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## **2,700 Towers Update Lighting - Saving Birds and Energy**

Over the past two years, thousands of communications tower operators have updated their lighting systems by turning off steady-burning lights that attract birds and cause millions to die from collisions each year. (Flashing lights remain atop these towers, ensuring aviation safety.) Since 2016, more than 2,700 of about 13,900 tall towers have made this change, saving hundreds of thousands of birds each year. [Click here for an activist and tower operator toolkit to help facilitate this change!](#)

[Read Press Release!](#)



## The State of Canada's Birds - 2019

The North American Bird Conservation Initiative ([NABCI](#)) has just released a new report entitled *The State of Canada's Birds 2019*, which highlights the challenges of bird conservation as well as past and current successes of conservation actions. It also draws attention to actions that all Canadians, and Americans, can take to help conserve bird populations. [The State of Canada's Birds](#) also gives tips on how we can all help conserve birds by reducing plastic pollution, keeping cats inside and making backyards bird-friendly. The data was gathered by biologists, and by citizen scientists who play a valuable role in bird counts and monitoring. Read key findings of the report below.

[View Report!](#)



## National Environmental Policy Act -Climate and Forest Protections at Risk

The Council on Environmental Quality and Forest Service have proposed rules that would weaken the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) — one of our most important environmental laws. These revisions would reverse important progress to control industrial greenhouse gas emissions and reduce public involvement and scientific review of management decisions affecting the national forests. Numerous bird species depend on National Forest habitats such as the Marbled Murrelet that nests in the tops of old-growth trees, as well as Tufted Puffins and Pigeon Guillemots in Alaska. [Please ask Forest Service](#)

[officials and your members of Congress](#) to reject weakening NEPA's environmental protections.

[Take Action!](#)



## **Duck Stamps Boost Conservation - Anyone Can Buy Them!**

Funds raised from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps go toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Duck stamps – while required for waterfowl hunters as an annual license – are also voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts and fans of national wildlife refuges who understand the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation. A current Federal Duck Stamp is also good for free admission to any refuge that charges an entry fee. Of the more than 560 refuges, many offer unparalleled outdoor recreational opportunities, including bird watching and photography.

[Duck Stamp!](#)



## **Spending at National Wildlife Refuges Boosts Local Economies by \$3.2 Billion**

U.S. Department of the Interior has announced that 53.6 million people visited national wildlife refuges in 2017, which had an economic impact of \$3.2 billion on local communities and supported more than 41,000 jobs. The figures come from a new economic report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

titled [\*Banking on Nature 2017: The Economic Contributions of National Wildlife Refuge Recreational Visitation to Local Communities\*](#). The report is the sixth in a series of studies since 1997 that measure the economic contributions of national wildlife refuge recreational visits to local economies.

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## **The Real Neonics Threat to Birds Isn't From Bird Seed**

When the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* ran a story (“Is your bird seed harmful to the birds and bees?”) on April 26, warning that bird seed could be contaminated with neonicotinoid pesticides, commonly known as “neonics,” readers with bird feeders were likely shocked to think they might be harming backyard visitors. Currently, American Bird Conservancy has no evidence that commercially available bird seed directly exposes birds to neonic-coated seeds. If it did, we would expect dead and sick birds to litter backyards, as even minimal direct exposure to these pesticides is detrimental to birds. There is, however, concern that agricultural use of these pesticides is causing insect declines and bird mortality.

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## Endangered Roseate Terns Take a Turn for the Better

The United States' Roseate Tern population has reached its highest numbers since 1987, when this species was listed as federally Endangered. According to the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, the 2018 estimate for the United States Roseate Tern population was 4,552 pairs. Fifty-one pairs were estimated for Canada. Overall, this population estimate is great news, but Endangered Roseate Terns remain short of the recovery target goal of 5,000 pairs. And in recent decades, encouraging increases have been followed by reversals. [Read more](#) to learn about possible causes of the decline.

[Read More!](#)



## Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide Now Available!

[Oregon's Ancient Forests: A Hiking Guide](#) is a 2019 update of Wendell Wood's 1991 book *A Walking Guide to Oregon's Ancient Forests*. Wendell's book had an advocacy focus, coming out at a time when we were still logging old-growth at an astounding rate. Much has changed, but nearly 30 years later we are still fighting battles and haven't yet permanently protected the remaining old growth trees and mature forests across the region. The new book aims to appeal to the general public and inspire action to protect these forests across the

state. And, it's also a practical hiking guide with 91 hikes divided into 14 regions across the state!

[Read More!](#)

*Inside Bird Conservation* is produced by American Bird Conservancy. Past editions and other issue updates are available on the [Bird Conservation Alliance website](#). Please forward to interested conservationists. To subscribe, please send a message to [sholmer@abcbirds.org](mailto:sholmer@abcbirds.org).

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