

Inside Bird Conservation – April 2020

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U.S. Public Poll Finds Strong Support For Domestic Cat Management

A poll conducted in 2019 by American Bird Conservancy (ABC) indicates that a majority of U.S. residents favor management of domestic cats (*Felis catus*). In a survey of more than 2,000 individuals across the U.S., a majority of respondents supported permanent identification and sterilization, and half favored keeping cats indoors. Not only did they support these behaviors but a substantial portion of respondents *strongly agreed* with them. Read more about what the data indicate, and the Cats Indoors program [model ordinance](#) that local governments can use as a guide to update their laws for companion animals.

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Thank You for Joining Our Webinar, and for Your Support!

The Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA) would not exist without our members and supporters. Many of you have been a member of the Alliance for years, and others have joined recently. We have created a new option for Alliance members to donate to the BCA to help continue our advocacy efforts, including the newsletter publication, webinars, Hill meetings and events, and lobby days. You can also access previous newsletters and webinar recordings, as well as [Take Action](#) on important issues. Our most recent webinar "*We're Advocating for Birds From Home, and You Can Too!*" can be [accessed here](#), and we will send an invite soon for our April 23rd discussion!

[Become a Member!](#)



Support Protections for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Senators, Representatives, States, Scientists, and a large coalition of conservation organizations and [nearly 200,000 of their supporters](#) all commented in opposition to a proposed rule weakening protection against incidental take in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. American Bird Conservancy's comments recommended [withdrawing the proposed rule](#) and [proceeding with](#)

[an environmental impact statement](#) that analyzes the environmental benefits of an incidental take permit. The Migratory Bird Protection Act, [H.R. 5552](#), which now awaits a vote on the House floor, would reinforce MBTA protection against incidental take, and create an incidental take permit that would provide industry regulatory certainty in exchange for use of available best management practices that reduce bird mortality. You can write to your members of Congress in support of the Migratory Bird Protection Act!

[Take Action!](#)



ABC Unveils Updated Online Wind Energy Siting Tool

ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Energy Program recently rolled out a revised version of its popular wind energy siting tool, the [Wind Risk Assessment Map](#). This online resource shows areas important for birds, where wind energy development should proceed with caution or be avoided, and where turbines are currently located. The Map can increase awareness of how wind energy development impacts both resident and migratory bird populations, and help promote bird-smart development by informing appropriate wind facility siting. ABC supports wind energy development when it is bird-smart. The updated system communicates a clearer picture of the overall impacts that turbines

have on America's birds, their habitats, flyways, and other migratory pathways.

[Learn More!](#)



ABC And Joint Ventures: Collaborating On Six Million Acres

What do you get when you join American Bird Conservancy with Migratory Bird Joint Ventures (JVs) over a ten-year span? Improved conservation management on 6.4 million acres of U.S. bird habitat — an area larger than the state of Maryland! These regional partnerships work to protect, restore, and enhance habitats, with a goal to recover and maintain migratory bird populations. Given the [dramatic decline of North American](#) birds over the past 50 years, the work of the JVs is more important than ever. Numbering 23, the JVs bring together federal, state, and local agencies, corporations, and landowners, as well as nonprofit organizations like ABC.

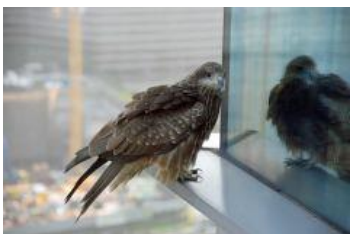
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O'ahu's Public Lands Contaminated With Cat Parasite

A [new study](#) published in *Conservation Science and Practice* documented contamination of O'ahu's public lands with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which causes the disease toxoplasmosis and is a serious health risk for people and wildlife. Cats, which are not native to Hawai'i, are the exclusive source of *T. gondii* found in the state's environment. Researchers surveyed public lands for colonies of cats near 32 important bird areas across O'ahu. The parasite was identified in over 10 percent (6/56) of cat feces samples and at 75 percent (3/4) of locations where feces were collected, including He'eia State Park, Koko Head District Park, and Lagoon Drive. The authors acknowledged that this is likely an underestimate of total *T. gondii* present.

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Effective and Attractive Ways To Make Building Windows Safe For Birds

Every year in the United States, collisions with glass kill up to 1 billion birds. The good news is that we know how to address this crisis: Add patterns to glass that make it visible to birds and you will prevent collisions. All buildings are a collision threat.

This means that making a real dent in collision numbers requires fixing homes, low-rise, and high-rise buildings. To view ABC's list of proven solutions to fix deadly windows on existing homes and other buildings – changes known as retrofits – visit birdsmartglass.org. And, watch for our new collisions website in the coming weeks. We've also just launched our quarterly Glass Collisions newsletter! Our goal is to keep subscribers updated on important collisions news, provide valuable resources, and offer ways to help reduce bird fatalities. Check out our first issue and [subscribe!](#)

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3 billion birds have vanished from our skies. Can we ever bring them back?

Look! Up in the sky! It's ... not as much as there used to be. Three billion wild birds have vanished from North America's air in 50 years; a new study calls that loss "staggering." Three billion is as many as 1 bird in 4 — birds of the forests, birds of the grasslands, gone. These creatures who evolved from the dinosaurs, who delight us with color and song — humans are crowding them out, plowing up and chopping down their habitat, poisoning them with pesticides, installing windows that they smash into, allowing domestic cats to kill them. And just

over a century after the nation began protecting its native birds with the landmark Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Trump administration is ready to weaken its enforcement. Steve Holmer heads the policy division at American Bird Conservancy, whose motto is “Bringing back the birds.” Can it be done, and how?
Los Angeles Times

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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.

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