

[Trouble viewing this email? Click here.](#)



Bird Protection Concerns Remain in Icebreaker Wind Project

If approved, this would be the first offshore facility in the Great Lakes and only the second offshore facility in the United States. The site selected by the developer, the Central Basin of Lake Erie, is a National Audubon Society-designated [Global Important Bird Area](#) in recognition of the millions of birds that use this area, including migratory species such as the [Kirtland's Warbler](#) and wintering waterfowl including the Red-breasted Merganser. Despite [dire concerns](#) regarding the high risk of wind turbine-caused mortality and other impacts on birds, the proposal has moved forward over the last decade as the developer has attempted to win approval of a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need (CECPN) from the OPSB.

[Read Press Release!](#)



New ESA Rules Threaten Declining Bird Species

The Administration recently finalized rules to significantly weaken key provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), legislation that is essential for bird conservation. In the last decade alone, seven new populations of birds were listed under the ESA, including the Red Knot. The new rules leave the door open for consideration of economic impacts in future listing decisions, which could make achieving protection for some species even harder than it is today. We're now left with a framework where future species-listing decisions de-emphasize the best available science and implement weaker, narrower habitat protections. **Ask your members of Congress** to support a strong ESA!

[Take Action!](#)



Sage-Grouse Already in Rapid Decline Before Removal of Protections

The U.S. Forest Service will remove protections from more than 1 million acres of key sage-grouse habitat across five Western states. The plans follow the Bureau of Land Management removal of protections from more than 9 million acres of sage-grouse habitat to promote more oil and gas drilling. This follows the National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, and The Wilderness Society release of [a report](#) finding that the Administration has failed to prioritize oil and gas leasing and drilling outside sage-

grouse habitat, despite a formal directive to do so. **Ask your members of Congress** to oppose weakening conservation measures for the grouse.

[Take Action!](#)



Major Climate Report Calls for Changes in Land Management

A new report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) finds that land management is an essential part of combatting climate change. Land use, including agriculture and forestry, contributes 23% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide. Land is also affected by climate change, causing threats to biodiversity and food security. Land management, however, can be an effective tool in climate mitigation. "Land already in use could feed the world in a changing climate and provide biomass for renewable energy," says Hans-Otto Portner, co-chair of IPCC Working Group II, "but early, far-reaching action across several areas is required... for the conservation and restoration of ecosystems and biodiversity." The report outlines steps to take to maintain the ecosystem services of available land while providing for the population in the face of climate change.

[Read Report!](#)



What Does the Insect Freefall Mean for Birds?

Many people quip that they'd prefer a world without "bugs," but as the adage goes: Be careful what you wish for. Our planet cannot function normally without insects and other invertebrates. "The little things that run the world" is what biodiversity pioneer Edward O. Wilson calls them. Insects anchor natural systems and provide invaluable natural services, as pollinators, scavengers, predators, and protein-packed prey that sustains many birds, fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals, in virtually all terrestrial ecosystems. Yet insect diversity and abundance are [plummeting](#) in many places. This leaves conservationists scrambling to find out why...and wondering what insect declines mean for other wildlife.

[Read More!](#)



A Simple New Technology Could Stop Birds from Colliding with Powerlines

During spring migration, more than a half-million Sandhill Cranes concentrate along the Platte River in central Nebraska, a critical stopover area where cranes have fed and roosted for thousands of years. Unfortunately, every year dozens to many hundreds of Sandhill Cranes suffer deadly collisions with two electrical transmission lines that cross the Platte River at Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary. But recently, a biologist tested a new method that reduced crane fatalities at the property by 98 percent! If his results can be expanded

to other sites, the technology will offer a new way for the industry to address a hazard that kills millions of birds annually in the United States alone. (Birding Wire)

[Read More!](#)



National Lights – Study Lists Cities that Endanger Migrating Birds Most

An estimated 600 million birds die from colliding with buildings every year in the United States. Scientists at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology recently published new research that shows city lights at night as a contributing factor to bird collisions with windows and buildings. They ranked metropolitan areas where birds are at greatest risk of being attracted to and disoriented by lights and crashing into buildings, due to a combination of light pollution and geography. The most dangerous American cities for birds during fall and spring migrations are Chicago, Houston, and Dallas. (Birding Wire)

[Read More!](#)



A First Nation Community and Canada Protect 6 Million Acres

More than 10 million birds have a protected area to migrate to each spring for years to come thanks to a

tiny First Nation community called Lutsel K'e Dene, located on the shore of one of the world's largest lakes, Great Slave Lake in the Northwest Territories of Canada. Their massive gift to the world is a new Indigenous Protected Area that encompasses a landscape of astonishing size – more than 6 million acres. One of the largest land protection actions in recent history, it is more than twice as large as Yellowstone National Park.

[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.

[Click here to be removed from the list.](#)

Get Involved

[Subscribe to BCA](#)

[BCA Home](#)

[ABC Programs](#)

American Bird Conservancy

PO Box 249 | The Plains, Virginia 20198

(540) 253-5780 | info@abcbirds.org

Photo captions (top to bottom): Banner: Red-breasted Merganser hen and ducklings, On The Coast Photography; Flock of Red Knots, Martin Pelanek, Shutterstock; Greater Sage-Grouse, Pat Gaines, Flickr; Bighole Vista from Hopewells, Dan Casey; Monarch, Klaus

Kaulitzki, Shutterstock; Sandhill Cranes, Platte River, Nebraska, Steve Collin; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Rck 953, Shutterstock; Hermit Thrush, Frode Jacobsen, Shutterstock