles that prey or scavenge on dead or dying rats and mice. The endangered San Joaquin kit fox is also at risk. All over-the-counter sales of the worst three poisons have now been proposed for cancellation, but industry is fighting the decision.

### California Ban on Lead Ammunition Protects Condors

In October 2007, California banned the use of lead bullets by hunters in all or parts of 14 California counties to prevent poisonings of California Condors. There have been hundreds of cases of lead poisoning caused by the inadvertent ingestion of lead bullet fragments by condors scavenging on carcasses left behind by hunters. ABC testified in favor of the ban, helping to counteract significant pressure from the gun lobby.



California Condor: Susan Haig

### House Passes Invasive Species Legislation

In 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed the bipartisan Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance and Immediate Response Act (REPAIR) that will direct federal resources to help eradicate invasive species from National Wildlife Refuges. Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) championed the legislation, and much of the bill's language was developed by ABC. ABC has supported the passage of the bill through the House, and will continue to do so as the bill goes before the Senate for approval. Among the many examples of how this bill





(Left) Laysan Albatrosses nesting amid marine debris: Steven Siegel/Marine Photobank  
(Right) Hawks killed by pesticide poisoning: FWS.

can help birds is the potential for funding the eradication of golden crown-beard (*Verbesina*), an invasive weed that is overrunning Laysan Albatross nesting sites on Midway Atoll.

### EPA Restricts Aldicarb

Following sustained pressure from ABC and other NPRC members, the EPA has announced significant mitigation measures to prevent the poisoning of birds in agricultural fields by the pesticide aldicarb. The cancellation of aldicarb use on seven crops, plus strict new application requirements, will significantly reduce the danger to birds. Additional avian toxicity studies are also being required, which could result in further controls should these measures prove insufficient to satisfy environmental concerns.

### Keeping the Brown Tree Snake Grounded

Congress recently greatly curtailed the practice of adding special-interest provisions, known as earmarks, to spending bills. An unfortunate result was that one beneficial earmark, which paid for the inspection of

military craft departing Guam, was cut. Without this funding, the brown tree snake could stow away in cargo and potentially spread to Hawaii with catastrophic consequences. Following advocacy efforts by ABC, the Air Force and Navy stepped in to temporarily continue funding inspections. ABC then raised the alarm with Congress, and at the highest levels of the Pentagon, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Fish and Wildlife Service, and will continue to work with these agencies to find a dedicated source of long-term funding for cargo inspections to stop the spread of this species.

### Piping Plover Habitat Protected on Gulf Islands

ABC and partners succeeded in protecting significant shorebird habitat on Gulf Islands National Seashore that is used by endangered Piping Plovers and turtles. The seashore was being forced by the Federal Highways Administration (FHA) to rebuild two damaged roads using piling barriers or retaining walls that would hamper the natural regeneration of the habitat. Following pressure from ABC, the FHA capitulated, and agreed to release funds to rebuild the roads using environmentally acceptable designs.



Greater Prairie-Chickens: Al Perry

# ELIMINATING THREATS SPOTLIGHT



Cerulean Warbler: Stuart Elsom

## Preventing Tower Collisions

**E**ach year, millions of birds, including many species of conservation concern such as the Golden-winged and Cerulean warblers, Painted Bunting, and Henslow's Sparrow, die from collisions with communication towers. ABC and its partners are working to greatly reduce or eliminate this massive, unnecessary toll on bird populations through the application of practical solutions. For example, ABC convinced the Federal Aviation Administration to voluntarily recommend strobe lights as the preferred lighting system on towers and other tall structures. These lights have been scientifically shown to reduce bird deaths at towers compared with other lighting schemes.

However, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), which licenses towers, has failed to implement these or other guidelines to reduce collisions. So in 2007, ABC, represented by Earthjustice, entered the final phase of a lawsuit against the FCC to force them to act. ABC argued that the FCC's permitting process for the construction of towers in the Gulf Coast region, from Port Isabel, Texas to Tampa Bay, Florida, violates federal law by ignoring the ongoing threat to birds. The judge's decision, released early in 2008, was a major victory for bird conservation. The judge ordered the FCC to re-examine its permitting process in relation to the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. The judge also ruled that the FCC had failed to involve the public sufficiently in its permitting decisions. While the suit applies only to the Gulf Coast region, it may have beneficial national repercussions. This important win was made possible largely by the steady, leadership support of the A.W. Berry Foundation, the Turner Foundation, the Leo Model Foundation, the Edward T. Cone Foundation, Andrew Farnsworth, and Mark and Barbara Fried.



Communications tower: stock.xchng



# Eliminating Threats

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**ABC** kicked off 2008 with a new program to address the threat posed by glass and buildings to birds. Estimates suggest that upwards of one billion birds are killed each year in collisions with buildings. With funding from the Leon Levy Foundation, ABC has hired a full-time staffer to push for greater recognition of this problem, and for developing solutions to it. ABC will work with partners in ensuring that bird safety is taken into account when certifying buildings as “green,” and in stimulating development of new technologies to reduce the problem.

ABC will maintain pressure on regulators to ensure that the worst pesticides for birds and the environment are

cancelled or restricted to eliminate their harmful effects. High among the priorities for 2008 are to support the EPA in its decisions to cancel carbofuran and to remove the threat of certain rat poisons from the environment. In both these cases, the pesticide industry is fighting the EPA's decisions. ABC will be the voice for birds, ensuring that science governs the final outcome, not economics or political expediency.

ABC will also continue to fight to save the Red Knot. This includes pushing for listing of the knot under the Endangered Species Act, and advocating for the strictest possible limits on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs in Delaware Bay.

Red Knot and horseshoe crabs: Bill Dallan



# *The* American Birds Campaign



Red-breasted Sapsuckers: Jim Scarff

## Safeguarding the Rarest

Throughout the Americas, hundreds of bird species are threatened with extinction or restricted to a few, vulnerable stronghold sites. American Birds Campaign response:

- More than 1,000 bird species protected through the acquisition or protection of land at 22 reserves in six countries, including many of the most endangered birds in the world.
- Seabird bycatch inserted into the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Act to provide new legal protection and resources for endangered albatrosses and other threatened seabirds.
- Successfully advocating for the maintenance of a strong Endangered Species Act, and petitioning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the Akikiki and Akekee in Hawaii.

## Conserving Habitats

More than one-third of the 650 species that breed in the United States are declining, threatened by habitat loss and poor habitat management. American Birds Campaign response:

- Catalyzing a sea-change in bird conservation planning and practice throughout the United States by championing all bird conservation through Joint Ventures, affecting millions of acres of habitat.
- More than 250,000 native trees planted in the United States and Latin America to improve habitat for threatened birds.
- Increased funding available for habitat conservation measures through the Farm Bill and other federal funding sources.

**If you would like to help, contact George Fenwick at 540-253-5780 or [gfenwick@abcbirds.org](mailto:gfenwick@abcbirds.org).**

## Eliminating Threats

Each year, an estimated 2.5 billion birds are inadvertently killed in the United States due to human activities. American Birds Campaign response:

- Mobilizing the conservation community to gain federal restrictions that will protect millions of birds from the lethal and sub-lethal effects of numerous toxic pesticides.
- Advocating for new regulatory and design reforms to save millions of birds from collisions with communication towers, wind turbines, and glass in buildings.
- Sustained advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill that resulted in increased funding for government agencies and conservation groups to tackle invasive species problems such as the brown tree snake and the more than 200 invasive plant species that are over-running public and private lands.



Wandering Tattler: Ted Ardley



In July 2005, ABC launched the five-year, \$40 million American Birds Campaign. In December 2007, we passed the halfway point, with two-and-a-half years behind us and \$20 million raised for bird conservation. While we can easily summarize the campaign with these numbers, what is less easy to sum up, but to us far more meaningful, is the amazing dedication of our supporters, partners, and staff who have made this all possible.

While we have already highlighted some of our most significant grants through project profiles on previous pages, ABC would especially like to recognize the additional private individual and foundation supporters who have made the most significant leadership gifts to ABC since the Campaign's inception. I look forward to highlighting more in 2009! I would also like to thank the following individuals for making significant campaign pledges: Ken Berlin, Phyllis Brissenden, Jim and Yuko Brumm, Steve Thal, and Lynn and Stuart White. Please see ABC's Website for more supporter highlights!

— George Fenwick, President, American Bird Conservancy

The **Bingham Fund** has provided pivotal support for ABC's endowment and the Pesticides and Birds Program.

The **Blue Moon Fund** has supported ABC's work to develop new innovations to solve conservation problems in the highlands of Peru and Colombia.



Bobolink: Pennsylvania Game Commission

The **Bobolink Foundation's** support has helped ABC build partnerships with public and private landowners to protect key habitat and safeguard Neotropical migrants on both their breeding and wintering grounds.

With the significant support of the **Global Conservation Fund**, ABC and its partners have been able to make tremendous long-term progress in the *Polylepis* forest project in Peru.

The **Jeniam Foundation** has provided support to establish ecotourism lodges to help sustain ABC's growing reserve network in Latin America and the Caribbean.



Jeniam Ecotodge: Nick Athanas/Tropical Birding

The **Leon Levy Foundation** made a grant to help ABC reduce the mortality of migratory birds killed in collisions with man-made structures, and to support the production of a new book, the *Field Guide to Bird Conservation*.

The **Leo Model Foundation** has helped ABC and its partners manage habitat for priority birds, and deliver science-based policy solutions to the greatest threats to bird populations.



Northern Goshawk: wikipedia.com

The **National Fish and Wildlife Foundation** has supported a range of ABC programs including *Cats Indoors!*, and international projects through their ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, and the Migratory Bird Conservancy.

**Robert Giles** has made extraordinary professional and financial contributions to bird conservation in Colombia.

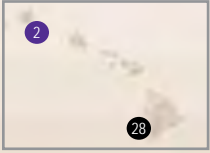


Junco Raili: ECOAN

Thanks to the **Wolf Creek** and **A.W. Berry Foundations**, ABC has been able to succeed on a range of policy and habitat issues including a recent major win in the campaign to protect birds from collisions with communication towers.

Through the **Woodman Family Foundation**, Jeff and Connie Woodman are supporting a variety of international projects including the conservation of several high priority sites in Peru.

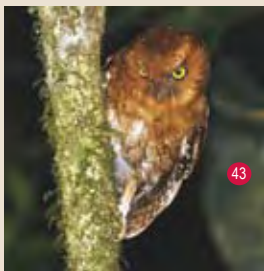
# Conservation throughout the Americas



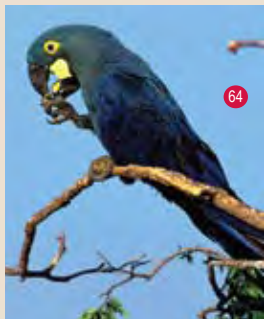
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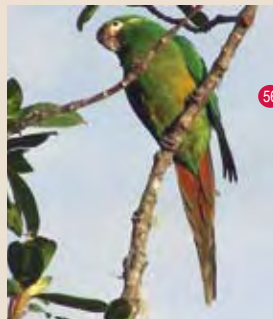
Honduran Emerald: Robert Hyman



Santa Marta Screech-Owl: Alonso Quevedo



Lear's Macaw: Biodiversitas/L.C. Marigo



Golden-plumed Parakeet: Franco Morocho

● = New in 2007  
● = Land acquisition



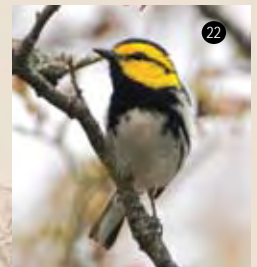
Long-billed Curlew: Tom Grey



Baird's Sparrow: John Carlson



Western Bluebird: Tom Grey



Golden-cheeked Warbler: Greg Lavaty



**Purple = New in 2007    Red = Land acquisition**

The map opposite shows some of the places where ABC is working to protect Watch-List and Alliance for Zero Extinction bird species, and other threatened species and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

**United States Sites**

1. Hawaii: Removing lead paint from Midway Atoll to benefit the Laysan Albatross.
2. Hawaii: Proposal to list the Aikiki and the Akekee under the Endangered Species Act.
3. The Pacific: Stopping longline mortality to benefit the Short-tailed, Laysan, and Black-footed albatrosses; persuading the U.S. government to sign the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels.
4. California: Banning use of lead ammunition in California Condor habitat.
5. Washington: Re-introduction of the Western Bluebird to the San Juan Islands.
6. Pacific Northwest: Habitat protection/restoration for the Willow Flycatcher.
7. Washington, Oregon, and Northern California: Opposing a scientifically-flawed Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan.
8. Montana: Grassland management in the Rocky Mountains for the Long-billed Curlew and McCown's Longspur.
9. Montana: Ponderosa pine conservation and management for the Flammulated Owl.
10. Nevada: Population estimates and conservation planning for the Long-billed Curlew and Grasshopper Sparrow.
11. Western United States: Conservation of the Lewis's Woodpecker and other cavity-nesting birds in ponderosa pine forests.
12. Mississippi, Missouri, Red, and other rivers: Interior Least Tern conservation.
13. Missouri: Riparian forest restoration for the Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush.
14. Missouri: Glade savanna woodland restoration in the Ozarks for the Red-headed Woodpecker and Prairie Warbler.
15. Ohio: Reforestation of abandoned minelands for Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat.
16. Tennessee: Conservation planning for Northern Bobwhite in Central Hardwoods.
17. Northeast United States: Providing support to the 13 states of the Northeast region for fulfilling the bird monitoring component of their wildlife action plans.
18. Vermont: Monitoring high elevation birds such as the Bicknell's Thrush.
19. Virginia: Reforestation of abandoned minelands for Cerulean Warbler habitat.
20. Virginia: Stopping the state of Virginia from annually killing dozens of Black and Turkey vultures in public areas at Dutch Gap State Park and promoting dispersal by non-lethal means.
21. Delaware Bay: Halting horseshoe crab take to benefit the *rufa* Red Knot and other shorebirds.
22. Gulf Coast: Stopping tower kills to benefit night migrating songbirds such as the Bay-breasted and Golden-winged warblers.
23. Florida: Gulf Islands National Seashore. Protection of wash-over habitat for wintering Piping Plovers and other beach-nesting species.
24. Southeastern United States: Managing southern pine habitat for the Brown-headed Nuthatch and other pine-dependent birds.
25. National: Promoting the design and adoption of "bird safe glass" in buildings and supporting "Lights Out" campaigns for major cities that have significant bird impacts during migration.
26. National: Increasing bird conservation programs and resources in the Farm Bill to benefit grassland species such as the Mountain Plover, Baird's Sparrow, and Chestnut-collared Longspur.
27. National and International: Advocating national legislation to regulate wind energy to prevent bird kills, assisting local efforts to minimize bird impacts at wind farms in Texas, California, Virginia, and Massachusetts, and assisting international efforts to minimize bird impacts at proposed wind farms in Mexico and Puerto Rico.
28. National: Promoting the *Cats Indoors!* campaign to keep birds and cats safer.
29. National: Promoting the passage of the REPAIR Act in Congress to protect native birds, other wildlife, and their habitats within the National Wildlife Refuge System through control and management of harmful, non-native species.

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

30. Mexico: Study of ecology and distribution of the Guadalupe Junco on Guadalupe Island. *Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas*
31. Mexico: Monitoring of Socorro Island for the Socorro Mockingbird, Townsend's Shearwater, and Socorro Dove. *Endemicos Insulares, A.C.*
32. Mexico: Reserve creation and tidal wetland restoration for migratory shorebirds at Bahía Santa María. *Pronatura Noroeste*
33. Mexico: Land acquisition for the Worthen's Sparrow and Long-billed Curlew on the Saltillo savanna. *Pronatura Noreste*
34. Mexico: Search for the Cozumel Thrasher. *Endemicos Insulares, A.C.*
35. Dominican Republic: Conservation of the Bay-breasted Cuckoo and Neotropical migrants in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park. *Grupo Jaragua*

36. Grenada: Protecting habitat of the Grenada Dove from resort development.
37. Honduras: Conservation of the Honduran Emerald and Neotropical migrant birds. *Fundación Parque Nacional Pico Bonito*
38. Mesoamerica (Belize, Mexico, Honduras): Identifying key stopover habitat for the Cerulean Warbler. *Gulf Coast Bird Observatory*
39. Nicaragua: Creating bird-friendly silviculture at Matiguás for migratory and resident birds. *Gaia*
40. Costa Rica: Creating bird-friendly silviculture for migratory and resident birds near Esparza. *Universidad Nacional de Costa Rica*
41. Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico: Protecting the wintering habitat of Golden-cheeked and Golden-winged warblers and other priority species in oak and oak-pine habitat. *Pronatura Chiapas, SalvaNatura, National Institute of Biodiversity*
42. Colombia: Search for the Sapphire-bellied Hummingbird on Isla de Salamanca. *Fundación ProAves*
43. Colombia: Conservation of the Santa Marta Parakeet at the El Dorado Bird Reserve. *Fundación ProAves*
44. Colombia: Creation of the Arriero Antiqueno Reserve to protect the Chestnut-capped Piha. *Fundación ProAves*
45. Colombia: Infrastructure development at the Dusky Starfrontlet Bird Reserve. *Fundación ProAves*
46. Colombia: Marketing bird-friendly coffee to enhance sustainability of the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve. *Fundación ProAves*
47. Colombia: Establishing shade coffee conservation easements for the Cerulean Warbler at Jardín, Antioquia. *Fundación ProAves*
48. Colombia: Implementing bird-friendly silviculture at Quindío for migratory and resident birds. *Asociación Calidris*
49. Colombia: Supporting the Parrot Bus education campaign to help protect Colombia's threatened parrots. *Fundación ProAves*
50. Colombia: Creation of the El Mirador Bird Reserve for the protection of the Fuertes's Parrot. *Fundación ProAves*
51. Colombia: Creation of the Pauxi Pauxi Bird Reserve for protection of the Helmeted Curassow, Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, and Cerulean Warbler. *Fundación ProAves*
52. Colombia: Implementing silviculture as a buffer for the Cerulean Warbler Reserve. *Fundación ProAves*
53. Ecuador: Conservation planning for the Esmeraldas Woodstar. *Fundación Jocotoco*
54. Ecuador: Land purchase at the Jorupe Reserve for the Slaty Becard and Blackish-headed Spinetail. *Fundación Jocotoco*
55. Ecuador: Land purchase at the Buenaventura Reserve for the El Oro Parakeet. *Fundación Jocotoco*
56. Ecuador: Expanding the Tapichalaca Reserve to protect the Jocotoco Antpitta and the Golden-plumed Parakeet. *Fundación Jocotoco*
57. Ecuador and Peru: Protecting Neotropical Migrants in the Andes—building a strategic protected area network. *ECOAN and Fundación Jocotoco*
58. Peru: Conservation of the Marvelous Spatuletail in Pomacochas and the Marañón-Alto Mayo Conservation Corridor. *Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)*
59. Peru: Expansion and management of the Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva Reserve for the protection of the Ochre-fronted Antpitta and Long-whiskered Owlet. *ECOAN*
60. Peru: Surveys and conservation planning for the Grey-bellied Comet. *ECOAN*
61. Peru: Seabird bycatch assessment surveys in Peruvian ports. *Pro Delphinus*
62. Peru: Status survey and conservation plan for the Junín Grebe and Junín Rail at Lake Junín. *ECOAN*
63. Peru: Habitat restoration and community conservation for the Royal Cinclodes and Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant in the Vilcanota cordillera. *ECOAN*
64. Brazil: Land purchase at the Canudos Biological Station for the Lear's Macaw. *Fundação Biodiversitas*
65. Brazil: Creation of the Balbina Forest Reserve to protect the Stresemann's Bristlefront and Banded Cotinga. *Fundação Biodiversitas*
66. Bolivia: Conservation planning for the Red-fronted Macaw. *Centro de Biodiversidad y Genética, Universidad Mayor de San Simón*
67. Bolivia: Working to ban the deadly pesticide, monocrotophos
68. Chile: Habitat restoration and community conservation for the Juan Fernández Firecrown on Isla Robinson Crusoe. *Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy*
69. Chile: Conservation of the Masafuera Rayadito on Isla Selkirk. *Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy*
70. Argentina: Funded a fisheries observer handbook for southeastern South America. *Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina*
71. Argentina: Stakeholder workshops to aid the development of a National Plan of Action to Reduce Seabird Bycatch in Fisheries. *Argentina's National Council on Scientific and Technical Research*

# Ways of Supporting ABC

# ABC

pledges to make the best use of your gift for the benefit of bird conservation. We endeavor to operate as efficiently as possible and to keep

operating expenses low, so that we can direct as much money as possible to our core mission: conserving native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. In 2007, ABC was once again given the top ranking of an "Exceptional" Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator ([www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)), the leading independent organization evaluating non-profits. This is the sixth consecutive year that ABC has received this designation, an achievement made by only 1% of all U.S. charities.

With so many bird species now facing decline or extinction in the Americas, we need to act now. Every gift is important. From a one-time contribution to an endowment or other planned gift, there are many ways to support ABC. The quickest way for you to donate is over the Internet at [www.abcbirds.org/membership](http://www.abcbirds.org/membership), but, of course, we are always happy to talk to you in person.

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

Supporters giving \$1,000 or more become members of ABC's **Falcon Club**, in recognition of the indispensable role they play in providing unrestricted working capital for ABC that touches every program and project.

### Gift Memberships and Memorial Gifts:

Memberships can be given as a gift to another individual or as a memorial gift in honor of a friend or loved one. Visit [www.abcbirds.org/membership](http://www.abcbirds.org/membership) to donate online or simply write the information on the inside of the enclosed envelope.

**Project Support:** ABC welcomes project-specific donations. Visit our Website at [www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org) or call us to learn more about the many projects ABC works on throughout the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean.



**Workplace Giving:** Federal employees can choose ABC as the beneficiary of their Combined Federal Campaign contributions. ABC is listed as charity #2385. Many businesses will match employee payroll deductions or annual gifts to ABC, often doubling your contribution. Talk to your employer about the possibility of donating to ABC through payroll deductions and matching gifts, or contact ABC for more information.

**Planned Giving:** Pledging to ABC through a planned gift will make you a lifetime member of ABC's Legacy Circle.

*ABC is a registered 501(c)(3) charity. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.*

*For more information, please contact Rita Fenwick at 888 BIRD MAG (247-3624) or 540-253-5780.*

Photos, top to bottom: Lawrence's Goldfinch: Peter LaTourrette, [www.birdphotography.com](http://www.birdphotography.com); Heerman's Gull: Mike Parr; Marsh Wren: Eleanor Briccelli



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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.

Peregrine Falcon: ClipArt.com



Purple denotes Falcon Club member

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Rufous Hummingbird: Ted Ardley

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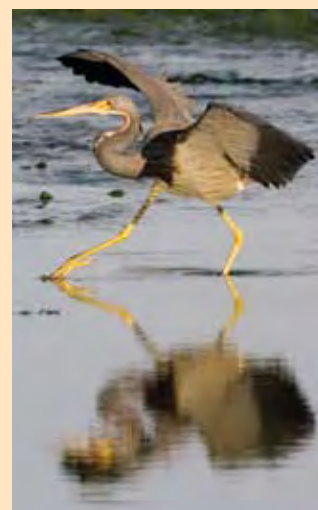
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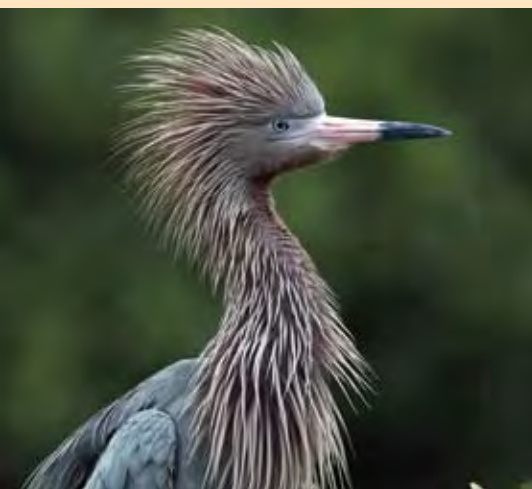
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Reddish Egret: Ashok Khosla



American Kestrels: Tom Grey

# 2007 Supporters



Black Oystercatcher: Ted Ardley

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State of Wisconsin  
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency  
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Red Phalarope: Ashok Khosla







*Birds are marvels of our planet: spectacular, colorful and fascinating. But if you love birds and nature as I do, you must be concerned about the decline of our migratory species and the loss of bird habitat across the Americas.*

*I am supporting American Bird Conservancy so that future generations will also be able to enjoy birds the way we do today. — Jane Alexander*

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Roland Garros Barton  
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Green Jay: Ashok Khosla



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Rachel Christian-Fenwick  
Sarah Fenwick  
Cyrus Fenwick  
Viashali Joshi  
Carl Liles  
Hakan Lindskog  
Stephanie Peacock



Purple Martins: Greg Lavaty

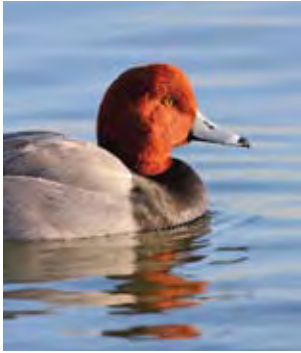
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Dan Lambert, Northeast Bird Monitoring Program Coordinator  
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Casey Lott, Waterways Program Coordinator  
Brian Smith, Ph.D., Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Coordinator



# 2007 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

## ANNUAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation, Organization, and Corporate Grants	\$ 3,364,614
Contributions	\$ 2,415,617
Grants and Contracts	\$ 1,652,746
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 174,159
Investment Income (including Unrealized Gain/Loss)	\$ 142,008
Miscellaneous	\$ 77,557
Rent Income	\$ 31,992

**Total Annual Support and Revenue** **\$ 7,858,693**

## ANNUAL EXPENSES

### Program

Bird Conservation Programs	\$ 5,277,334
Education and Outreach	\$ 312,195
Membership	\$ 238,938

**Total Program Services** **\$ 5,828,467**

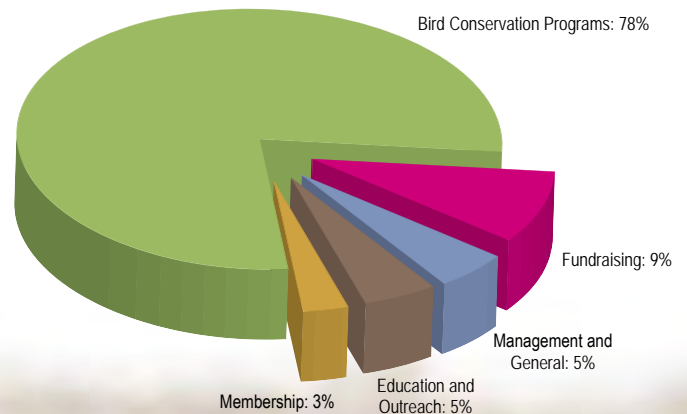
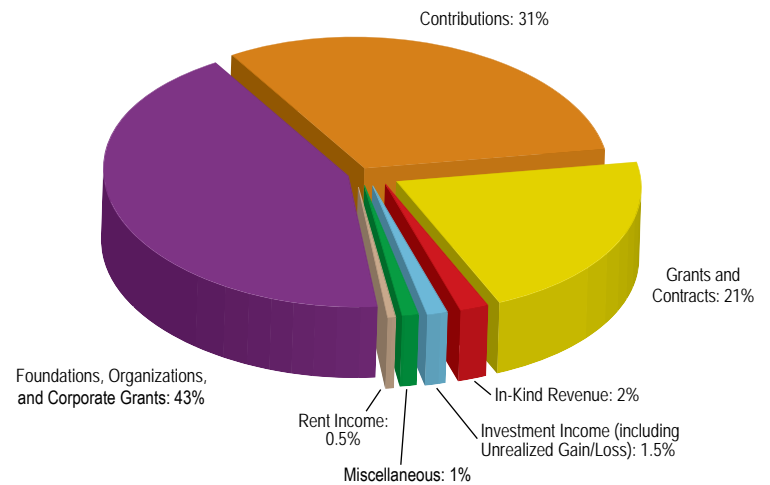
### Supporting Services

Fund raising	\$ 577,010
Management and General	\$ 347,226

**Total Supporting Services** **\$ 924,236**

**Total Annual Expenses** **\$ 6,752,703**

**Net Assets at December 31, 2007** **\$ 4,789,174**



American Bird Conservancy's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2007, were audited by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman. 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](http://www.charitynavigator.org)).*



Marbled Murrelet: Mike Danzenbaker

In 2007, ABC's conservation actions helped preserve more than 200 threatened bird species throughout the Americas.

American Bird Conservancy  
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The Plains, VA 20198  
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