



Annual Report



2008



Message from the Chairman and President

In view of the roller coaster ride the economy has given us in the past few months, we are delighted to report the completion of another year of good news for bird conservation. We hope you will enjoy this summary of accomplishments by American Bird Conservancy, and take a moment to reflect on your successes. We say “your successes” because, in very difficult financial times, you came through for birds, conservation, and ABC. Despite our worries about the potential effects of the economy on our work through the autumn, ABC finished the year in good financial shape because you kept bird conservation as a priority. ABC is not a large organization, and thus it is all the more gratifying to have such strong supporter fidelity – we wish we could reach out and shake each of you by the hand.

Again, thanks to your help and to the energy of ABC’s motivated staff and board, we aim for another great year for bird conservation in 2009. In fact, exciting advances are happening even as this is written. For example, ABC hopes to accelerate programs for seabirds and Hawaiian forest birds – two of the suites of birds most in need of our help. ABC will also use the latest and best science to determine where we can have the maximum effect in conserving our neotropical migrants in their migration stop-over and wintering grounds. We are increasing our efforts to offset threats to birds by expanding our policy team to work on pesticides, building and other collisions, energy issues, invasive species, and more. And we hope to better engage the more than 120 organizations now in our Bird Conservation Alliance to make progress on issues such as free-roaming cats and insufficient funding for federal bird programs. Meanwhile, ABC will continue to be the world leader in creating reserves for the rarest bird species in our hemisphere and the national leader in promoting bird conservation in the United States.

A final thrust we hope to make this year is in maintaining the quality of our work. As a smaller organization, ABC has enjoyed a tremendous reputation for completing excellent projects and delivering terrific “bang for the buck”. This becomes more difficult as organizations grow, but we at ABC are determined to avoid slipping as we increase our capacity and programs. Toward that goal, we are developing a “gold standard” for all we do. Each ABC division leader is now charged with developing measurable standards that describe excellence in our work – to ensure that every reserve is fully supported, every project is judged on how its outcomes match its goals, every donor continues to be treated with respect and gratitude, and every audit remains clean and unqualified. ABC may not get everything right every time, but we will have a gold standard system to evaluate our work for every activity. This program is just in development now, so if you have thoughts or suggestions, do not hesitate to send them along to us.

Thank you again for giving us the opportunity to serve as your bird conservationists.



Jim Brumm
Chairman, ABC



George Fenwick
President, ABC



American Birds Campaign News

In July 2005, with a history of ten years of successful bird conservation behind us, ABC launched the American Birds Campaign. The goal of the campaign was to dramatically ramp up our conservation efforts so we can better address the full spectrum of issues affecting birds throughout the Americas. We have been thrilled by the response to the Campaign from our supporters over the last three and a half years, which has enabled us to nearly double our capacity and branch out into new areas of conservation. The victories that you will read about in this 2008 Annual Report are a direct result of your generous contributions. These include our efforts to save the rarest bird species in the Americas from extinction through the establishment of reserves and protected areas, our work to end bird deaths caused by window collisions, and our efforts to improve the science behind bird conservation through such ventures as the Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program. We are deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to the American Birds Campaign. There are still significant challenges ahead, however, with which we need your help:

- ◆ Many critically endangered and endangered species in Latin America that are reduced to just one or a handful of sites still have no protected areas. Working with government agencies and our in-country partners, ABC can change that situation, and ensure that all the most threatened bird species in the Americas have at least one refuge to aid in their continued survival. We have already built an unrivaled network of reserves for these species, and with your help, will do much, much more.



Transplanting seedlings from germination beds to growing bags, part of an effort to restore critical wintering habitat in Peru for neotropical migrants.
Photo: David A. Wiedenfeld

- ◆ Federal funding of bird conservation is still inadequate, meaning that programs that can aid species and improve their habitats are underfunded, federal agencies have insufficient resources to address the needs of birds, and partner projects in the United States and Latin America never get off the ground. We are building on our past work with lawmakers to increase authorizations and appropriations for such key legislation as the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, benefitting birds and their habitats from Canada to Chile.
- ◆ Thanks to ABC, the issue of bird deaths at communication towers has been thrust into the spotlight and policies have been improved; yet the government has still not acted to implement known solutions nationwide. We must continue our pressure on regulators to end this threat.
- ◆ Hawai'i is one of the world's highest conservation priorities, yet all too often, it is out of sight and out of mind. ABC is setting its sights on a new Hawai'i program that will bring national attention to the plight of the state's birds, increase federal funding dedicated to protecting them, and work with new and existing partners to safeguard their future.

With just one year left in the Campaign, we are on target to reach our \$40 million goal to enable us to achieve our bird conservation targets, but as of January 1, 2009, we still have \$14 million left to raise. We are confident that with your help, we can make this total, and hope that you will consider a gift to the Campaign during the next year. All support, no matter the size, gets us closer to the finish line, and so we encourage you to call or write, or visit www.abcbirds.org today to pledge whatever you are able.

On behalf of the ABC team, thank you for your commitment to saving birds throughout the Americas. I look forward to reporting a successful end to the American Birds Campaign soon!

—Mike Parr, American Birds Campaign Director

SAFEGUARDING the RAREST



El Oro Parakeets: Fundación Jocotoco

ABC leads the way in saving the rarest birds in the Americas from extinction. Partnering with organizations throughout the hemisphere, ABC has created an unrivaled network of 30 reserves in ten countries protecting endangered and critically endangered species, and has worked to prevent the extinction of albatrosses and other seabirds by protecting key breeding islands and reducing mortality in longline fisheries.

Habitat Protection – Creating an Extensive Bird

Reserve Network in Latin America: By working with the best in-country conservation partners, and using Alliance for Zero Extinction and rare species stronghold sites to prioritize where we work, ABC has been extraordinarily effective in developing a network of private and community reserves throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Thirty-five reserves in ten countries (Brazil, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, and Peru) now provide crucial habitat for more than 200 threatened bird species (some of which are reduced to just one remaining site), dozens of endangered mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, and hundreds more species of wintering migratory birds. In 2008, two new reserves were created: one in Mexico for the Thick-billed Parrot and one in Bolivia for the Blue-throated Macaw. Significant additions were made to 11 other reserves to protect such species as the Blue-billed Curassow in Colombia, the Lear's Macaw in Brazil, the Long-whiskered Owlet in Peru, and the El Oro Parakeet in Ecuador.

Habitat Restoration – Planting Trees, Growing

Partnerships: With ABC support, more than 100,000 native trees and shrubs were planted in 2008 to expand key habitat areas at bird reserves and create buffer zones around reserves. Seven new tree nurseries were established to aid in future reforestation efforts at sites including the El Dorado, Cerulean Warbler, Fuertes's Parrot, and Pauxi Pauxi Reserves in Colombia, as well as in the Pomacochas and El Progreso communities in Peru. ABC also provided funding and technical assistance to partners in Peru and Colombia to work with cattle farmers bordering reserves to convert their land from barren grazing fields to



Building a "living fence" in Peru: David A. Wiedenfeld

silvipasture land that includes trees, protection of streams and riparian areas from damage by cattle, and the use of hedgerows and tree lines as "living fences". On Isla Robinson Crusoe, part of the Juan Fernández Islands in Chile, ABC and the Hummingbird Society supported the Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy and members of the local community in removing invasive plant species from key nesting areas of the endangered Juan Fernández Firecrown, and then replanting with native species.

Ecotourism and Sustainable Farming – Innovative ways to Enhance Reserve Operation:

ABC works with its international partners to generate long-term, sustainable operating revenue for bird reserves. In 2008, with leadership funding from the Jeniam Foundation and others, ABC invested in the development of ecotourism at five reserves in Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, and worked with the tourism ministry in Peru to promote birdwatching. As well as providing reserve funding,



Left to right: Juan Fernández Firecrown: Peter Hodum; Waved Albatross: David A. Wiedenfeld; Bolivian schoolchildren: Asociacion Armonia

ecotourism also provides an opportunity for conservation outreach and creates jobs for local communities. ABC helped Colombian partner Fundación ProAves create the Women in Conservation program. This venture provides training and resources to enable women living in the impoverished buffer zones of four bird reserves to develop small businesses that generate income for their families and increase local community support for the protection of the reserves.



Participants in Colombia's Women in Conservation initiative: Fundación ProAves, www.proaves.org

The coffee farm purchased by ProAves with funding from ABC is also proving a huge success in supplying sustainable funding for the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve. This shade plantation, which maintains valuable bird habitat while providing fair trade opportunities for the local coffee growers' cooperative, has recently been certified by the Rainforest Alliance. In 2008, it brought in 18% of the reserve's operating costs, and the goal is to cover the entire cost of running the reserve with the sale of coffee by 2011. ABC and the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society also funded ProAves to purchase a cacao farm, with the goal of supporting their Pauxi Pauxi reserve through the sale of eco-friendly beans for chocolate.

Saving Albatrosses – Conservation That Spans the World's Oceans: In 2008, ABC worked to reduce the bycatch of albatrosses and other seabirds on longlining fishing hooks by advancing U.S. signing of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels (ACAP).

Thanks to ABC efforts working with the departments of State, Interior, and Commerce, this international treaty was submitted to Congress, bringing it one step closer to ratification. Once implemented, the Agreement will help America increase leverage on other countries to adequately protect threatened seabirds. ABC also partnered with Equilibrio Azul to conduct the first investigation of Waved Albatross bycatch in Ecuadorian fisheries. The survey identified the extent, locations, and timing of albatross bycatch, which will provide an important foundation for working with the fishing communities to reduce future albatross deaths.

Nest Box Program – Re-creating Breeding Habitat for Birds on the Brink: Where natural breeding cavities are in short supply, artificial nest boxes can make a dramatic difference for the rarest birds. In 2008, ABC supported the erection of more than 150 nest boxes for Thick-billed Parrots in Mexico and a suite of nine species in Colombia, including Santa Marta Parakeets, Yellow-eared Parrots, Fuertes's Parrots and Golden-plumed Parakeets. The results were exciting, with both Santa Marta Parakeets and Fuertes's Parrots fledging young from the boxes to bolster their wild populations.



Santa Marta Parakeet chick: Fundación ProAves, www.proaves.org

For more information on other ABC conservation achievements in safeguarding the rarest birds, see map on pages 10-11 or visit www.abcbirds.org.

CONSERVING HABITATS



White-headed Woodpecker: Alan Wilson

Habitat loss and conversion, and poor habitat management remain the greatest threat to birds in the United States. By working as part of broad-scale partnerships at the landscape level, ABC influences how millions of acres of public and private lands are managed for the benefit of dozens of threatened bird species and hundreds more declining species of landbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl. ABC also plays a critical role in providing outstanding bird conservation science, data, and planning tools to U.S. government and private conservation partners, enabling them to deliver the best conservation for birds and their habitats.

Joint Ventures – Conservation Leadership Through Partnerships:

The unique concept of Joint Ventures (JVs) enables federal and state governments, non-profit organizations, for-profit companies, and private individuals to work together towards common conservation goals. ABC supports JVs by providing expertise in the form of JV coordinators and science staff, and by leading in the design and delivery of specific projects across the country. In 2008, ABC worked with more than 100 partners, helping influence land protection on millions of acres to benefit WatchList and declining bird species, and helping raise millions of dollars in funding for partnerships delivering bird conservation. Projects supported by ABC in 2008 included:

- **Quercus and Aves Program:** ABC is leading more than 30 partners in providing habitat for Golden-cheeked Warblers, Lewis's Woodpeckers, and other declining species dependent on oak habitats in the Pacific Northwest, Mexico, and Central America. In 2008, ABC partners acquired key nesting habitat for the Lewis's Woodpecker along the Klickitat River in Washington, and laid the groundwork for the acquisition of wintering habitat for the Golden-cheeked Warbler in El Salvador. Other important activities included reforestation, removal of invasive plant species, and improved management of oak habitats on hundreds of acres of private lands in Washington, along with development of private land conservation easements on hundreds more acres in Mexico and Costa Rica.

- **Ponderosa Pine Restoration:** ABC is helping strengthen populations of declining cavity-nesting birds such as the White-headed Woodpecker, Flammulated Owl, and Williamson's Sapsucker by improving habitat in ponderosa pine forests. The project spans the Pacific Northwest and Northern Rockies, engaging private landowners and forestry partners in the implementation of sustainable management practices to improve forest health and attain bird conservation goals. In 2008, ABC worked with landowners in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho owning more than 8,000 acres of ponderosa pine habitat. Techniques included forest thinning, invasive plant removal, and the creation of snags (dead trees) to provide new cavity nesting opportunities for birds.



Huntington "Hunt" Hatch leads Darin Stringer and ABC's Bob Altman on a tour of the ponderosa pine forest on his property in Idaho, Spring 2008. Photo: Dan Casey



Left to right: Flammulated Owl: Michael Woodruff, www.michaelwoodruffphotography.com;
Cerulean Warbler: Bill Hubick; Least Tern: Greg Lavaty

- Cerulean Warbler Conservation:** ABC is improving conditions for the declining Cerulean Warbler and other mature forest-dependent species by restoring and protecting breeding habitat, reducing threats, and providing habitat management recommendations to landowners. This year, ABC helped reforest abandoned minelands in Ohio and Virginia as part of the Appalachian Regional Restoration Initiative to improve conditions for declining bird species such as the Wood Thrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and the project's flagship species, the Cerulean Warbler. Ultimately, this project aims to restore 800,000 acres of former minelands in Kentucky, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Maryland. ABC also funded partners in the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture to enable the strategic purchase of an 80-acre parcel of land in Shannon County, Missouri that links the state-owned Angeline Conservation Area to National Park Service lands, filling a gap in forest protection in the heart of the Cerulean Warbler's breeding range.

Coordinated Bird Monitoring in the United States – Standardizing the Way We Study Bird Populations:

Through its leadership of the Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership, ABC produced the Northeast Bird Monitoring Handbook, which details ten steps to establishing successful bird conservation through improved monitoring. The handbook is part of ABC's efforts to expand the successful Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Program into a national system that will provide high quality, standardized data and analysis so we can better understand how birds are responding to a changing environment and to conservation actions taken on their behalf. This broad-scale monitoring program will be particularly well-suited for predicting effects of land use and climate change, developing conservation strategies, and assessing the effectiveness of conservation projects.

Invasive Species Eradication – Creating an Environment Where Native Birds Can Flourish:

ABC and its partners have led efforts to develop significant new legislation called the REPAIR Act that will provide urgently needed federal resources to states for the

eradication of invasive species on National Wildlife Refuges. ABC will continue these efforts to ensure the REPAIR Act is enacted and funded.

Conservation Planning – Mapping the Most Important Areas for Priority Species:

Through the Central Hardwoods Joint Venture, ABC has been directing efforts to assess the distribution and population sizes of priority bird species in that region. This detailed mapping project helps direct conservation efforts by identifying key areas for protection, such as the tract that was recently purchased for the Cerulean Warbler in Shannon County, Missouri (see left column).

Missouri River Least Terns – Providing Recommendations for on-the-ground Conservation:

ABC helped the Army Corps of Engineers complete a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on sandbar creation for bird nesting habitat in the Missouri River. ABC provided practical recommendations to benefit Least Terns and Piping Plovers, including identifying strategies for the creation of sandbar nesting habitat that could maximize the benefits to tern and plover populations while minimizing collateral damage to other riverine habitats. ABC also made recommendations to reduce the subsequent loss of created habitat to erosion and natural succession, prolonging the effective life of created sandbars as nesting habitat.



Golden-cheeked Warbler: Greg Lavaty

For more information on other ABC conservation achievements in conserving habitats, see map on pages 10-11 or visit www.abcbirds.org.

ELIMINATING THREATS



Golden-winged Warbler: George Jett

A vast array of mortality threats to birds caused by human activity has a cumulative impact on bird populations. Toxic pesticides, heavy metals, and other chemicals poison vast numbers of birds; night lighting causes birds to collide by the million with man-made structures, and millions more birds die from collisions with windows; introduced, free-roaming domestic cats are voracious predators of birds; and populations of rare seabirds and shorebirds are impacted by interactions with fisheries. ABC is working to study these threats, determine solutions, and implement change.

Preventing Bird Strikes at Windows – Finding Technological and Policy Solutions: ABC has expanded its efforts to reduce the number of birds killed in collisions with windows and by lighted structures at night. ABC made partnership and policy advances in the development of a “Lights Out San Francisco” campaign to reduce bird strikes in the city, and is working to have the cities of Houston and Nashville adopt the “Lights Out” model. ABC also led the way in testing a new technological solution to the problem. Working with the manufacturer CollidEscape, ABC used a new, high-tech film on windows at the El Dorado Bird Reserve in Colombia. The film increases the visibility of glass to birds by reducing reflections and increasing the window’s opacity from the outside without impeding the view from the inside. The product is enhanced by being able to print pictures on the outer-facing side of the film. The

initial results were astounding, with bird strikes at certain windows being reduced to zero. ABC will now focus on gaining wider recognition throughout the United States for this and other solutions to the problem of bird strikes.

Battling Carbofuran – Supporting the Government in its Efforts to Cancel a Bird Killer: In 2006, ABC won a major victory for birds when the Environmental Protection Agency proposed the cancellation of one of the most lethal pesticides to birds on the market, carbofuran, which has been responsible for the deaths millions of birds, including Bald Eagles, Great Horned Owls, and Blue-winged Teals. However, the manufacturer, FMC Corporation, refused to withdraw its product from the market, the first time a company has fought a cancellation decision in more than two decades. ABC supported the EPA with their decision, providing an important counterbalance to industry pressure on the government, and by the end of the year, rather than caving to FMC’s demands, EPA had strengthened their position. ABC had petitioned EPA to ban the importation of rice, bananas, and coffee with any residues of carbofuran, and in 2008, EPA proposed revoking all residue tolerances for the pesticide on food both imported and domestically produced. This means that any commodity containing any traces of the pesticide cannot be sold. If implemented, this proposal will speed up carbofuran’s removal from the market, and will also have implications for carbofuran use overseas. ABC will continue to support EPA in its efforts to remove carbofuran, and is now also considering petitioning EPA to revoke food tolerances for other pesticides that are banned in the United States but are still used in Latin America where many U.S. birds winter.



CollidEscape film applied to windows of the visitor's lodge at El Dorado Reserve in Colombia, January 2009. This see-through film keeps birds from colliding with windows. Photo: Fundacion ProAves, www.proaves.org



ELIMINATING THREATS

Left to right: Spotted Owl: Chris Warren; Red Knots: Ralph Wright; Bobolink: Alan Wilson



Bald Eagles: FWS

Red Knot Conservation – Saving Horseshoe Crabs to Save Shorebirds: ABC continued its efforts to protect the declining Red Knot by seeking restrictions on the fishing of horseshoe crabs. The eggs of these prehistoric creatures form the bulk of the knot's food supply during its migration stopover at Delaware Bay. In 2008, ABC supported partners such as New Jersey Audubon with their advocacy pressure that led to the New Jersey legislature imposing a ban on all horseshoe crab fishing in the state.

The Act for Songbirds Campaign – Raising Crucial Funding for Conservation of Migrant Birds: In 2008, ABC launched the *Act for Songbirds Campaign*, a national effort to help reauthorize and increase funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. NMBCA is the only source of federal funding dedicated to the conservation of migrant birds throughout the Americas, and so plays a vital role in helping U.S. and Latin American organizations conserve vital bird habitat. ABC drew on its strengths as a coalition builder and leader to mobilize members of the Bird Conservation Alliance and more than 30,000 individual activists. By the end of the year, bills had been proposed in the House and Senate, with 21 Representatives and nine Senators signing on as cosponsors. In 2009, the bills will be re-introduced in both houses, and ABC looks forward to working with

legislators, partner organizations, and the public to ensure they pass.

Spotted Owl Litigation – Fighting for Old-growth Forest Protection in the Pacific Northwest: ABC has led advocacy efforts to challenge both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan, and the agency's recent decision to reduce designated Critical Habitat for the owl. These efforts culminated in filing of legal proceedings, which ABC joined as part of a coalition. The Recovery Plan is based on poor science, weakens existing habitat protection on federal lands, and largely omits the need for protection of habitat on state and private lands. This flawed plan has been used to justify reducing Critical Habitat for the owl, thus hampering its chances of recovery. ABC is seeking to have the Plan overturned in court, and to have a new plan drafted that prioritizes the best available science and fully addresses the threats to the owl.

Birds and Towers – ABC Court Win Puts Resolution One Step Closer: ABC moved nearer to ending the problem of bird kills at communications towers when a federal court of appeals sided with ABC in a lawsuit against the Federal Communications Commission (FCC – the agency that licenses towers). The panel of judges ordered the FCC to carefully evaluate the potential adverse effects of towers on migratory bird populations in the Gulf Coast region, and ruled that national environmental laws such as the Endangered Species Act and the National Environmental Policy Act require the FCC to more carefully consider these possible adverse effects in its tower permitting process.



Blackpoll Warbler: Greg Lavaty



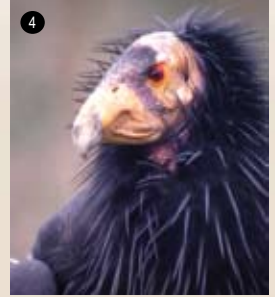
Prothonotary Warbler: Greg Lavaty

For more information on other ABC conservation achievements in eliminating threats to birds, see map on pages 10-11 or visit www.abcbirds.org.

Conservation throughout the Americas



'Akikiki: Jack Jeffrey



California Condor: Susan Haig



Lewis's Woodpecker: Tom Grey



Cerulean Warbler: Bill Hubick



Thick-billed Parrot: Javier Cruz



Grenada Dove: Greg Homel



Peruvian Tern: Patricia Saravia



Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant: Joe Tobias



Dusky Starfrontlet: Paul Salaman

● = New in 2008
● = Land acquisition

Purple = New in 2008 Red = Land acquisition

The map opposite shows some of the places where ABC is working to protect WatchList and Alliance for Zero Extinction bird species, and other threatened species and their habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

United States Sites

- Hawaii: Advanced the conservation of threatened Hawaiian birds by supporting habitat protection and restoration, threat reduction, and generation of new resources for Hawaiian forest and seabirds. Successfully petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the 'Akikiki and 'Akeke'e under the Endangered Species Act.
- Hawaii: Removing lead paint from Midway to benefit the Laysan Albatross.
- The Pacific: Stopping longline mortality to benefit the Short-tailed, Laysan, and Black-footed Albatrosses, and persuading the U.S. government to sign the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels to facilitate cooperative efforts to conserve endangered albatrosses in U.S. and international waters.
- California: Lead ammunition ban expanded in the range of the California Condor.
- Washington: Reintroduction of the Western Bluebird to the San Juan Islands.
- Washington: Purchase of priority nesting habitat for the Lewis's Woodpecker along the Klickitat River.
- Washington, Oregon, and Northern California: Opposing a scientifically-flawed Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and Northwest Forest Management Plan.
- Washington and Oregon: Conservation assessment for Gray Flycatcher.
- Washington: Developed bird habitat models for Washington State Forest Management Practices Board to predict bird response to regulatory forest management.
- Oregon and Washington: Conservation planning for sagebrush obligate birds (Sage Thrasher, Sage Sparrow, and Brewer's Sparrow) on Bureau of Land Management lands.
- Great Basin (western United States): Conservation assessment for guided delivery of Farm Bill programs for grassland, shrubland, and wetland birds.
- Nevada: Population estimates and conservation planning for Long-billed Curlew and Grasshopper Sparrow.
- Western United States: Worked with private landowners to develop and implement management plans for over 8,000 acres of ponderosa pine habitat to maximize their value for priority birds such as the Lewis's Woodpecker.
- Mississippi, Missouri, Red, and other rivers: Interior Least Tern conservation design.
- Missouri: Ozark riparian forest restoration for the Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush.
- Missouri: Helped Central Hardwoods Joint Venture to complete acquisition of an 80-acre private property on Horse Creek to link Missouri Department Conservation and national park Service lands for the protection of Cerulean Warbler nesting habitat.
- Missouri: Glade savanna woodland restoration in the Ozarks for the Red-headed Woodpecker and Prairie Warbler.
- Tennessee: Assisted partners in land acquisition for the protection of Cerulean and Golden-winged Warblers in East Tennessee's Cumberland Plateau.
- Ohio: Reforestation of abandoned mine lands for Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat.
- Tennessee: Conservation planning for Northern Bobwhite in the Central Hardwoods.
- Northeast United States: Published *The Northeast Bird Monitoring Handbook*, providing support to the 13 states of the Northeast region for fulfilling the bird monitoring component of their wildlife action plans.
- Vermont: Monitoring high elevation birds such as the Bicknell's Thrush.
- Virginia: Reforestation of abandoned mine lands for Cerulean Warbler breeding habitat.
- Virginia: Published and distributed updated guide to managing Piedmont land for the benefit of birds and other wildlife.
- Delaware Bay: Developed and implemented monitoring program for tidal marsh birds such as the Black Rail.
- Delaware Bay: Restricting horseshoe crab take for the rufa Red Knot and other shorebirds.
- Gulf Coast: Stopping tower kills to benefit night migrating songbirds such as the Bay-breasted and Golden-winged warblers.
- National: Initiated the *Act for Songbirds* campaign to promote the early reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act by Congress, and to quadruple funding for this critical source of funding for protection of neotropical migrants in the Western Hemisphere.
- National: Work with the FAA and trade groups to implement conspicuity study of aviation safety lighting on communication towers.
- National: Promoting the design and adoption of "bird safe glass" in buildings and supporting "lights out" campaigns for major cities that have significant bird impacts during migration.
- National and International: Advocating for national legislation to regulate wind energy to prevent bird kills, assisting local efforts to minimize bird impacts at wind farms in Texas, California, Virginia, and Massachusetts, and assisting international efforts to minimize bird impacts at proposed wind farms in Mexico and Puerto Rico.
- National: Promoting *Cats Indoors Campaign* to keep birds and cats safer.
- National: Advocating for passage of the bipartisan Refuge Ecology Protection, Assistance and Immediate Response Act (REPAIR), which will direct federal resources to help eradicate invasive species from National Wildlife Refuges.
- National: Cancellation or restriction of the EPA pesticide registrations of three pesticides deadly to birds: carbofuran, aldicarb, and rodenticides.
- National: Proposed cancellation of pesticide residue import tolerances for carbofuran on agricultural products imported into the United States.

Latin American and Caribbean Sites (partner groups in italics)

- Mexico: Land acquisition for the endangered Thick-billed Parrot in Mesa de las Guacamayas.
- Management of the El Cercado Reserve for the Worthen's Sparrow and Long-billed Curlew on the Saltillo savanna. *Pronatura Noreste*
- Mexico: Assessment of fisheries impacts to seabirds in western Mexico. *Long Marine Laboratory, University of California-Santa Cruz*
- Dominican Republic: Conservation of the Bay-breasted Cuckoo and neotropical migrants in the Sierra de Bahoruco National Park. *Grupo Jaragua*
- Grenada: Protecting habitat of the Grenada Dove from resort development.
- Honduras: Conservation of the Honduran Emerald and neotropical migrant birds. *Fundación Parque Nacional Pico Bonito*
- Costa Rica: Creation of a conservation corridor for priority birds, such as the Black-cheeked Ant-Tanager, Osa Peninsula. *Friends of the Osa*
- Costa Rica, El Salvador, and Mexico: Protecting the wintering habitat of Golden-cheeked and Golden-winged warblers and other priority species in oak and oak-pine habitat. *Pronatura Sur, SalvaNatura*
- Colombia: Managing the El Dorado Reserve for long-term sustainability through ecotourism to benefit the Santa Marta Parakeet. *Fundación ProAves*
- Colombia: Expansion of El Paujil Reserve for the conservation of the Blue-billed Curassow. *Fundación ProAves*
- Colombia: Infrastructure development at the Dusky Starfrontlet Bird Reserve. *Fundación ProAves*
- Colombia: Supporting the Parrot Bus education campaign to help protect Colombia's threatened parrots. *Fundación ProAves*
- Colombia: Expansion of the Pauxi Pauxi Reserve and development of conservation easements in the Cerulean Warbler Conservation Corridor for the protection of the Helmeted Curassow, Chestnut-bellied Hummingbird, Cerulean Warbler, and other migratory birds. *Fundación ProAves*
- Colombia: Expanding economic opportunities for women in the vicinity of Fundación ProAves reserves. *Fundación ProAves*
- Ecuador: Expanding the Río Canandé Reserve for the conservation of the Great Green Macaw and Scarlet-breasted Dacnis, and other Choco endemics. *Fundación Jocotoco*
- Ecuador: Land purchase at the Jorupe Reserve for the Slaty Becard and Blackish-headed Spinetail. *Fundación Jocotoco*
- Ecuador: Land purchase at the Buenaventura Reserve for the El Oro Parakeet. *Fundación Jocotoco*
- Ecuador: Expanding bird tourism in the Tapichalaca Reserve to benefit the Jocotoco Antpitta and the Golden-plumed Parakeet, as well as Podocarpus National Park and other protected areas in Southern Ecuador. *Fundación Jocotoco*
- Ecuador: Vegetation management plan on Española Island, Galapagos Islands, for conservation of the Waved Albatross. *State University of New York*
- Ecuador: Assessing bycatch of Waved Albatross and other seabirds. *Equilibrio Azul*
- Peru: Creation of the Huembo Visitor Center and conservation of the Marvelous Spatuletail in Pomacochas and the Marañón-Alto Mayo Conservation Corridor. *Asociación Ecosistemas Andinos (ECOAN)*
- Peru: Expansion and management of the Abra Patricia-Alto Nieva Reserve for protection of the Ochre-fronted Antpitta and Long-whiskered Owllet. Increased ecotourism in Abra Patricia to generate income for its conservation while promoting conservation of the Alto Mayo Protected Forest and other protected areas in Northern Peru. *ECOAN*
- Peru: Seabird bycatch assessment surveys and community outreach and education in Peruvian ports. *Pro Delphinus*
- Peru: Preserving and restoring nesting habitat of the endangered Peruvian Tern in coastal Peru. *APECO and UNC Wilmington*
- Peru: Expansion and management of Tingo Maria National Park and protection of the upper watersheds in Unchoq-Carpish area for the conservation of the endemic birds such as the Golden-backed Mountain-Tanager. *ECOAN*
- Peru: Habitat restoration, private reserve creation, and community conservation for the Royal Cinclodes and Ash-breasted Tit-Tyrant in the Vilcanota cordillera. Creating alternative energy sources for Andean communities in the Cordillera de Vilcanota. *ECOAN*
- Brazil: Expansion and infrastructure improvements at the Canudos Biological Station for the Lear's Macaw. *Fundação Biodiversitas*
- Brazil: Expanding the Reserva Ecológica de Guapi Assu (REGUA) for the conservation of the White-mantled Hawk and Golden-tailed Parrotlet. *Reserva Ecológica de Guapi Assu*
- Brazil: Expansion and infrastructure improvements at the Balbina Forest Reserve to protect the Stresemann's Bristlefront and Banded Cotinga. *Fundação Biodiversitas*
- Bolivia: Creation of Barba Azul Nature Reserve for the critically endangered Blue-throated Macaw. *Asociación Armonía*
- Bolivia: Improved management of the upper watersheds of the Apolobamba Integrated Management Natural Area and Madidi National Park to protect the Royal Cinclodes, Ash-breasted Tit-tyrant, and Giant Conebill. *Instituto de Ecología, Universidad Mayor de San Andres*
- Paraguay: Expansion of the San Rafael Resource Management Reserve for the protection of the Vinaceous Amazon and Black-fronted Piping-Guan. *Guayra Paraguay*
- Chile: Habitat restoration and community conservation for the Juan Fernández Firecrown on Isla Robinson Crusoe. *Juan Fernández Islands Conservancy*
- Multinational: Developing a means of providing sustainable financing for the long-term conservation of ABC-supported reserves through carbon finance development.
- Multinational: Implementing silvopasture and reforestation in buffer zones or in reserves that support endangered or declining birds. *Fundación ProAves, Fundación Jocotoco, ECOAN*



LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the advances ABC has made for birds in 2008, there is still much more to be done to safeguard the rarest birds, conserve bird habitats, and reduce the threats to birds throughout the Americas.

ABC will continue to grow and improve the network of bird reserves it has built with partner groups over the last decade to protect some of the world's most threatened species. In addition to creating new reserves for the Red-fronted Macaw in Bolivia and the Niceforo's Wren in Colombia, expanding existing bird reserves, such as the Blue-billed Curassow Reserve in Bolivia and the Stresemann's Bristlefront Reserve in Brazil, and improving reserve management for species such as the Lear's Macaw in Brazil, ABC will be working with in-country partners to help with reserve sustainability. This includes both ecotourism and income from the sale of coffee and carbon credits.

ABC will also advance international support for the conservation of threatened *Polylepis* forests in the high Andes with the designation of up to four more private conservation areas in the Vilcanota cordillera,

as well as pursuing conservation financing through the sale of carbon credits.

Full U.S. ratification of the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels is another key goal for 2009. With the United States as a signatory to this international treaty, we can better influence worldwide efforts to reduce the threat to declining seabird populations. A generous new grant from the Packard Foundation will enable ABC to tackle the issue of Waved Albatross bycatch in the longline fisheries of Peru and Ecuador, as well as the intentional catch of albatrosses by Peruvian fishermen for food.

The success of the Northeast Coordinated Bird Monitoring Partnership and the new handbook produced in 2008 has demonstrated both a need for and a viable means of achieving a system of bird monitoring that fulfills conservation goals and

stands up to scientific rigor. In 2009 and beyond, ABC will be working to take this achievement further to improve the science of bird conservation in both conservation design and evaluation. The ultimate goal is a coordinated nationwide monitoring program that focuses on targeted conservation needs.

The joint venture model of conservation has been an astounding success in bringing diverse stakeholders together for the benefit of birds. Now, ABC will be looking to shift the focus of Joint Ventures around the country from planning to implementation of more on-the-ground conservation projects. Projects that ABC is focused on include the conservation of cavity nesting birds in ponderosa pine systems in the West and engagement of the coal mining industry in improved restoration projects in the Appalachians.

In 2009, ABC will continue to seek an end to bird kills at communications towers by pressuring the Federal Communications Commission to finally implement siting and lighting requirements for new and existing towers that it licenses. The campaign



Landowners at a field demonstration day in Oregon, September 2008. Photo: Laura Dunleavy

will draw on ABC's strengths in conservation advocacy and public participation to culminate a decade of work in reducing tower strikes.

ABC will also push to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act through its *Act for Songbirds Campaign* begun in 2008. Working with lawmakers in both houses, ABC will seek new reauthorization bills that will raise authorized funding levels from the current \$6 million to \$20 million by 2015. With improved funding, many additional conservation projects throughout the Americas will be able to get off the ground, helping shape the future for our declining migrants.



This Golden-winged Warbler costume, provided with the aid of an ABC grant, helps educate schoolchildren in Colombia about the importance of habitat preservation. Photo: Fundación ProAves, www.proaves.org



Waved Albatross pair: Eleanor Briccetti

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George E. Wallace, Ph.D., Vice President of International Division
David Wiedenfeld, Ph.D., Assistant Director of International Programs
David Younkman, Chief Conservation Officer



Royal Terns: Greg Lavaty

Washington, DC

Hugo Arnal, Director of International Sustainable Conservation
Karen Cotton, Bird Collisions Campaign Manager
Michael Fry, Ph.D., Director, Conservation Advocacy
Steve Holmer, Director of Public Relations
Alicia King, Bird Conservation Alliance Director
Anne Law, Deputy Director of Conservation Advocacy
Dan Lebbin, Ph.D., Conservation Biologist
Moirra McKernan, Ph.D., Pesticides and Birds Program Director
Michael Parr, Vice President
Gemma Radko, Communications and Media Manager
Arturo Restrepo, Carbon Finance Coordinator
Darin Schroeder, Vice President of Conservation Advocacy
Gavin Shire, Director of Communications
Benjamin Skolnik, International Conservation Projects Specialist
Hana Young, Administrative and Communications Assistant
Dariusz Zdziebowski, IT and Website Coordinator

Field Offices

Bob Altman, Northern Pacific Rainforest BCR Coordinator
Dan Casey, Northern Rockies BCR Coordinator
Susannah Casey, GIS Coordinator – Northern Rockies
Jane Fitzgerald, Ph.D., Central Hardwoods Joint Venture Coordinator
Dan Lambert, Northeast Bird Monitoring Program Coordinator
Ed Laurent, Ph.D., Science Coordinator
Casey Lott, Coastal and Waterways Program Coordinator
Brian Smith, Ph.D., Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture Coordinator

2008 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

ANNUAL SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Foundation, Organization, and Corporate Contributions	\$ 2,655,672
Individual Contributions	\$ 1,799,471
Grants	\$ 1,799,215
Contributed Services and Materials	\$ 53,919
Other Revenue	\$ 41,319
Rental Income	\$ 20,678
Interest and Investment Loss (including Unrealized Loss)	\$ (257,013)
Total Annual Support and Revenue	\$ 6,113,261

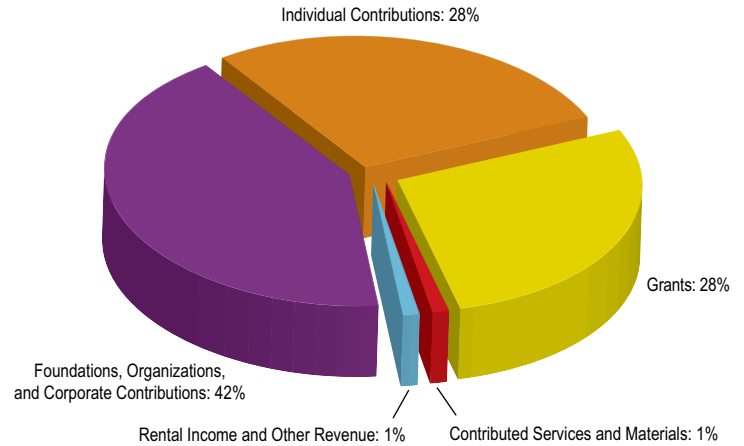


Chart does not include Interest and Investment Loss

ANNUAL EXPENSES

Program

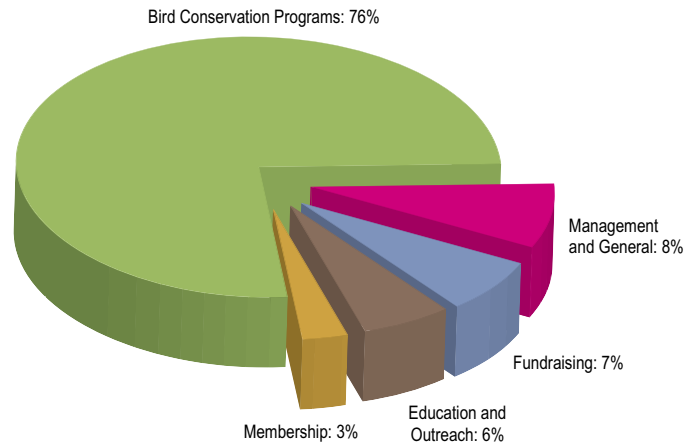
Bird Conservation Programs	\$ 5,686,849
Education and Outreach	\$ 414,254
Membership	\$ 237,715
Total Program Services	\$ 6,338,818

Supporting Services

Management and General	\$ 623,365
Fund raising	\$ 528,316
Total Supporting Services	\$ 1,151,681

Total Annual Expenses \$ 7,490,499

Net Assets at December 31, 2008 \$ 3,411,936



Percentage figures on these charts are rounded to the nearest whole number



ABC is rated an "Exceptional" Four Star Charity by the independent group Charity Navigator—their highest rating (see www.charitynavigator.org).

American Bird Conservancy's financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2008, were audited by the Certified Public Accounting firm of Gelman, Rosenberg, and Freedman. A copy of ABC's complete financial statements can be obtained by contacting: American Bird Conservancy, P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198.

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OUR MISSION: American Bird Conservancy conserves native wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas, safeguarding the rarest species, restoring habitats, and reducing threats, while building capacity in the bird conservation movement.



Toucan Barbet: Hugo Arnal