



*Bringing back the birds*

*Inside Bird Conservation – May 2016*

### **ABC Job Posting: Program Policy Officer**

American Bird Conservancy (ABC), an international bird conservation organization, is seeking an energetic, enthusiastic policy officer to build its DC-based policy team. The program officer will provide direct assistance to the Chief Conservation Officer in tracking progress across the division, helping to plan and organize team meetings, supporting and undertaking bird conservation policy outreach to partners and legislators, and supporting the division with other tasks as needed. Please see <https://abcbirds.org/about/employment/#job-11799> for more details and to apply.

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### **Sign On to Help Stop Bird Collisions with Buildings**

Each year, millions of birds collide with buildings that aren't designed to be "Bird Smart." Rep. Mike Quigley has introduced H.R. 2280, the Federal Bird Safe Building Act, and now we seek your organization's endorsement for the legislation and a prompt hearing. Please join Cornell Lab of Ornithology and American Bird Conservancy in endorsing the following letter today! **To sign on your organization please go to:**

<https://secure2.convio.net/abcb/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=233>

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### **Bird Conservation Alliance Meeting at the North American Ornithological Conference – August 16, Washington Hilton Hotel, Washington, D.C.**

August 16-20, 2016, the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center is hosting the [North American Ornithological Conference \(NAOC\)](#), "Bringing Science and Conservation Together." In conjunction with this conference, there will be a Bird Conservation Alliance meeting August 16 from 1-5 pm highlighting connections between science and bird conservation policy. To attend, you must be registered for NAOC. (One-day registrations are available and will allow you to attend pre-conference morning workshops and training sessions as well as the opening reception in the evening. [Click here to register.](#))

Please note: When you register for NAOC, you will need to sign up for the Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA) meeting, which is listed under "Workshops and Training Sessions." Look for "Bird Conservation Alliance – How to Effectively Engage in Conservation." For the full meeting agenda, please see <https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/BCA-Meeting-Invite.pdf>.

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### **Alert: Protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

One of the oldest environmental laws in our country, the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), has been coming under attack in Congress. Last year, the House of Representatives passed a provision in a fiscal appropriations bill that would have barred the Department of Justice from enforcing the MBTA. This amendment did not become law, but we could see a similar attack this year. The MBTA protects over 1,000 species of migratory birds, and makes it illegal to harm these birds except under very specific circumstances. If Congress weakens the act, millions of birds could be injured or killed.

**Please tell your Senators and Representative to stand up and fight for birds by protecting the Migratory Bird Treaty Act!**

<https://secure2.convio.net/abcb/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=205>

For more details see the letter ABC sent to Congress: <https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/MBTA-letter-2016.pdf>

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### **Conservation Groups Oppose Giveaway of National Wildlife Refuge**

[A letter](#) sent to Congress by conservation groups, including American Bird Conservancy, urges the defeat of a plan to remove over 3,000 acres from the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge for development. This is just one of many attempts to dispose of public lands that would result in the loss of essential bird habitats.

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### **[Measuring America's Disappearing West](#)**

A new project by the nonprofit Conservation Science Partners and the Center for American Progress finds that every two and a half minutes, a football field's worth of open, natural area in the western United States disappears to human development. In Wyoming and Utah, for example, the footprint of oil, gas, wind, and other renewable energy projects grew by more than 38 percent in just 10 years. The land occupied by cities, suburban areas, and other commercial and residential development grew by 17 percent across the region.

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### **[Sustainable Bird Tourism Scales Up to Support Tropical Conservation](#)**

ABC and its partners are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Latin American Bird Reserve Network. A successful model for sustainable bird tourism designed to prevent the extinction of some of the Americas' rarest bird species, the network now includes ... [Read More>>](#)

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### **[New Resource Will Help Fisheries Managers Avoid Seabird Bycatch](#)**

Seabird bycatch is an enormous problem for sustainability of fisheries and conservation of seabirds, with at least 720,000 seabirds killed annually in longline and gillnet fisheries. To help fisheries managers avoid seabird bycatch, American Bird Conservancy has created a free, comprehensive guide that provides a ... [Read More>>](#)

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## Wind Farm Threatens Eastern Golden Eagle

[A letter](#) was sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expressing the American Bird Conservancy's and Virginians for Responsible Energy's serious concerns about Apex Clean Energy's proposed Rocky Forge Wind Energy Project in Botetourt County, VA. The Eastern Golden Eagle is believed to be a small and potentially vulnerable population that is geographically isolated and potentially a distinct population. This population breeds in northeastern Canada, migrates along ridgelines through the central Appalachians, and winters in Virginia.

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## Hastings Is Minnesota's First Official 'Bird City'

*Hastings Star Gazette*: Bird City is a unique pilot program to encourage urban bird conservation. The city is being saluted for its long-term commitment to creating bird habitat, reducing threats to birds, and engaging citizens in birding, bird conservation, and outdoor recreation.

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## Why Conserve Small Forest Fragments and Individual Trees in Urban Areas?

For many developers and city planners, it takes time and money to plan around trees and small forest fragments. Often, the message from conservationists is that we want to avoid fragmentation and to conserve large forested areas. While this goal is important, the message tends to negate any thoughts by developers toward conserving individual mature trees and small forest fragments. To learn why these trees and forest fragments should be conserved see <http://www.thenatureofcities.com/2016/03/06/why-protect-small-forest-fragments-and-individual-trees-in-urban-areas/>.

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## Ground-Level Artificial Lights Disrupt Bird Migration

It's not just lights on skyscrapers that can impact migrating birds. New research in *The Condor: Ornithological Applications* demonstrates that even ground-level artificial lights can affect birds passing overhead at night. See *Birding Wire* for more: <http://www.birdingwire.com/releases/372771/>

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## Tricolored Blackbird: The Next Passenger Pigeon?

[Tricolored Blackbirds](#) form the largest colonies of any North American land bird, with a single breeding colony often numbering tens of thousands of birds. And like the Passenger Pigeon, the colonial nature of the Tricolored Blackbird makes it particularly vulnerable.