

**Inside Bird Conservation – December 2019**

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## **New York City Passes Country's Most Wide-Ranging Bird-Friendly Building Legislation!**

Last week, the New York City Council approved [Proposed Initiative 1482B](#) — to date, the most broad-reaching bird-friendly building policy in the country. The new policy requires that new buildings' materials meet bird-friendly standards that greatly reduce collision risks to birds. The policy also covers major renovations that include modifying existing glass, and applies to construction across the city's five boroughs. You can help encourage the federal government to do the same by [asking your members of Congress to support and co-sponsor the Bird-Safe Buildings Act](#).

[Read Press Release!](#)



## **Bird Conservation Groups File Lawsuit Over Icebreaker Wind Project**

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) filed suit in federal court last week, against the U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for failure to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Clean Water Act, respectively, during their evaluation of environmental impacts and alternatives associated with the [Icebreaker Wind project](#). Icebreaker would place a precedent-setting wind energy facility in Lake Erie, offshore of Cleveland, Ohio. Constructing turbines in the proposed project site would pose substantial collision risks to the enormous numbers of birds that use the area throughout the year. [Read More](#) and [Take Action](#) to encourage the federal government to support Bird-Smart renewable energy.

[Take Action!](#)



## **Controversial Humboldt Wind Energy Project Defeated**

The Humboldt Wind Energy Project proposed to place turbines near Eureka, CA in a location where Marbled Murrelets, Spotted Owls, eagles, and many other bird species are present, has been defeated! Environmental review documentation provided by the developer downplayed this risk and [proposed grossly inadequate mitigation measures](#). After three long days

of public hearings, the project was narrowly rejected by the Planning Commission. When the developer appealed, the project was put to rest in a surprise vote by the Board of Supervisors.

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## **Minnesota Vikings' Stadium Is Bad For Birds, But It's Not Too Late**

Each year in the United States, window collisions kill up to [1 billion birds](#). While this is a massive source of human-caused bird mortality, trailing only free-roaming cats and habitat loss, there is good news: Window collisions are preventable! Yet despite this, most new buildings – such as the Viking's new U.S. Bank Stadium – do not incorporate bird safety into their design, and scores of existing buildings (including homes) need to have their deadliest windows treated to prevent collisions. [A new study](#), led by collisions expert Scott Loss of Oklahoma State University, examined what happens when developers choose not to design a bird-friendly building.

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## **American Bird Conservancy's 2018 Annual Report**

The American Bird Conservancy 2018 Annual Report is now available online. With your help, we delivered another strong year of conservation results in 2018. We are proud to report that our reserve network for endangered birds grew by more than 48,000 acres last year — our biggest reserve increase since 2015. We also surpassed 6.4 million acres of habitat better managed for birds, through our partnership with ten ABC-supported Migratory Bird Joint Ventures. And we contributed to high-profile efforts to reduce threats to birds, such as our legal action to protect the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

[Read Report!](#)



## **Streaked Horned Lark Among Ten Birds Imperiled By Pesticides**

Pesticides applied to lawns, gardens, and industrial agriculture operations are a major threat to imperiled wildlife, according to a new report released today.

[\*Poisoned: 10 American Species Imperiled by Pesticides\*](#) details how domestic and commercial pesticides — including herbicides, insecticides, and rodenticides — are contributing to the decline of species both common and rare. One of these, the Streaked Horned Lark, numbers fewer than 2,000 and

was listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act in 2013.

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## Potatoes Loom Large Over Rare Mexican Grassland

Recently, much has been written about North America's fastest declining group of birds, the grassland species, including a [September Science paper](#) that put their loss since 1970 at 700 million breeding birds across 31 species. Loss of breeding habitat is a grave concern, but many Americans and Canadians don't realize there are dire conservation concerns on the birds' Mexican wintering grounds as well. Since 2008, ABC, Mexican partner Pronatura Noreste, and other groups have worked hard to protect key grasslands south of the border. One of the most important now faces a new threat.

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## New Book Explores Importance of Keeping Cats Indoors

A [new book](#) by Australian [conservation biologist John Read](#) explores the global domestic cat management challenge. Having worked in wildlife conservation in Australia for decades, Read has seen first-hand the

impacts that roaming domestic cats can have on vulnerable native wildlife. In this book Read evaluates the animal welfare, human health, and wildlife conservation issues associated with roaming domestic cats and suggests solutions for a more sustainable future. Click [here](#) to listen to an interview with John Read hosted by the Australian Broadcasting Company.

[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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