



Thank you for your support of American Bird Conservancy and the American Birds Campaign! I am pleased to provide you with this brief update on our progress, and look forward to hearing from you if you have questions or suggestions.

Last year, we reached the midpoint of our five year, \$40 million dollar campaign and we are right on target. To stay on course and meet our ambitious goals we'll still need more help from our friends though.

One new way we hope to reach out to our supporters is by expanding our Advisory Council, and holding an annual meeting for its members to provide feedback on our conservation programs. The inaugural meeting will take place on November 13 in Washington DC, and I hope you will consider becoming a member of the council and attending the event. Needless to say there will be a birding trip and dinner associated with the meeting!

If you would like to join the council, please drop me an e-mail to gfenwick@abcbirds.org and I'll send you details. There are no dues, other than providing your ideas!

In the meantime, I'm pleased to give an update on some of our recent conservation successes below.

Thank you again for your help!

George Fenwick
President, American Bird Conservancy

SAFEGUARDING THE RAREST

Last Refuge of Endangered Parrot Saved

ABC and its partner group Fundación ProAves, have established the first private protected area for the critically endangered Fuertes's Parrot. The species, whose population is estimated at just 160 individuals, lives only in a small area in the Andes of Colombia that is heavily impacted by deforestation. Until recently, it was feared to be extinct. The reserve is a joint project of ABC, ProAves, and IUCN NL/SPN, and is sponsored by the Netherlands Postcode Lottery, and supported by Robert



A message from Jonathan Franzen:

American Bird Conservancy is a lean, action-oriented group that was among the first to understand the power of partnerships in conservation. Given the central importance of birds-- both as indicators of ecological health and as charismatic envoys-- I think anyone who cares about nature ought to be a part of ABC's partnership. Living green is about more than energy efficiency, it's also about protecting bird and wildlife habitats, and I don't know of a group that does a better job of this, per dollar donated, than ABC.



Upcoming ABC Field Trips

If you are interested in ABC field trips, please e-mail [Lindsay Shumate](mailto:Lindsay.Shumate@abcbirds.org), ABC's campaign coordinator. This year's trips include the Missouri Ozarks, Delaware

Giles and Robert Wilson. A management plan for the Fuertes's Parrot has been developed, and an education and outreach program for local communities is underway.

San Rafael Land Purchase



ABC purchased 2,810 acres of land to protect one of the most highly biodiverse regions in the world. Located in the Itapua province of southeastern Paraguay, San Rafael National Park is the largest remnant of Atlantic forest in the country, and contains a large number of rare species including the Russet-winged Spadebill, Vinaceous Amazon, Helmeted Woodpecker, and the endangered Black-fronted Piping Guan. Indigenous tribes in the area also rely on the forest for their livelihood. The preservation of the land is vital for their future as well as for the future of the hundreds of species of birds and other animals that live there. ABC is working to acquire additional land to further protect this region: one of the top global "hotspots" for conservation. This purchase was made possible through the support of World Land Trust—U.K. and U.S. with matching funds from Robert Wilson.

CONSERVING HABITATS

Protecting the Cerulean Warbler

ABC is working in partnership with the Missouri Department of Conservation, The Nature Conservancy, and the Missouri Heritage Foundation to purchase, protect, and manage an 80 acre tract of Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat on the Jack's Ford River in Missouri that is threatened due to residential, agricultural, and energy development. This land purchase and the implementation of a management plan for surrounding lands owned by the National Park Service and the Missouri Department of Conservation will protect the Cerulean Warbler's breeding grounds there. The purchase of the land will also raise awareness of the importance of protecting Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat among other landowners in the surrounding area. Thanks to the Lannan Foundation, Robert Wilson, and an anonymous ABC donor for helping with this important acquisition.



Reforestation Abandoned Mine Lands

ABC is working with partners of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative to reforest abandoned minelands in the core coal region of the Appalachians. Large blocks of mature forest there provide important habitat for Cerulean Warblers and other priority birds, but these forested areas have been degraded due to loss and fragmentation from past and current coal mining operations. Over the last 30 years, many mines have been "reclaimed" to non-native grasslands or shrublands, replacing

Bay, Oregon Cascades, Montana Northern Rockies, and Blackwater Wildlife Refuge in Maryland. We hope you can join us!

American Birds Campaign



[Click cover to download campaign case statement.](#)

American Bird Conservancy (ABC) was founded in 1994, and is the only not-for-profit organization that works solely to conserve native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas. ABC acts to safeguard the rarest birds, conserve habitat for declining species, eliminate threats to bird populations, develop innovative solutions to conservation problems, and to build capacity in the bird conservation movement.

ABC tracks all bird issues, responds rapidly to the highest conservation priorities, and works constructively with stakeholders to seek win-win solutions that will be effective in the long-term. ABC takes a flexible approach to problem solving, and its programs range from land purchase and restoration to advocacy and education.

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diverse hardwood forests with large, unnatural openings. However, some of these areas now support populations of other priority birds such as Golden-winged Warblers (pictured), Henslow's Sparrows, and American Woodcock. The Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Coordinator (employed by ABC) is working with partners to identify priority areas to target reforestation for Ceruleans and other priority forest-dwelling birds, while also identifying reclaimed mine complexes to improve habitat conditions for viable populations of "openland" priority species (e.g., Golden-winged Warblers).

Additionally, ABC is assisting partners with two reforestation projects, one in southeastern Ohio, and one in southwestern Virginia. Thanks to the Lannan Foundation and an anonymous donor for their support of this project.

ELIMINATING THREATS

Federal Court Orders Communication Tower Safeguards for Migrating Birds

On February 19, 2008, a federal court of appeals issued a ruling ordering the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to carefully evaluate the adverse effects of communication towers on migratory birds in the Gulf Coast region, following a law suit brought by Earth Justice on behalf of ABC. This follows a ten year ABC campaign to reduce the impacts of towers on migratory birds. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates that between five million and fifty million birds are killed each year in collisions associated with these towers after they become confused by the tower's lights during nighttime migration. Although there are already some 80,000 such towers across the U.S., FCC still receives more than 20 new applications for tower construction each month. Thanks to the A.W. Berry Foundation, Mark and Barbara Fried, and the Leo Model Foundation for making it possible for ABC to persist with and win this important case for birds.



Preventing Bird Mortality Caused by Building Collisions



ABC is pleased to announce that Karen Cotton has joined ABC as our new Bird Collisions Campaign Manager. Karen will be working in our conservation advocacy team on bird safe architecture and landscape design, and other bird strike issues. Karen previously worked for New York City Audubon and the Bird Safe Glass Foundation, is an active birder, and is interested in wildlife and ecology. If you

have any questions about ABC's glass and collisions work, please contact Karen at kcotton@abcbirds.org. Thanks to the Leon Levy Foundation for seed-funding this new program.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Act for Songbirds

Every five years, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act comes up for reauthorization by Congress. Because the act and its funding is so important for bird conservation work in the Americas, ABC and Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA) members are forming a coalition to work for early reauthorization of the act with increased federal funding: from \$9 million to \$25 million by 2013. The act establishes a competitive, matching grants program for projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Supported activities foster the long-term conservation of neotropical migratory songbirds and their habitats.



If you would prefer not to receive ABC campaign updates, please e-mail Lindsay Shumate and we will take you off our list.

Photo credits: Fuertes's Parrot: Fundacion ProAves; Black-fronted Piping Guan: José Luis Cartes; Cerulean Warbler: Bill Hubick; Golden-winged Warbler: Bill Hubick; Communication Tower: Mike Parr; Windows: Mike Parr; Eastern Bluebird: Bill Hubick.