

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY

CONSERVATION

IMPACT SCORECARD 2021



American Bird Conservancy's mission is to conserve birds and their habitats throughout the Americas.* We are also committed to measuring and reporting on our results. This Conservation Impact Scorecard provides a summary of ABC's cumulative conservation actions and outcomes, organized according to the main components of our Strategic Bird Conservation Framework (next page).

Not all programs lend themselves easily to quantitative scoring, and we believe that it is important that we not allow ease of measurability to drive priority-setting away from important but less easily-counted actions (such as training, capacity-building, and sustainability). Nevertheless, this document does provide data on those ABC program outcomes that are most easily quantified.

Other critical aspects, such as our commitment to our mission, our integrity, and our dedication will likely never be fully measurable in quantitative terms, but we hope that these qualities shine through from these pages.

Working in partnership is the bedrock of ABC's organizational philosophy, and ABC is one of multiple partners engaged in almost all of these activities. Listed outcomes and actions are those in which ABC played a leading or significant role in the particular accomplishment. We are extremely grateful to all the partners we have worked with over the past 26 years and want to acknowledge that ABC's accomplishments would not be possible without the collective efforts of these groups.

Please see our corresponding 2021 Annual Report, as well as [previous Annual Reports](#), for lists of partners and additional results. A shorter, six-page version of this Scorecard is also available at abcbirds.org/scorecard.

* ABC project areas include Hawai'i and the U.S. Pacific Territories.

TOP: Short-crested Coquette by Greg Homel, Natural Elements Productions



Strategic Bird Conservation Framework

ABC works to prevent the extinction of the most **ENDANGERED BIRDS** by helping partner groups establish and sustain reserves for the rarest species in Latin America and the Caribbean; supporting habitat restoration for endemic Hawaiian forest birds; and protecting key seabird colonies from invasive species and other threats. ABC also monitors implementation of the Endangered Species Act to ensure listed birds, and those that need to be listed, are properly conserved. [READ MORE.](#)

ABC works to prevent **BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN** from becoming endangered by engaging landowners and partner groups to help improve management of millions of acres of land in the U.S. and internationally. ABC identifies areas where conservation opportunities overlap with key habitat for birds, known as BirdScapes, and develops and implements management practices coupled with incentives to ensure that habitat is well protected, managed, or conserved. [READ MORE.](#)

ABC works to prevent or mitigate **THREATS TO ALL BIRDS** by working with policymakers, partner groups, and the private sector to develop and implement solutions to large-scale causes of bird mortality, along with precedent-setting or critical regional bird problems. This work involves lobbying, grassroots outreach, the development of new technologies, and occasional legal action to resolve particularly intractable problems. [READ MORE.](#)

ABC helps partners **BUILD CONSERVATION CAPACITY** to sustainably tackle critical issues faced by birds across the Western Hemisphere, from financial and technical support to knowledge sharing across a broad front of management and conservation programs. *(To be addressed in a future version of the Scorecard.)*

ENDANGERED BIRDS

Protected Area Creation and Sustainability to Save Species

SUMMARY: There have been 15 bird extinctions in the Americas and U.S. Pacific Territories since 1968 (most in Hawai'i), and five more bird species have been declared extinct in the wild but still survive in captivity. Today, the majority of endangered birds outside the U.S. have at least some populations in protected areas, but significant gaps remain, and only 19% of the most threatened species can be considered effectively protected from extinction at present. In the U.S., more endangered birds are increasing than are declining, but Hawaiian species in particular need much more recovery support.

OVERALL STATUS OF BIRDS	CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	ACTION HIGHLIGHTS
<p><i>(Much of this data was derived from BirdLife International's DataZone.)</i></p> <p>Fifteen bird species have gone extinct in the Americas and U.S. Pacific Territories since 1968, most in Hawai'i. These species are the Aguijan Reed-warbler, Alagoas Foliage-gleaner, Atitlan Grebe, Bishop's Oo, Bridled White-eye, Colombian Grebe, Cryptic Treehunter, Guam Flycatcher, Guam Reed-warbler, Kamao, Kauai Akialoa, Kauai Oo, Least Vermilion Flycatcher, Pagan Reed-warbler, and Po'ouli.</p> <p>Five more bird species have been declared extinct in the wild but survive in captivity: Alagoas Curassow, Guam Kingfisher, Hawaiian Crow, Socorro Dove, and Spix's Macaw.</p>	<p>ABC prioritizes its work to halt extinctions by identifying the species at greatest risk, based on the IUCN Red List and the U.S. Endangered Species Act list, and then works with partners to identify conservation opportunities and to develop field-based conservation projects, species by species. We especially prioritize sites where Endangered or Critically Endangered species are confined to a single site (Alliance for Zero Extinction or AZE sites).</p> <p>Of the 17 bird species extinctions considered to have been averted since 1994 in the Americas, ABC has provided significant support to efforts to prevent five:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Alagoas Antwren 2. Junin Grebe 3. Lear's Macaw 4. Pale-headed Brushfinch 5. Yellow-eared Parrot 	<p>ABC supported ECOAN's community outreach and pollution control programs to help conserve the Junin Grebe in Peru.</p> <p>ABC and AZA supported the development of a vaccine to inoculate captive California Condors against West Nile Virus, and ABC pressed successfully for a ban on lead ammunition in condor range counties in California, since condors scavenge on hunted deer carcasses.</p> <div> </div> <p>With Biodiversitas, ABC helped expand the Canudos Biological Station in Brazil to 3,649 acres, helping the Lear's Macaw (shown) population grow to 1,700, and downgrading the macaw from Critical to Endangered.</p> <p>ABC helped to oppose a hotel development, advocated for habitat conservation, and is helping the Grenada Dove Conservation Program control invasive mongooses by providing support for traps to protect the Grenada Dove.</p> <p>ABC supported a CECIA expedition that rediscovered the Pale-headed Brushfinch and helped Fundación Jocotoco to acquire the 400-acre</p>

<p>(Reintroduction efforts are underway for the latter species.)</p> <p>Scientists believe that an additional 17 bird extinctions have been averted by conservation intervention since 1994 (the year ABC was founded).</p> <p>See: Source 1 + Source 2</p>	<p>ABC also played a contributory role in the case of a further species, the California Condor.</p>	<p>Yunguilla Reserve in Ecuador, which has helped the brushfinch increase to more than 200 birds, downgrading the species from Critical to Endangered.</p>
<p>According to BirdLife International scientists, there are currently 263 IUCN-Red Listed Endangered (EN) and Critically Endangered (CR) bird species in the Americas and U.S. Pacific Territories.</p> <p>For 189 of these, habitat loss is considered the principal threat. Thirty-six have 500 or more individuals in one or more protected area/s, affording those species significant protection against imminent extinction; 179 have some protected populations, but 10 have no protected populations at all.</p> <p>The remaining 74 species are primarily threatened by other factors, such as invasive species, for which equivalent extent of protection metrics are not yet available.</p>	<p>Of the 189 EN and CR species primarily threatened by habitat loss, ABC-supported projects (such as <u>bird reserves</u>) currently provide some protected habitat for 82 species (43%). Extinction risk is believed to have been significantly reduced for 14 of these species so far.</p> <p>ABC has contributed significantly to the conservation of 11 species that are estimated to have at least 500 individuals within protected areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Baudo Guan 2. Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager 3. Black-fronted Piping-Guan 4. Boa Nova Tapaculo 5. Lulu's Tody-Flycatcher 6. Royal Sunangel 7. Santa Marta Bush-Tyrant 8. Santa Marta Parakeet 9. Santa Marta Sabrewing 10. Speckle-chested Piculet 11. Thick-billed Parrot <p>A further three ABC focal species have 100% of their range protected, but still number fewer than 500 individuals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Pale-headed Brushfinch</u> 	<p>With partners, ABC has supported the acquisition/protection of 1,192,401 acres of land at 103 sites in 15 countries, with 51 partners. We have also supported the planting of 6,813,945 trees and shrubs in reserves and buffer areas.</p> <p>In total, 2,900 bird species have been recorded in ABC-supported reserves (66% of all bird species found in the Americas).</p> <p>In 2018, our partner ECOAN and ABC supported the protection of more than 45,000 acres of cloud forest in northern Peru, sheltering Long-whiskered Owllet and other rare birds.</p> <p>Since our last (2019) scorecard, ABC has supported new and expanded reserves for some of the Americas' most endangered birds, including the Antioquia Brushfinch, Banded Ground-Cuckoo, Blue-throated Hillstar, Lilacine Amazon, Red-fronted Macaw, and Short-crested Coquette.</p> <p>A record 12 Blue-throated Macaw chicks fledged from nest boxes at the ABC-supported Laney Rickman Reserve in Bolivia during the 2018-2019 nesting season, bringing the total of fledglings produced by our partner Asociación Armonía's nest boxes to 81.</p> <p>ABC worked with the <u>Convention on Biological Diversity</u> and the governments of Brazil and Mexico to make government protection of additional EN and CR species confined to single sites (<u>AZE sites</u>) a global policy priority.</p> <p>With <u>GECI</u>, ABC has supported the removal of cats from Socorro Island, Mexico, to save the Townsend's Shearwater from extinction.</p>

	<p>2. <u>Araripe Manakin</u> 3. <u>Stresemann's Bristlefront</u></p> <p>ABC currently works on 23 of the species threatened primarily by invasive species or other factors – mostly seabirds and Hawaiian birds.</p>	<p>ABC has supported work that has led to the discovery or rediscovery of nine bird species, including the <u>Antioquia Brushfinch</u>, <u>Táchira Antpitta</u>, and <u>Yellow-eared Parrot</u>. ABC has supported nest box programs for seven threatened species including the <u>Blue-throated Macaw</u> and <u>Gray-breasted Parakeet</u> (the latter helping fledge more than 841 chicks of this EN species).</p> <p>ABC staff <u>participated in an expedition to search for additional populations of the Critically Endangered Antioquia Brushfinch</u> in Colombia. Remarkably, the team found birds at eight localities, five of them newly discovered sites for the species. Altogether, the 20 to 25 birds seen represent at least a two-fold increase in the known global population of the species, offering new opportunities for its conservation.</p> <p>After supporting a <u>new conservation model for the Endangered Kaempfer's Woodpecker</u>, ABC provided emergency support to Brazilian partner Instituto Araguaia to contain and extinguish a fire that was threatening key habitat for the species. Dozens of fire-fighters were hired at short notice to help tackle the blaze, which fortunately did not cause extensive damage.</p> <p>A female <u>Stresemann's Bristlefront</u> was <u>filmed and photographed</u> on October 2, 2019 just outside of the Mata do Passarinho Reserve, which is supported by ABC through its partner group Biodiversitas. This confirms the continued survival of the species, albeit with only a single known bird at present. This gives us hope, however, that if searches for additional birds are successful, the species can still be saved.</p> <p>A record 12 Blue-throated Macaw chicks fledged from nest boxes at the 1,690 acre Laney Rickman Reserve in Bolivia during the 2018-2019 nesting season, bringing the all-time total of fledglings produced from Asociación Armonía's artificial nest boxes to 81 – a significant contribution to a global population that may not exceed 450 in total. ABC helped Armonía <u>create the new Blue-throated Macaw reserve</u> and continues to support the nest box program.</p> <p>An ABC project to locate previously unknown nesting areas of the white-faced form of the Black-capped Petrel succeeded when on September 30 a <u>satellite tracked bird crossed into the Dominican Republic</u>, revealing a potentially new nesting area east of known colonies, and at an earlier date than birds usually return to nest. In other seabird news, ABC has begun the process of bidding out a fence construction project for northwestern Molokai in Hawaii, where we hope to attract Laysan Albatrosses to nest on high cliffs safe from rising seas.</p> <p>The first Endangered Peruvian Diving-Petrels have returned to Isla Chañaral where ABC, Island Conservation, and the Chilean national park</p>
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		<p>agency (CONAF) are collaborating on a project to install artificial burrows, cameras, and speakers to attract petrels to nest. Almost immediately petrel footprints were found at the artificial burrow entrances.</p> <p>The <u>first protected area for the Critically Endangered Marsh Antwren</u> was established in São Paulo state, Brazil, with ABC support. The new reserve spans 5,860 acres and was declared by the municipality of Guararema working with the local organization Guaranature and SAVE Brasil.</p> <p>In a bid to <u>prevent the extinction of the Lilacine Amazon</u> – a colorful parrot found only in western Ecuador – ABC supported the establishment of the Las Balsas Communal Reserve by our partner, Fundación Jocotoco, to protect a vital roosting site for the Endangered species.</p> <p>In 2021, new and expanded reserves benefited species including the Cherry-throated Tanager, Blue-throated Hillstar, Lilacine Amazon, Antioquia Brushfinch, Kaempfer’s Woodpecker, and Pale-billed Antpitta.</p> <p>After years maturing at sea, the first 'A'o (Newell’s Shearwaters) and ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrels) returned to the Nihokū fenced area on Kauai, carefully prepared by a consortium of partners including ABC. The birds were translocated to the site as chicks; their return represents encouraging progress in our work to create a thriving, predator-free breeding area for rare seabirds.</p>
<p>The U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) has different species selection criteria to the IUCN Red List, and it also includes subspecies and populations. ABC uses both lists to help set priorities and to track conservation progress. In 2016, an <u>ABC report</u> documented that 38 ESA-listed species were increasing, 15 were stable, 24 declining, and 17 were of uncertain status or extinct (most of these being Hawaiian species already close to extinction in 1973 when the Act was passed). The report also revealed that 29 species showed status</p>	<p>Of the 20 ESA-listed bird species that ABC has worked on most directly, 7 were considered to be increasing in the 2016 ABC report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>California Condor</u> 2. <u>Interior Least Tern</u> 3. <u>Piping Plover</u> 4. San Clemente Bell’s Sparrow 5. San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike 6. <u>Short-tailed Albatross</u> 7. <u>Southwest Willow Flycatcher</u> <p><u>(Kirtland’s Warbler was removed from the ESA in 2019.)</u></p>	<p>With the <u>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)</u>, ABC helped translocate 50 <u>Millerbirds</u> from Nihoa to Laysan to start a second “insurance” population, which has since expanded to more than 200 birds.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>On behalf of ABC and several partners, <u>Earthjustice</u> sued the Kaua’i Island Utility Cooperative, leading to mitigation for the killing of <u>Newell’s Shearwaters</u> at its power lines. Through litigation, ABC also encouraged resorts and businesses on Kauai to shield or eliminate lights that disorient shearwaters. Mitigation funding for light impacts that could not be eliminated have gone towards colony protection.</p> <p>With Pacific Rim Conservation, ABC successfully petitioned to add the <u>'Akikiki</u>, the <u>'Akeke'e</u> to the list of birds protected by the Endangered Species</p> </div> </div>

<p>improvements over the <u>most recent prior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service assessment</u> (conducted in 2010), and that only five had deteriorated.</p> <p>(Note that there is considerable overlap between the <u>IUCN Red List</u>, the U.S. <u>Endangered Species Act</u> list, and the <u>U.S. WatchList</u>, so the number of species ABC defines as species it works on in these categories is not cumulative.)</p>	<p><u>See the 2016 ESA report.</u></p>	<p>Act. Multi-partner petitions that ABC was party to also succeeded in gaining ESA protection for the <u>Red Knot</u>. ABC also pressed for the listing of the Streaked <u>Horned Lark</u>.</p> <p>ABC helped generate \$3 million in federal support for Hawaiian birds through “State of the Birds” funding; ABC is helping multiple partners to restore habitat and is removing/controlling invasive species to protect Hawaiian forest birds on Kauai, Maui, Molokai, and the Big Island.</p> <p>ABC successfully advocated for horseshoe crab harvest restrictions in DE, MD, NJ, and VA, and for the creation of a crab sanctuary at the mouth of Delaware Bay to protect a main food source for Red Knots: horseshoe crab eggs.</p> <p>ABC filed and later <u>settled a law suit</u> to ensure the removal of a feral cat colony threatening Piping Plovers at Jones Beach State Park, NY.</p> <p>ABC promulgated the best science to support improved conservation management decisions for both the <u>Northern Spotted Owl</u> and Interior Least Tern.</p> <p>ABC pressed for successful recovery actions to save the San Clemente Loggerhead Shrike which has since benefitted from a captive-breeding effort that includes <u>San Diego Zoo</u>, FWS, the <u>U.S. Navy</u>, the <u>Institute for Wildlife Studies</u>, and the <u>Soil Ecology and Restoration Group</u>.</p>
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BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

Delivering Habitat Management and Landowner Incentives Across the Continent

SUMMARY: While raptors and waterfowl populations have responded very positively to conservation action, most other groups of birds are still showing significant long-term declines, and a substantial increase in resources is needed to help these species follow waterfowl and raptors back to robust population levels. Many effective habitat conservation projects are demonstrating that this can be done, and some bird groups are showing recent signs of positive response as a result.

OVERALL STATUS OF BIRDS	CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	ACTION HIGHLIGHTS
<p><u>Breeding Bird Survey</u> and <u>Christmas Bird Count</u> data shows that since 1970, nearly all major groups of native wild birds have shown <u>significant declines in population</u>, cumulating in an nearly 3 billion overall loss of individual birds from the U.S. and Canada.</p> <p>These groups include: shorebirds with more a 37.4% loss, grassland birds a 53.3% loss, aerial insectivores a 31.8% loss, Arctic tundra species a 23.4% loss, western forest birds a 29.5% loss, arid land birds a 17% loss, boreal forest birds a 33.1% loss, and eastern forest birds a 17.4% loss. Thanks to strong conservation measures, wetland birds show an overall 13% gain.</p> <p>Within these broad groupings, the <u>U.S. WatchList</u> further identifies 276 specific bird species and subspecies as being of particular conservation concern. Of these, ABC has so far made 65 species and subspecies priorities for program action.</p>	<p>ABC works to conserve bird species and subspecies of conservation concern as defined by the <u>U.S. WatchList</u>, and aims to maximize the abundance and diversity of bird species — including the phenomenon of mass bird migration — by conserving habitat that benefits multiple bird species.</p> <p>To accomplish this, ABC has initially identified 98 priority <u>BirdScapes</u> through which we are delivering, or plan to deliver, large landscape-scale habitat conservation projects to stabilize and restore migratory and other bird populations. (ABC is currently active in 42 of these BirdScapes.) These include breeding, stopover, and nonbreeding (wintering) areas.</p> <p>ABC plans to expand conservation across the broader landscape by adding additional BirdScapes and partners over time, and by piloting new approaches to conservation through habitat management recommendations coupled with financial incentives to leverage this work to the necessary scale.</p> <p>In the U.S., ABC works extensively, though not exclusively, through and with <u>Migratory Bird Joint Ventures</u> (JVs) and their partners to conserve bird habitat. The total area with improved management implemented by JV partners in JVs</p>	<p>Grassland birds are the hardest-hit by population declines. In 2018, ABC-led migratory bird joint ventures in Texas collaborated in the restoration of more than 20,000 acres of grassland for birds such as the Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Bobwhite, and Cassin's Sparrow, with support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and other partners. These efforts in the South Texas BirdScape are also providing significant habitat for Monarch butterflies.</p> <p>In the Central Hardwoods region — centered around Missouri and comprising seven other states — ABC and partners collectively completed over 193,000 acres of habitat improvements for Prairie Warbler, Red-headed Woodpecker, and other woodland birds, as well as (to a lesser extent) grassland birds in the region. Enough habitat has now been restored on the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri that an extirpated population of Brown-headed Nuthatches can be restored via translocations from the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas.</p>

BIRDS OF CONSERVATION CONCERN

where ABC staff play a significant role in planning and/or conservation delivery from 2007 to 2021 was over 8.5 million acres in the U.S.

We also work with public and private landowners, and with forest management companies through the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) to maintain and improve forest habitat for birds.

Due to space considerations, we provide specific metrics for just a few example BirdScapes that link from north to south across the lifecycles of representative “flagship” birds. BirdScapes typically include areas of pristine core habitat, areas that need restoration, areas under threat of habitat conversion, and areas in production that can be managed to contribute to bird conservation objectives.

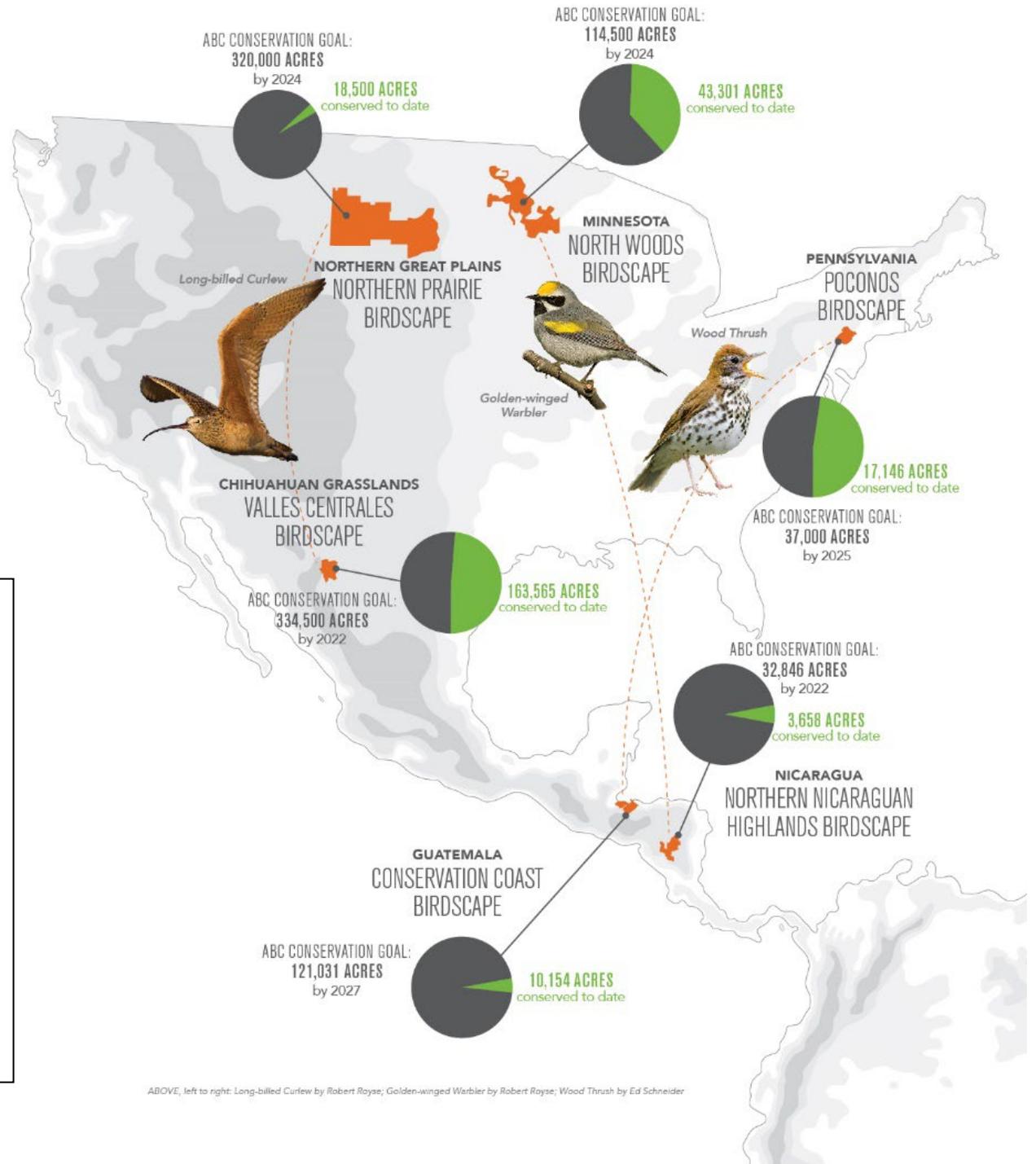
On the following pages, see a few examples of progress in BirdScapes from our 2017, 2019, and 2021 Scorecards.

The first birds will be moved in the late summer of 2020.

Restoring breeding habitat for the rapidly declining Golden-winged Warbler continues to be a top priority for ABC. In 2019, we created more than 2,200 acres of high-quality young forest habitat for the warbler across private and public lands. Since this work commenced in 2013, ABC has created nearly 8,000 acres of habitat for the species in Minnesota alone – an effort extending across public lands in 13 Minnesota counties, conducted in partnership with 22 public and tribal agencies and supported by the National Resources Conservation Services' Regional Conservation Partnership Program. The most recent avian surveys estimate that 89 percent of enhanced sites were occupied by Golden-winged Warblers.

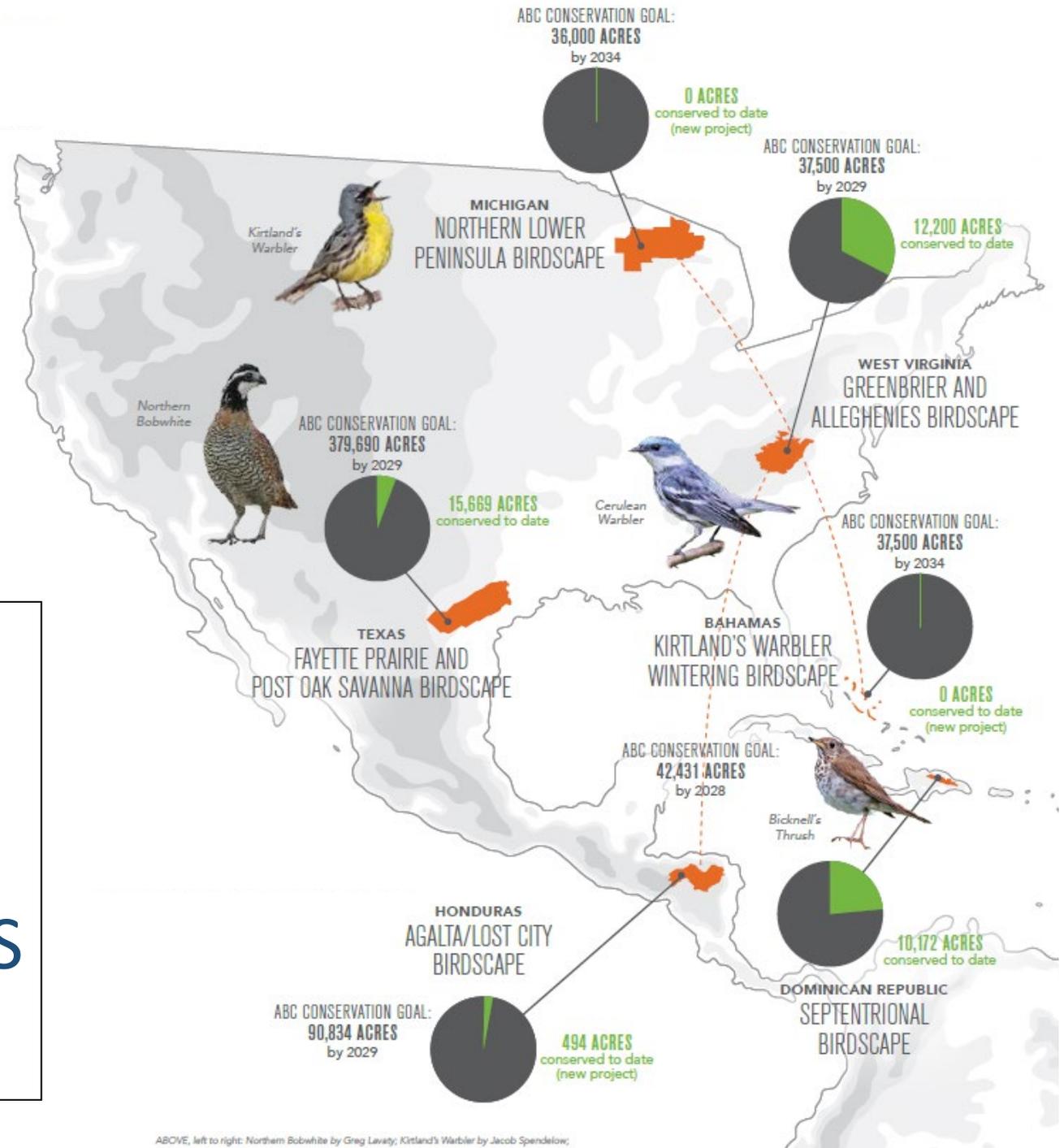
ABC also works with partners in many parts of Latin America and the Caribbean to ensure healthy wintering and stopover habitat for migratory birds. For example, in 2021, ABC and Guatemalan partner FUNDAECO harvested the first crops from our shade-grown cardamom investment project in the Conservation Coast BirdScape. The project replaced cattle pastures with a mix of cardamom and native trees. Revenue generated from the sale of cardamom will be reinvested into the restoration of more degraded lands.

ABC'S BIRDSCAPES APPROACH: SIX EXAMPLES (2017)



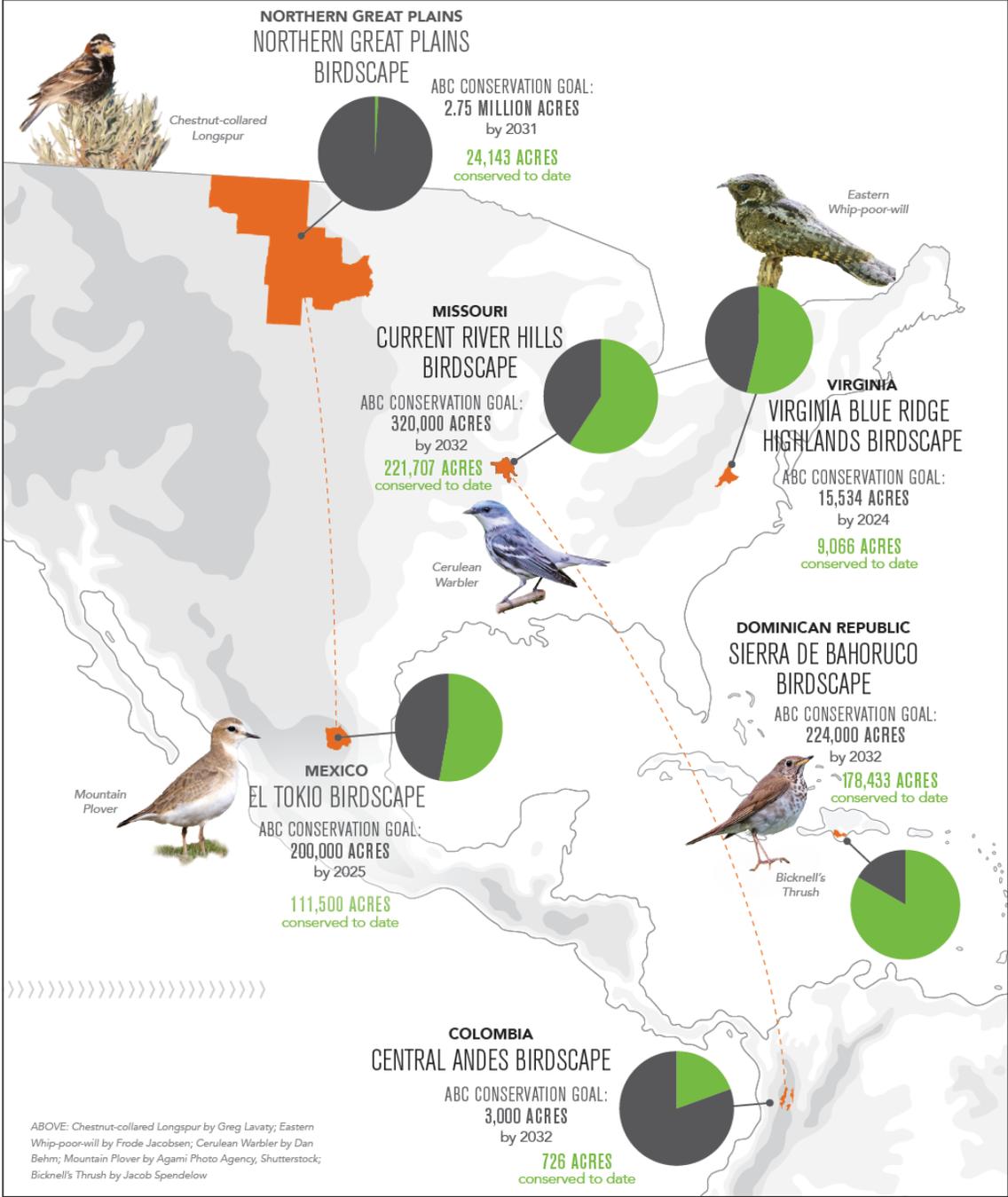
ABOVE, left to right: Long-billed Curlew by Robert Royse; Golden-winged Warbler by Robert Royse; Wood Thrush by Ed Schneider

ABC'S BIRDSCAPES APPROACH: SIX EXAMPLES (2019)



ABOVE, left to right: Northern Bobwhite by Greg Lavaty; Kirtland's Warbler by Jacob Spindelov;

ABC'S BIRDSCAPES APPROACH: SIX EXAMPLES (2021)



THREATS TO ALL BIRDS

Working to Find Solutions with Policymakers and the Private Sector

SUMMARY: Despite widespread concern from the public, substantial challenges remain in reducing and mitigating many of the most significant sources of bird mortality. Changes in lighting on communication towers and the marking of electrical lines to stop collisions are just two examples of what can be done at little cost to industry, but overall, bird concerns are still under-valued, and the bird community must unite to encourage and incentivize positive change.

OVERALL STATUS OF BIRDS	CONSERVATION OUTCOMES	ACTION HIGHLIGHTS
<p>The U.S. and Canada have lost almost 3 billion birds since 1970 as a result of loss of wintering habitats, stopover sites, and breeding areas, exacerbated by climate change and combined with human-caused mortality from a multitude of sources. The following threats and sources of human-caused bird mortality must be reduced and mitigated to help reverse this loss:</p> <div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; gap: 10px;"> <div>  <p>Feral and owned cat predation: 2.4 Billion</p> </div> <div>  <p>Collisions with home and other building windows: 600 Million</p> </div> <div>  <p>Collisions with vehicles: 200 Million</p> </div> </div>	<p>ABC prioritizes its threat reduction work based on scale and urgency of threat, perceived opportunity for progress, whether others are already tackling the issue, whether we can provide special expertise or assistance, and whether sufficient resources are available. Due to the large numbers and broad ranges involved, estimated changes in bird mortality due to conservation interventions are currently still too approximate to be especially useful.</p> <p>ABC's campaign has slowed the rate of spread of feral cat colonies and has encouraged thousands of people to pledge to keep their cats indoors. We have also stimulated a change in the national conversation about the impact of cats on birds through media coverage and other outreach efforts.</p> <p>Reduction of bird collisions with window glass is a long-term effort, but the first critical steps by ABC to engage architects, glass manufacturers, and the public is well underway.</p>	<p>A multi-agency partnership involving ABC reached a milestone in 2021 when the state of Hawai'i approved permits for "Birds, Not Mosquitoes"— an all-out effort to reduce the primary threat to Hawaiian forest birds: avian diseases carried by the non-native insects.</p> <p>ABC has communicated the <u>cats indoors</u> message to millions of Americans through social and traditional media. Since 2013, ABC has also intervened successfully on many harmful bills, and removal of cats from wildlife refuges to protect species listed under the Endangered Species Act. For example, ABC and New York Parks Department reached a settlement in late 2018 to protect the Piping Plovers that nest at Jones Beach State Park by relocating feral cats to a sanctuary.</p> <p>ABC has certified 125 glass and window mitigation products as bird-friendly, contributed to the establishment of a LEED credit for bird-friendly building design, and has trained more than 3,000 architects in bird-friendly design. ABC also opened a second testing facility in 2021 due to rising demand for bird-friendly glass.</p> <p>ABC contributed to the establishment of LEED credit 55 for bird-friendly building design, one of the most widely used pilot credits to date, and will become a permanent credit in 2022. -friendly building ordinances and guidelines have been</p>

THREATS TO ALL BIRDS



Pesticide and other
toxics poisoning:
72 Million



Collisions with,
and electrocution
by power lines:
36.5 Million



Lead poisoning:
12 Million



Collisions with
communication towers:
6.8 Million



Entrapment in mining
claim marker tubes and
oil and wastewater pits:
1 Million



Collisions with
wind turbines:
680 Thousand

Additionally, oil spills and fishery bycatch kill fewer (but still large numbers) of high conservation priority seabirds such as albatrosses, petrels, and murrelets.

Other significant sources of bird mortality include plastics ingestion and entanglement;

Bird mortality caused by pesticides was likely reduced after the cancellation and restriction of organophosphates and carbamates advocated by ABC. Recently, this progress has probably been offset by the advent of neonicotinoid pesticides which are toxic to birds and are also contributing to a loss in insects that birds feed on.

Bird mortality caused by lighted communication towers was reduced by 70% thanks in part to an ABC lawsuit.

Large numbers of mining claim markers are being removed by volunteers and claim owners with encouragement from ABC and the Bureau of Land Management.

Wind turbine-related bird mortality is increasing due to the expansion of wind power development. ABC has encouraged the adoption of mitigation strategies and has helped to halt or mitigate at least 16 major wind projects.

In addition to countering specific threats, ABC works to support overall federal funding for birds, to protect bedrock laws such as the ESA and MBTA, and to support good – and oppose bad – legislation for birds.

enacted in 13 jurisdictions, and a federal bird-safe building bill has been introduced in the U.S. House and Senate. Our work to reduce the greatest threats to birds was rewarded in 2019 with a major victory. The New York City Council passed a bill that requires the use of bird-friendly building materials in new construction and in major renovations across the city's five boroughs, where many hundreds of thousands of migrating birds die each year after colliding with glass. ABC staff played a key role by providing information to lawmakers over the last decade and testifying in support of the bill's passage. NYC's Local Law 15 is the most far-reaching bird-friendly building design legislation in the United States – and probably in the world. It provides a new model for how to make urban landscapes safer for birds.

ABC advocated for the cancellation or restriction of 15 harmful organophosphate and carbamate pesticides, and launched a successful emergency campaign to protect Swainson's Hawks from monocrotophos poisoning in Argentina. After years of advocacy by ABC and its partners, the EPA issued a domestic food crop tolerance revocation on the dangerous pesticide chlorpyrifos. And, in 2017, ABC petitioned EPA to initiate a rulemaking restricting the use of neonicotinoid coated seeds to follow up on our groundbreaking 2013 study which found songbirds can die from eating a single coated seed.

With Earthjustice and the Forest Conservation Council, ABC won a lawsuit resulting in the Federal Communications Commission working to reduce bird mortality caused by the lighting on tall communication towers. The policy now requires steady burning lights that attract birds to be replaced with strobes, reducing bird mortality by an estimated 70%. The transition is rapidly making progress: Thanks to outreach by ABC and partners, over 2,700 (or 17%) of tall U.S. communication towers have changed their lighting to protect birds.

THREATS TO ALL BIRDS

collapse of important food sources, such as aquatic insects, due to pesticide pollution; and invasive species on islands, impacting seabirds and island endemics. ABC works to reduce all of the threats listed above across the Americas.

Other habitat-based and climate-related threats will be added in future as comparable impact data become available.

ABC has also fought specific tower construction proposals including halting a tower close to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary - one of the worst possible locations in the U.S.



ABC filed and won a lawsuit to better protect Golden Eagles from wind turbine strikes.

Renewable energy is vitally important in the fight against climate change—and it must be done in a way that limits impacts on already-declining birds and other biodiversity. Regarding wind energy, ABC has encouraged the adoption of mitigation strategies and has helped to halt or mitigate at least 16 major wind development projects. This includes the precedent-setting Heritage Wind project in New York, which was approved but required to remove or substantially mitigate its

highest-risk turbines.

ABC is working with International Crane Foundation and industry partners to retrofit powerlines in the Whooping Crane migration corridor to increase their visibility to migrating cranes.

ABC successfully advocated for the inclusion of seabird protections in the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for albatross protection measures in U.S. Alaskan and Hawaiian longline fisheries that resulted in a c. 90% reduction in seabird bycatch.

ABC successfully advocated for the removal of lead paint from buildings on Midway that was poisoning Laysan Albatross chicks there, and, with Equilibrio Azul, helped develop new line-setting technology to protect Waved Albatrosses in Ecuadorian fisheries.

THREATS TO ALL BIRDS

ABC and partners have worked to establish SPLASH (Stopping Plastics and Litter Along Shorelines) in the greater Houston-Galveston region. Through education, outreach, and community science initiatives, SPLASH removed over 10,000 pounds of trash from Gulf of Mexico, Galveston Bay, and bayou shorelines and educated over 3,000 students and members of the general public about trash pollution and solutions to the problem.

With Seattle Audubon, National Audubon Society, and Defenders of Wildlife, ABC filed a lawsuit that won protections for Caspian Terns in the Columbia River Estuary, OR.

ABC advocated for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and for its funding by Congress, resulting in \$69.9 million in grants to bird conservation projects since 2002 and benefiting 4.75 million acres of bird habitat.

ABC has been a leading advocate for restoring island habitats by removing invasive species, an action that is known to reduce extinction risk in island endemics and enable seabird colonies to recover than thrive. Successes include the rat eradications on the islands of Anacapa, Lehua, and Desecheo, and extensive predator control across Hawaii (Kauai, Maui, Big Island).

ABC rulemaking petitions and legal actions have resulted in the restoration or expansion of bird protections under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act. On Dec. 3, 2021 the Biden Administration restored protection for migratory birds as a result of a successful legal action by ABC and partners.



American Bird Conservancy is a top-rated 501(c)(3) charity. For more information, please visit us online at abcbirds.org, contact us at 202-234-7181, or [email us](mailto:info@abcbirds.org).

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