American Bird Conservancy

ANNUAL REPORT 2011





a Message from the Chairman and President

Please accept our hearty thanks

for your support and encouragement of American Bird Conservancy this past year. Thanks to you, ABC has once again exceeded expectations in saving birds and their habitats and in reducing some of the worst threats to bird survival. Our advice to you is, "Be optimistic: we will succeed."

People sometimes ask for the secrets to ABC's success, and we would like to mention some of those secrets here. First, ABC stays the course. Many of the problems we face together require long-term strategies, and as a result we are alternately disappointed and euphoric as we work through the obstacles toward success. This calls to mind one Wyoming supporter of our work to reduce bird mortality from collisions with cell towers. A few years in, he questioned whether ABC could really ever win, and we pleaded with him to stick with us. He did, and we got the victory that birds needed (see highlight on page 14). Sometimes it takes years to complete a reserve and make it sustainable, and campaigns such as our new program to prevent lead poisoning in birds may take a decade, but regardless of the issue, you can be assured that ABC will persevere.

A second secret to ABC's success is that we keep our focus on improving circumstances for birds. As organizations grow, they often expand their programs,

geography, and even their mission.

For example, many larger conservation groups have now compromised their mission to include people — not wildlife, or not exclusively wildlife in their mission. And while, of course, we all want people to benefit, we believe that with all of the resources devoted to the betterment of our own species, we need to focus our energy on

wildlife, and birds in particular. You can be assured that ABC's mission will always be to help birds, and that we and other biodiversity will benefit.

In answer to those who ask, "Why isn't ABC doing more to combat climate change or population growth, or to educate more children?", we say those are all critically important things to do. We encourage those engaged in these issues, and applaud their every success, but our members and supporters have asked us to focus on taking immediate steps to help birds. Further, our resources are limited, and if we diffused our energies so as to address each major, relevant issue, we might accomplish nothing at all. Some challenge this by saying our work will be for naught if temperatures rise, populations grow, or our children fail to appreciate nature – and we agree, but our hope is to achieve stable bird populations to the next generation while other worthy organizations solve these massive, continuing issues. Meanwhile, ABC focuses on saving birds now.

Finally, it really is not a secret that ABC demands significant results of its programs, and we believe that our Gold Standard for performance is what keeps you with us. In every program, every project, we aim for change that benefits birds. One of our favorite funders, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, once said what they like about ABC was that we are "turning the dial for birds." Others say we "move the ball down the field" or "punch above our weight class". Regardless of the saying, ABC will stay focused on securing results that benefit birds. Count on ABC, and thanks again for your support.

Jim Brumm
Chairman, ABC

George Fenwick
President, ABC



Costa's Hummingbird: Greg Homel

ABC's Strategic Bird Conservation Framework

ABC'S MISSION: American Bird Conservancy is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to conserve native birds and their habitats across the Americas.

Goals and Targets

Safeguarding the Rarest

- Alliance for Zero Extinction and Stronghold sites
 - Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and habitats for Red WatchList species in the U.S. and migrants internationally
 - · Endangered marine birds at sea
 - · Species that are, or should be, ESA listed

Proposed Actions

Whooping Cranes: Laura Erickson

- · Create sustainable reserves
- · Restore islands
- · Stop seabird bycatch
- List species under the Endangered Species Act; press for full ESA funding

Conserve Habitats

 IBAs and habitats for Yellow WatchList species in the U.S. and migrants internationally

WatchList Species

Most

Endangered

- Best management practices; direct protection of habitats and IBAs
 - Set population targets; promote conservation of WatchList birds among land managers and Joint Ventures
 - Protect key sites and habitats for migrants internationally

Eliminate Threats

- Mortality affecting or likely to affect one million plus birds per year, or significantly affecting WatchList
- · Precedent-setting causes of mortality
 - Unethical practices with broad implications
 - · Significant threats to habitats
 - Federal funding programs that affect birds

 Direct interventions, public pressure, regulatory change, legal action, funding for solutions, education

All Species

Build the capacity and alliances needed to generate science-based conservation action

SAFEGUARDING THE RAREST

Throughout the Americas, 96 endangered birds are now found only at one location; another 189 are down to just a handful of sites. These are the rarest of the rare; the birds for which time is running out. ABC is the leading organization in the world working to protect these sites, their habitats, and their unique species, with projects at 44 sites in 10 countries. In working to save these birds on the brink, ABC also protects many other species—from endangered frogs to spectacled bears. ABC works domestically, particularly in Hawai'i, to ensure threatened U.S. species are adequately protected and funded through the Endangered Species Act.

Flagship Reserves for the Rarest Birds

In 2011, your support helped ABC and our partners acquire more than a dozen properties to create or expand bird reserves protecting rare species at sites identified by the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE):

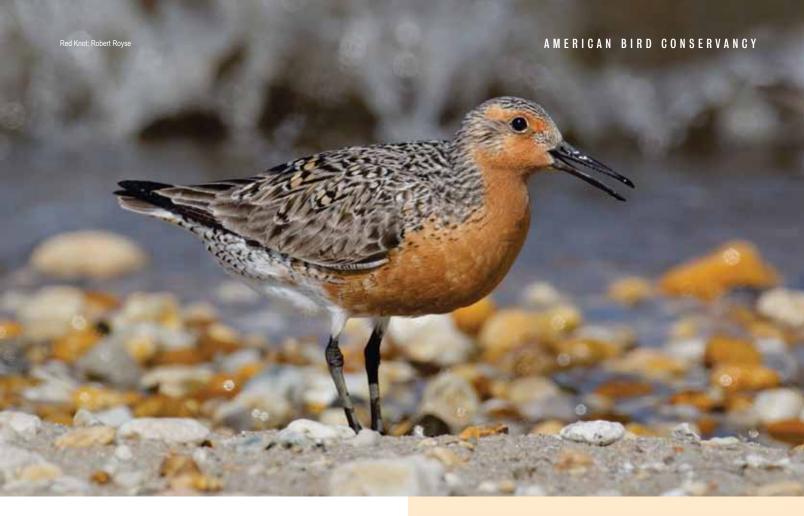
- The Gorgeted Puffleg was only discovered in 2007, and is known only from a small area of remnant habitat in the Colombian Andes, with perhaps fewer than 150 birds surviving. In 2011, ABC and Fundación ProAves created the 1,500-acre Gorgeted Puffleg Reserve for the protection of this critically endangered bird. The reserve now forms the eastern end of the proposed Choco Corridor that would connect 750,000 acres of contiguous habitat for the protection of the critically endangered Colorful Puffleg and Munchique Wood-Wren, endangered Baudo Guan and Chestnut-bellied Flowerpiercer, and the endangered golden poison frog.
- ABC, World Land Trust, and ProAves also created the new 4,000acre Tanagers Reserve, which protects some of the last remaining habitat for the endangered Gold-ringed Tanager and Choco Vireo, as well as the endangered Chestnut-bellied

- Flowerpiercer and Yellow-eared Parrot. Some 30 other endemic bird species are found in the area, including four other species of tanager. A species of frog new to science has also been discovered at the reserve and will now be protected by the reserve.
- ProAves and ABC also purchased 1,200 acres of land to expand the Chestnut-capped Piha reserve in the central Colombian cordillera. In addition to protecting some of the only remaining habitat for the Piha, the reserve also benefits the vulnerable Black Tinamou and Multi-colored Tanager, as well as wintering habitat for the Cerulean Warbler.
- In Peru, ABC and ProNaturaleza secured more than 1,100 acres of habitat on private inholdings within the Allpahuayo Mishana National Reserve to benefit the critically endangered Iquitos Gnatcatcher and the vulnerable Allpahuayo Antbird, Mishana Tyrannulet, and other rare species.

Sage Wisdom

ABC advocacy efforts helped to bring about a regional conservation initiative for the Greater Sage-Grouse covering 57 million acres of federal land. ABC is now working with a network of local and national environmental organizations to further protect other sagebrush-reliant species such as the Sage Sparrow, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's Sparrow.





Stopping the Red Knot's Undoing

Following efforts by ABC and others, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that they would expedite their listing of the rufa Red Knot under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. ABC had long advocated for this action and provided substantial evidence for the need to protect the knot due to overfishing of its main food source, horseshoe crabs, and potential threats on its wintering grounds in Tierra del Fuego. Recent surveys revealed a precipitous decline in Red Knot numbers, making listing of the species an urgent need.

Greater Sage-Grouse: Ashok Khosla



"ABC helped found and has been a leading voice in the Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE), a worldwide conservation movement with more than 60 NGO members. ABC's support has helped AZE gain traction at the very highest levels of international conservation policy and finance, and through this initiative we are absolutely and definitively helping to save the world's species from extinction."



Michael J. Parr, Vice President, ABC, Chair, Alliance for Zero Extinction

Laysan Millerbird: Robby Kohley



SPOTLIGHT: A Bird in the Bush

In an historic, collaborative effort to save a species from extinction, 24 critically endangered Millerbirds were captured on the tiny island of Nihoa in the Hawaiian Archipelago, and released on Laysan Island.

The Millerbird had once thrived on Laysan, but was extirpated due to the introduction of rabbits and other mammals. It had since been restricted only to Nihoa, where its small population was at extreme risk from natural disasters and the threat of introduced predators that could quickly wipe out the species. The translocation marks the return of the Millerbird to Laysan after a nearly 100-year absence, and was the result of many years of research and detailed planning, led by a partnership between ABC and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

ABC's Hawai'i Program Director George Wallace and Hawai'i Program Science Coordinator Chris Farmer, along with biologists from FWS, Pacific Rim Conservation, and the U.S. Geological Survey, accompanied the birds on their 650-mile journey from Nihoa to Laysan. Team members monitoring the birds have reported that the new residents of Laysan have already fledged six chicks, a very encouraging sign for the future of the population on Laysan!

Challenges Remaining

- Additional translocations will be needed to build up this 'seed population' to the point
 where it can be self-sustaining. ABC is already working with FWS to make this happen.
- Laysan Finches can impact Millerbird nesting success by predating their eggs. The Millerbirds
 will need to learn to cope with this threat, but given that they have coexisted with Nihoa
 Finches successfully, we expect them to learn to do the same on Laysan.
- While rabbits have now been eradicated from Laysan, it is essential that the island remain free of invasive mammals.

(Background photo) Naupaka, a native Hawaiian shrub, is the Millerbird's new habitat on Laysan. Photo: George E. Wallace, ABC



"Hawai'i's endemic birds are on the frontline of the world's conservation crisis. However, ABC's involvement has led to some exciting and concrete successes under difficult circumstances. Perhaps foremost among these, and incredibly rewarding for me personally, is the new Millerbird population we have helped start on Laysan Island. It has been a model for cooperative conservation and a real victory for the species."





Sustaining Your Investment in Conservation

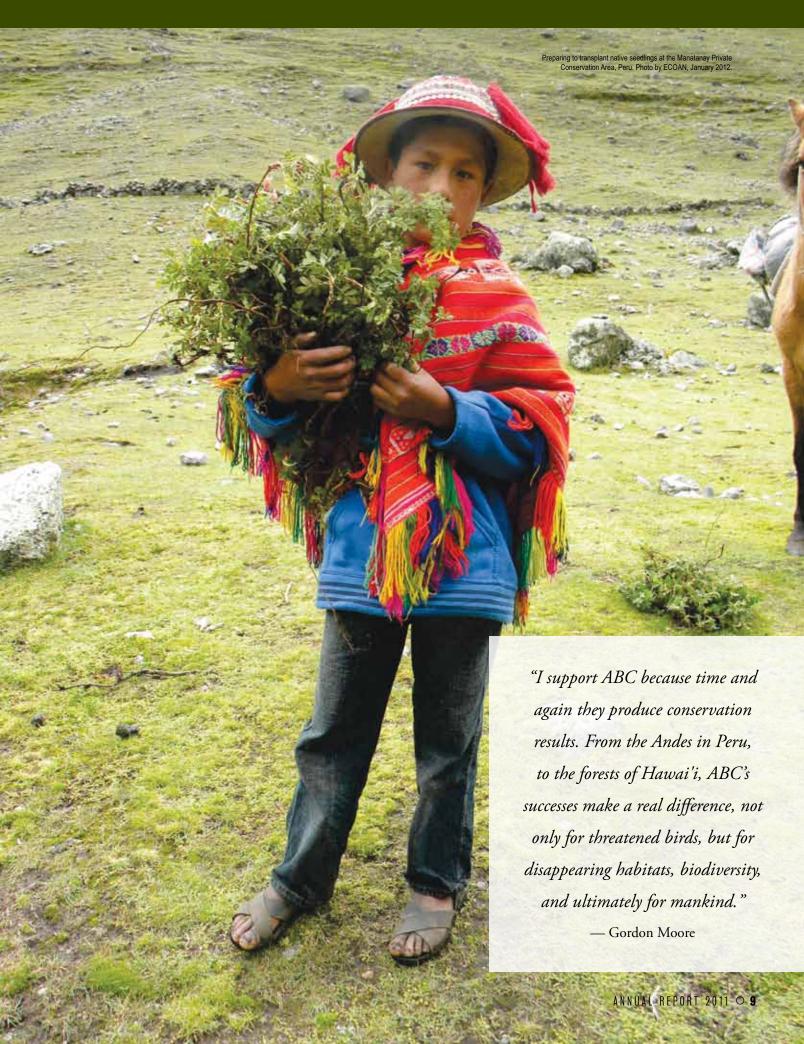
A common misconception in rare species conservation is that protecting habitat is the endpoint when really it is just the beginning. That first tract of land normally holds a significant population of the target species, but sustainable conservation requires much more: reserve design, protection of adjacent habitat and buffer lands, community relations, infrastructure, hiring guards, establishment of monitoring methods, development of long-term financial assurance for both the reserve and the title-holding organization, and many other techniques. Each of these can be complex and expensive. Think of that first habitat purchase as the "engagement," and sustained conservation as the "until death do you part."

ABC takes the permanent protection of its investments in conservation seriously: we mean for your great-grandchildren to appreciate what we have accomplished together. And through the years, we have learned a few lessons such as that rare species and reserve sustainability depend on developing well-run organizations with a clear purpose. That is why, in 2011:

• ABC and Peruvian partner ECOAN established a \$2 million endowment fund – the first of its kind – to protect and restore high-altitude *Polylepis* forests in Peru, which are home to a host of rare birds including the Royal Cinclodes and Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant. This endowment was three years in the making, with funding secured from Fondo de las Américasú, and matched by the Global Conservation Fund at Conservation International. With the interest from the endowment coupled with other funding sources, we will continue to plant native trees, help local communities to build and manage tree and plant nurseries, and increase bird habitat throughout the Andes in Peru.

- ABC helped our Colombian partner, Fundación ProAves, purchase and operate coffee and cacao farms in the Cerulean Warbler Conservation corridor to help produce a sustainable, environmentally friendly revenue stream for reserve management. Among the species that will benefit from these farms are the Cerulean Warbler, the critically endangered Blue-billed Curassow, and the endangered Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird. Shade coffee and cacao also provide important and productive habitat for wintering migratory birds.
- ABC worked with our partners throughout the Latin American Reserve Network to improve the infrastructure at their reserves, including construction of: a new visitor's lodge at the Golden-ringed Tanager Reserve in Colombia; a new runway to improve access to the Blue-throated Macaw reserve in Bolivia; a guard station to help secure the Allpahuayo Mishana reserve in Northern Peru; a guard station and visitor's center at Loma Charco Azul Biological Reserve in the Dominican Republic; and a new visitor center at Abra Malaga Thastayoc in Peru's Vilcanota Mountains. Each of these improvements will strengthen both conservation and ecotourism capacity to generate necessary long-term funding for the reserves.

ABC is grateful to our many supporters and donors who often assist us in purchasing crucial tracts of land (sometimes on very urgent notice) to protect habitat and birds. However, a few special supporters such as the Blue Moon Fund, the Jeniam Foundation, Robert Giles, and Marybeth Sollins know that ABC has taken on the job "for better and for worse," and that sustaining our success will require ongoing support for years to come. We thank them for their vision, and welcome others to join in this work.



CONSERVING HABITAT

Without sufficient habitat protection, bird populations will inevitably decline. ABC engages in habitat conservation efforts at all scales, from influencing management at a landscape level to tree planting and fencing efforts that protect specific, high-priority sites. ABC's leadership role in multiple U.S. and Latin American networks and partnerships uniquely positions us to identify problems, find the best solutions, and implement on-the-ground actions to protect, restore, and create habitat for declining species throughout the Americas.

Help for Habitat in Hawai'i

Thanks to ABC's advocacy in support of federal funding, the Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) began construction of a 59-mile fence to protect essential habitat for the critically endangered Palila on Mauna Kea from browsing by non-native sheep and goats. In addition, non-native predators and invasive plants are being removed from the birds' mamane forest habitat. Another fence to exclude non-native grazing mammals is being constructed on Maui to protect the critically endangered Maui Parrotbill. The federal government has committed \$960,000 toward fencing the entire area, and a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to ABC will support fence construction by DOFAW, habitat restoration, and finally translocation of parrotbills to the area. Through these projects, ABC and its partners are improving habitat not just for Palila and Maui Parrotbill but also the Hawai'i 'Elepaio, 'I'iwi, 'Apapane, Hawai'i Amakihi, 'Akiapōlā' au, and Maui Alauahio.

Western Bluebirds in the Pink

2011 saw the completion of an ABC-led, five-year translocation project to reintroduce the Western Bluebird to the San Juan Islands after a 45-year absence. The year ended with a population of 38 birds on the islands. In tandem with the reintroductions, project partners are also working to conserve the oak-prairie habitat on which the birds depend. This includes the acquisition by the San Juan Preservation Trust of 120 acres of habitat in the center of the San Juan Valley, and installation of approximately 600 nest boxes to provide additional nesting opportunities for the birds.



'Ananane: Owen Deutsch



Western Bluebird pair: George Gentry, USFWS



Restoration in the Central Hardwoods

Partners in the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture improved 122,000 acres of glade, barren, and open forest habitat for priority bird species such as the Bluewinged and Prairie Warblers. ABC leadership in the Joint Venture is helping partners learn more about where and how to restore and manage the native ecosystems that form the basis of regional habitat goals.

Protecting Endangered Polylepis Forests

In 2011, ABC and our partners planted 135,000 *Polylepis* trees in Peru and Bolivia to provide critical future habitat for the threatened Royal Cinclodes, Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant, and White-browed Tit-Spinetail. ABC also helped reduce demand for *Polylepis* trees for use as firewood by providing fuel-efficient stoves for families in participating communities, and built community-operated centers for visitors and researchers in both countries.

Integrating Bird Habitat and Agriculture

ABC-supported partners planted approximately 410,000 trees in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, with a further 8,000 trees soon to be planted in Nicaragua, to create new forest, shade coffee plantations, and "living fences" and shade trees on pasture lands. Our work included establishment of 13 tree nurseries to continue the process of reforestation in the years to come.

Building Reserves

With a network of partners throughout Latin America, ABC protected thousands of acres of land to safeguard habitat for declining migratory and endemic species. This included purchasing 319 acres to help Fundación Jocotoco expand the Buenaventura reserve in Ecuador for the endangered El Oro Parakeet, El Oro Tapaculo, and Grey-backed Hawk; 672 acres to help Fundación ProAves expand the Cerulean Warbler Conservation Corridor in Colombia for declining migrant and native species; and assisting Osa Conservation in protecting 1,600 acres of habitat for the endangered and highly restricted Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager in Costa Rica. Thanks to ECOAN and ABC, three new Private Conservation Areas totaling 8,800 acres were established in Peru, which will help protect many priority birds.

Going on the Offensive for Shearwaters

The globally vulnerable Pink-footed Shearwater has only three known breeding sites, making it very susceptible to catastrophic events and human impacts. On one of the breeding islands, Isla Robinson Crusoe in Chile, ABC has fenced off a colony to protect breeding birds from cattle that destroy vegetation and trample nests. The next step will be habitat restoration within the enclosure.

American Woodcock: Frode Jacobser



SPOTLIGHT: Winning for Woodcock and Warblers

From breeding grounds to wintering sites, using reforestation and best management practices, ABC is improving habitat for the Golden-winged Warbler, one of the most seriously threatened non-listed species in North America, and its young forest cohabitant, the American Woodcock.

With support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, ABC, the Wildlife Management Institute, and others created more than 100,000 acres of breeding habitat in Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, and Maryland for the warbler and the woodcock. Our goal over the next ten years is to create or manage approximately two million acres of young forest in the United States for these and a dozen other species of conservation concern.

Partners in the ABC-led Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture also created or enhanced over 1,000 acres of habitat in six eastern states specifically targeted for Golden-winged Warblers, with an additional 4,000 acres planned.

On the warbler's wintering grounds, ABC provided support to the El Jaguar Reserve to distribute trees for reforestation of Golden-winged Warbler habitat in northwestern Nicaragua. Additionally, 5,000 seeds have been planted in a new nursery at a second regional location.

Challenges Remaining

- Connect remaining forest patches to reduce fragmentation in important Golden-winged Warbler habitat, and more tree-planting to provide additional habitat. ABC and the El Jaguar Reserve will work cooperatively to plant more trees on private farms and maintain shade coffee plots in northwestern Nicaragua around the El Jaguar Reserve.
- · Create and maintain sufficient high-quality habitat on Golden-winged Warbler breeding grounds. Early successional habitat can change in 8-15 years, making it unusable for the species. These areas need to be maintained regularly through prescribed fire and land management to ensure an adequate amount of habitat is available for successful breeding.
- · We need more information about the Golden-winged Warbler on its wintering grounds to determine if populations from the Upper Midwest and those of the Appalachians have differing conservation needs. More detailed information will help make future conservation even more effective.

(Background photo) Early successional habitat favored by both the Goldenwinged Warbler and American Woodcock, Photo: Brian Smith, ABC



"Our work to conserve the Golden-winged Warbler across its entire migratory spectrum is truly unique; from creating, restoring, and maintaining early successional habitat on its breeding grounds here in the U.S., to reforestation and shade coffee initiatives on its wintering grounds in Latin America, to the reduction of threats such as glass on buildings, ABC is turning the dial to improve this species' future."

Andrew Rothman, Migratory Bird Program Director, ABC

ELIMINATING THREATS

From glass windows to pesticides to energy development, human actions contribute to the death of billions of birds across the hemisphere. ABC uses your valuable support to address every major mortality threat to birds by raising awareness, researching and developing viable solutions, and pushing for regulatory restrictions that benefit hundreds of U.S. species.

When Worlds Collide: Glass and Birds

Millions of birds die each year in collisions with glass. With the support of several key donors, including The Leon Levy Foundation and the Rusinow Family Charitable Foundation, ABC has promoted solutions to this problem. ABC worked with the Green Buildings Council to create a new pilot credit for architects and building owners seeking LEED certification for their designs, helped the City of San Francisco pass landmark legislation to prevent future collisions, and developed a new, low-cost product, ABC BirdTape (www.abcbirdtape.org), that homeowners can place on their windows to minimize collision risk. ABC also produced *Bird-Friendly Building Design*, a reference guide for architects, builders, designers, and city planners who want to create buildings that are safer for birds (http://collisions.abcbirds.org).

Collision Victory in Hawai'i

ABC and a coalition of organizations, represented by Earthjustice, reached an agreement with the Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative (KIUC) over its take of protected Newell's Shearwaters and Hawaiian Petrels. Over the last 30 years, tens of thousands of Newell's Shearwaters have been unnecessarily killed or wounded by collisions with KIUC's power lines and through light attraction from county and resort lighting—one of the largest incidents of documented take of listed bird species. The threat of litigation and detailed recommendations by ABC and its partners pushed KIUC to obtain an incidental take permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the state of Hawai'i. To mitigate for unavoidable take, KIUC is now implementing a Habitat Conservation Plan that includes modifications to its power lines and lights, and implementation of conservation measures on the birds' breeding colonies.



Newell's Shearwater: Michael Walther

Towering Victory for Birds

Building on ABC's advances last year, the Federal Communications Commission has approved a new rule that will limit the threat tall towers pose to birds. The FCC will now require that an Environmental Assessment be prepared for any proposed tower over 450 feet in height, which are the most deadly for birds.

Devising a Formula to End Chemical Poisoning of Birds

Last year, the decade-long fight to stop the eagle-killing pesticide carbofuran came to an end with a final court decision in favor of the ABC-supported cancellation established by the EPA. In addition, use of the prairie dog poison rozol, which has killed eagles, owls, and hawks, was banned in four states. However, it remains in use in six others. The pesticide endosulfan, also a known bird-killer, was banned internationally under the Stockholm Convention, thanks in part to ABC's efforts. Fifteen years after ABC persuaded the government of Argentina to ban the pesticide monocrotophos, ABC action has led to a temporary ban on the chemical by the government of Bolivia. Monocrotophos has been responsible for thousands of bird deaths, including Swainson's Hawks and Bobolinks.

Blowing in the Wind

ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Campaign has helped make the threat to birds from some wind power developments a topic of national debate. ABC garnered the support of more than 150 groups, including the American Birding Association, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Sierra Club, and numerous Audubon Society chapters, in advocating for mandatory wind development standards. With help from the Leon Levy Foundation, ABC petitioned the Department of the Interior to regulate bird deaths caused by collisions with wind turbines by initiating a take permit system under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Although the government has, for now, elected to proceed with voluntary wind guidelines, ABC will continue to partner across the bird conservation community to ensure that existing regulations that protect eagles and migratory birds at wind projects remain strong, and to develop effective, collaborative programs to protect birds from the negative effects of poorly-sited wind power.





The Medina System, a new fishing technology being used in Ecuador to reduce seabird bycatch. Photo: Nigel Brothers

SPOTLIGHT: Getting Seabirds off the Hook

With the generous support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, ABC has made significant inroads on both the accidental bycatch and the deliberate take of critically endangered Waved Albatrosses and other focal seabird species in Ecuador, Peru, and Mexico.

Although it is relatively small, the Ecuadorian hake fishery is one of the most significant threats to the Waved Albatross. Working with Ecuadorian partners, ABC helped develop, test, and apply the use of simple, new technology that has shown great promise in reducing albatross deaths on the hooks of longlines.

ABC also reduced the intentional consumption of the Waved Albatross by Peruvian fishermen by approximately 90% through a targeted and sustained outreach campaign.

In partnership with experts from Washington Sea Grant, ABC helped complete a two-way international exchange with Mexican longline fishermen to reduce seabird bycatch. Boat captains were shown how to deploy "tori" lines on their vessels to scare birds away from the longline hooks while they are set.

Challenges Remaining

- Despite advances in the Ecuadorian hake fishery, we still have work to do to ensure 100% compliance in the use of seabird-friendly fishing practices.
- ABC and partners are looking to develop a new line-weighting system that will reduce bycatch in Ecuador's yellowfin tuna fishery. If successful here, this technique may also work in the mahi-mahi, shark, and ray fisheries in Peru.
- In Mexico, additional observations of the longline fishery are needed to determine the extent
 of the bycatch problem. Work with the fishermen is ongoing to implement bycatch reduction
 techniques, particularly in light of the growing Laysan Albatross colony on Isla Guadalupe.

(Background photo) Waved Albatross nesting colony. Photo: David Wiedenfeld, ABC



"Sooner or later, if you care about birds, you'll find your way to American Bird Conservancy. Its outstanding staff and partners are fighting on every front for every species of concern in the Western Hemisphere. No organization delivers better results for the contributions it receives."

— Jonathan Franzen, Author, ABC Board Member

BUILDING CONSERVATION CAPACITY

To succeed in our mission of conserving the hemisphere's native birds, we must build a solid scientific, financial, and grassroots foundation for the bird conservation movement. ABC identifies emerging issues that need greater study, funds research, engages activists, communities, and governments in conservation issues, and pushes for increased federal funding of bird conservation priorities. ABC also forms and leads partnerships and alliances that engage people across the spectrum of the bird conservation community, thus multiplying our impact.

ABC Ups the Ante on Bird Funding

ABC again successfully advocated for millions of federal dollars for important bird conservation issues. In particular, ABC successfully pushed for a new tariff on imports to Hawai'i, which will be used to keep out potentially devastating invasive predators such as the brown tree snake. ABC also advocated for \$1.5 million to be directed to the Palila fencing project (see page 10) and \$224,000 to the Millerbird translocation project (see page 6). Thanks to the efforts of ABC and others, the Senate restored funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act grants program that the House zeroed out in its bill.

After years of prodding by ABC, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is implementing an aggressive plan to clean up toxic lead-based paint on Midway Atoll by the

end of 2017. Thousands of albatross chicks die every year after ingesting paint chips falling from aging buildings. ABC advocacy efforts were also successful in helping to broker an agreement between FWS and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to fund golden crownbeard eradication from Eastern Island at Midway. This invasive, fast-growing plant eliminates nesting albatross sites, cutting young chicks off from their parents.

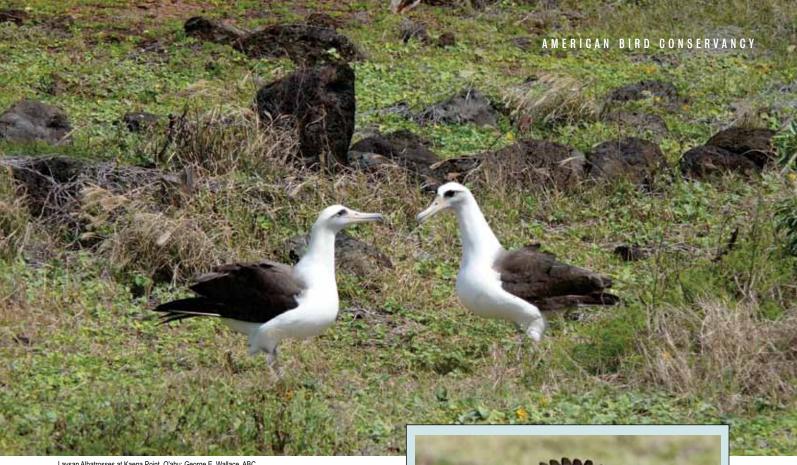
AZE Gains Global Momentum

The Alliance for Zero Extinction is a global alliance working to pinpoint and prevent potential species extinctions. In addition, ABC and its partner ECOAN spearheaded the formation of National Peruvian AZE, with at least 12 member institutions agreeing to work to save the country's 36 AZE species. ABC has already helped form a Mexican and a Colombian national AZE and has also begun the first steps towards developing a regional Caribbean Alliance for Zero Extinction.



Laysan Albatrosses chick: George E. Wallace, ABC





Laysan Albatrosses at Kaena Point, O'ahu: George E. Wallace, ABC

Planning for Bird Conservation

In addition to creating Best Management Practices for the Golden-winged Warbler (see spotlight on page 12), ABC scientists helped create a number of planning documents that have translated into on-the-ground change for birds. For example, ABC staff drafted a Landbird Conservation Plan for the Intermountain West Joint Venture, resulting in the JV adopting specific, habitat-based population objectives for the Longbilled Curlew, Sage Thrasher, and Brewer's, Sage, and Grasshopper Sparrows.



White-bellied Cinclodes: Luke Seitz

In 2011:

- ➤ ABC helped advance local awareness of rare birds in Peru by assisting the Peruvian government in the issuance of two postage stamps featuring the endangered Marvelous Spatuletail and critically endangered White-bellied Cinclodes.
- ➤ ABC President George Fenwick appeared on The Daily Show to raise awareness of the issue of domestic cat predation on birds.
- ➤ ABC collaborated with BirdNote to create several two-minute radio shows on ABC-related programs, each reaching an audience of over one million people.





SPOTLIGHT: Protecting Birds Along the Gulf Coast

In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, ABC launched two new projects to protect and restore habitat for Gulf Coast birds.

In the southern United States, ABC is focusing on Least Tern and Black Skimmer, two species that were heavily impacted by the spill and subsequent beach cleanup efforts. This new program will post and fence or rope off key nesting sites to safeguard breeding birds and lessen human disturbance at nesting sites through increased public awareness about the habitat and breeding needs of beach-nesting birds.

ABC has secured the help of two celebrity ambassadors, Louisiana bluesman Tab Benoit and Texas country singer Gary P. Nunn. Through televised public service announcements, both will help spread the word that human disturbance on beaches and islands can negatively impact nesting shorebirds, and that people need to "Fish, Swim, and Play from 50 Yards Away."

In Laugna Madre, Mexico, ABC has discovered a problem on islands used by nesting birds such as Snowy Plovers, Wilson's Plovers, and Reddish Egrets. Local fishermen come to the islands, bringing dogs that they often abandon there. In order to survive, these dogs chase adult birds and predate their nests. ABC partner Pronatura Noreste has begun removing the dogs from the islands.

Challenges Remaining

- Increasing public awareness of "Fish, Swim, and Play from 50 Yards Away" by frequent airing of public service announcements in Louisiana and Texas.
- Success at Laguna Madre will require long-term landowner and community involvement, maintaining predator and exotic species control, and a regular field presence by conservationists to monitor bird activity and ensure that effective protective actions continue.
- At Laguna Madre, a public awareness campaign is needed in local towns to help fishermen understand the consequences of abandoning dogs. A spay-neuter program in conjunction with local veterinarians could help reduce the number of stray dogs.

Background photo: Black Skimmers, Owen Deutsch



"ABC's Beach-Nesting Birds Program has been a critical partner in advancing conservation of Texas' coastal birds. By partnering with regional entities that are locally engaged, the program is helping grow ideas into actual projects that benefit birds. It has been a refreshing and valuable contribution, and we look forward to continuing to develop this relationship for the recovery of imperiled birds."

- David Newstead, Coastal Bend Bays and Estuaries Program, Corpus Christi, Texas

Supporters

We are honored to acknowledge the individuals, foundations, businesses, 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 (CFC #12048).

Peregrine Falcon: ClipArt.com



The Falcon Club is ABC's pivotal group of members who donate unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more each year. The Falcon Club is a cornerstone in the success of all our bird conservation programs and projects. A very special thank you to ABC's board members for their many contributions and introductions to other major supporters.

\$500,000+

DJ & T Foundation Jonathan Franzen National Fish and Wildlife Foundation

\$100,000+

Anonymous (1) Blue Moon Fund **Bobolink Foundation** The Margaret A. Cargill Foundation Leon Levy Foundation Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation Walton Family Foundation Estate of Mary Ellen Warters Lynn and Stuart White The Robert W. Wilson Charitable

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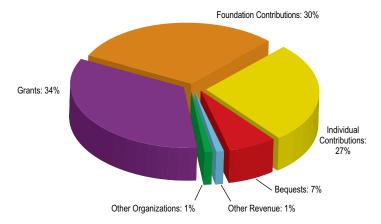
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2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ANNUAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Grants	\$ 3,317,946
Foundation Contributions	\$ 2,911,395
Individual Contributions	\$ 2,675,782
Bequests	\$ 704,245
Other Organizations	\$ 116,456
Other Revenue	\$ 68,066
In-Kind Revenue	\$ 29,610
Interest and Investment Loss (incl. Unrealized Loss)	\$ 7,254

Total Annual Support and Revenue \$ 9,830,754



In-Kind Revenue and Interest and Investment Loss (including Unrealized Loss) categories: 0%

ANNUAL EXPENSES

Program

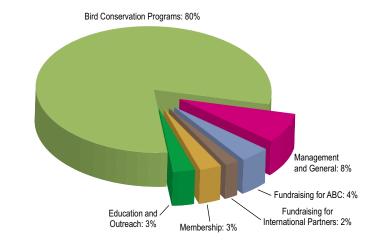
Total Program Services	\$ 7,560,249
Membership	\$ 252,611
Education and Outreach	\$ 272,907
Bird Conservation Programs	\$ 7,034,731

Supporting Services

Total Supporting Services	\$ 1,255,253
Fundraising	\$ 543,743
Management and General	\$ 711,510

Total Annual Expenses \$ 8,815,502

Net Assets at December 31, 2011 \$ 4,914,108





ABC's Legacy Circle - a shared vision for the future of bird conservation

From sustaining a reserve in Latin America for future generations, to years of advocacy work to protect the highly threatened *rufa* Red Knot, to the decades-long preparation for the recent reintroduction of the endangered Millerbird to Laysan Island, more often than not it can take years to achieve results for birds. ABC's Legacy Circle makes those results possible, ensuring that we will be a champion for the birds of the Americas for years to come.

Red Knots: Judd Patterson

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