



*Bringing back the birds*

*Inside Bird Conservation – October 2019*

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### **3 Billion Birds Lost in the U.S. and Canada Since 1970**

In case you missed it, a [new study](#) published last month in the journal *Science* reveals that **bird populations in the United States and Canada have lost [3 billion birds](#) since 1970**, signaling a widespread ecological crisis. Birds affected range from the Snowy Owl and Northern Bobwhite to the Baltimore Oriole. But it's not too late. If you haven't already, please tell your members of Congress why legislation — such as a strong Endangered Species Act and bird-friendly climate solutions — is critical to conserving birds and their habitats. **Ask Congress to take action for birds now!**

[Take Action!](#)



## Join Us for a Seabird Webinar!

Please join American Bird Conservancy's [Oceans and Islands](#) team and [Seabird Program](#) Director for an update on our seabird conservation program, current and past threats, and legislation, including the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels. Many albatrosses are imperiled, frequently drowning in nets and colliding with warp lines, and getting caught on long line hooks. Worldwide, there are 22 albatross species, 15 of which are globally threatened. All are affected by international fisheries and are vulnerable to being accidentally captured by fishing gear. This is especially true for industrial fisheries operating in international waters. **Register to participate in the webinar on November 19th at 2:00 pm to learn more!**

[Register Here!](#)



## Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act

Albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters are often overlooked because they spend the majority of their lives at sea and breed on remote islands. These seabirds face unique threats from fisheries, and they cannot be protected by the actions of one country alone. That's why recently re-introduced legislation aimed at implementing the **Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels** — an international treaty among fishing nations for the protection of 31 species of seabirds — is so important. We need your voice now to get it across the finish line. Please ask your members of

Congress to **co-sponsor the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act.**

[Take Action!](#)



## ***State of the Birds 2019 Report Released***

NABCI's [State of the Birds 2019 report](#) is here! This year's edition highlights the tremendous bird losses that the U.S. and Canada have experienced in the last 50 years, as documented in a recent [Science paper](#) and picked up by media across the continent. Here's [one great example](#). As always, the report also focuses on successes and solutions, highlighting the critical role that state wildlife agencies play in bird conservation, and demonstrating that when we invest in state-led and partnership-based conservation, birds can recover. The report highlights some of the solutions to these shocking declines, focusing on our nation's cornerstone conservation acts, grassland conservation actions, and recommendations from the Blue Ribbon Panel on Sustaining America's Wildlife, which evaluated the wildlife crisis and proposed hard-hitting solutions for wildlife recovery.

[Read Report!](#)



## **AFWA Final Incidental Take Report**

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) has released its final Incidental Take report, entitled *Addressing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds: Opportunities for State Action and Leadership*. This report was formally approved by

the state fish and wildlife agency directors at the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' annual meeting last month, and it provides several important tools and resources, including: a compilation of existing state laws pertaining to incidental take; a [memo providing an evaluation](#) of the state law compilation; a [compilation of Best Management Practices/Guidelines](#) for reducing or avoiding incidental take; follow up on the top 5 identified threats; and much more! The report, and its associated resources, can be found on the [Incidental Take Working Group page](#) of AFWA's website.

[Read Report!](#)



## **Kiwikiu Translocation Holds Promise for One of the World's Rarest Birds**

In a bold action aimed at saving the endangered Kiwikiu ([Maui Parrotbill](#), or *Pseudonestor xanthophrys*), in October four conservation partners began translocating both captive-bred and wild birds to a restored forest with the goal of creating a second, "insurance" population for this species. The Kiwikiu has declined by over 50 percent in recent years, and fewer than 312 birds remain in the wild. This unique and beautiful songbird, with its heavy, hooked bill, is only found in the high-altitude native forests on East Maui. As its one remaining wild population has declined, the species' range has shrunk to less than 7,400 acres. Click below to read more.

[Read More!](#)



## Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink

Two thirds of North American birds are at increasing risk of extinction from global temperature rise, according to a new [climate report](#), but keeping global temperatures down will help up to 76 percent of them, says David Yarnold, CEO and president of the National Audubon Society. Audubon scientists took advantage of 140 million observations, recorded by birders and scientists, to describe the ranges of 604 North American bird species. They then used the latest climate models to project how each species' range will shift as climate change and other human impacts advance across the continent. The results are clear: many birds will be forced to relocate to find favorable homes. [And many may not survive.](#) (Audubon)

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## Seafood for Seabirds: Puffins and Other Birds Depend on Human Restraint

Birds, like all animals, depend on a healthy environment to provide food sources. But as humans alter the natural landscape, traditional food and feeding dynamics have changed, creating new challenges for vulnerable bird populations. To help these birds, American Bird Conservancy partners with government agencies, other conservation groups, private landowners, and industry representatives to ensure that carefully managed habitats — and thus healthy food supplies — are available. In this,

the third of our three-part series on efforts to increase natural food sources for birds, we look at how conservationists are working to ensure that seabirds have the food they need to survive.

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*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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