

# USFWS and AZA: Building a Partnership for Migratory Bird Conservation

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Branch of Conservation, Permits, and Regulations

Division of Migratory Bird Management



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Migratory Bird Program  
*Conserving America's Birds*

*speaker  
notes in  
italics*





# Who we are

## *Division of Migratory Bird Management*

- Part of the Migratory Bird Program at USFWS Headquarters
- Our division:
  - Implements the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act
  - Coordinates with other Federal agencies to reduce impacts to birds
  - Engages with non-government organizations to offer technical assistance and promote voluntary conservation measures
  - Monitors migratory bird populations
  - Sets regulations for migratory bird management
  - Coordinates Regional permitting for possession and take



# We implement our work largely through our regions



*Migratory Bird Program - Conserving America's Birds*



# How to get help

Region	Area	Email	Phone
<b>1 - Pacific</b>	HI, ID, OR, WA	PermitsR1MB@fws.gov	(503) 872-2715
<b>2 - Southwest</b>	AZ, NM, OK, TX	PermitsR2MB@fws.gov	(505) 248-7882
<b>3 - Midwest</b>	IA, IL, IN, MN, MO, MI, OH, WI	PermitsR3MB@fws.gov	(612) 713-5436
<b>4 - Southeast</b>	AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MI, NC, SC, TN, VI, PR	PermitsR4MB@fws.gov	(404) 679-7070
<b>5 - Northeast</b>	CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NH, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA, VT, WV	PermitsR5MB@fws.gov	(413) 253-8643
<b>6 - West</b>	CO, KA, MT, ND, NE, SD, UT, WY	PermitsR6MB@fws.gov	(303) 236-8171
<b>7 - Alaska</b>	AK	PermitsR7MB@fws.gov	(907) 786-3693
<b>8 - Cali/NV</b>	CA, NV	PermitsR8MB@fws.gov	(916) 978-6183

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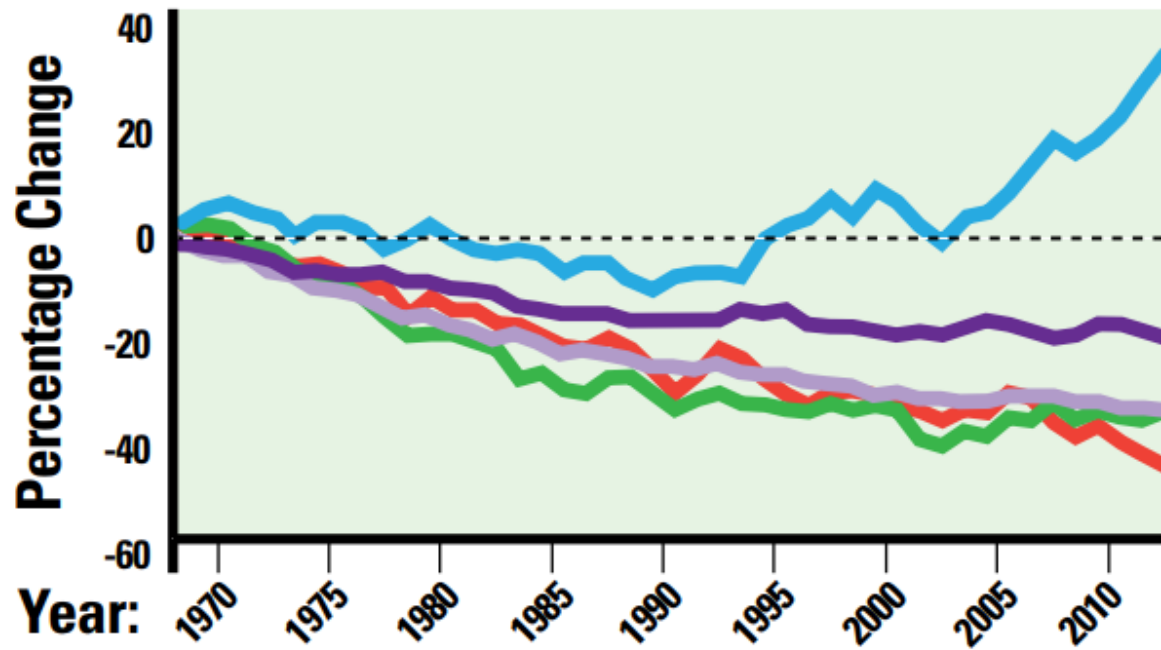


# The status of migratory bird populations

*Good habitat management can work*

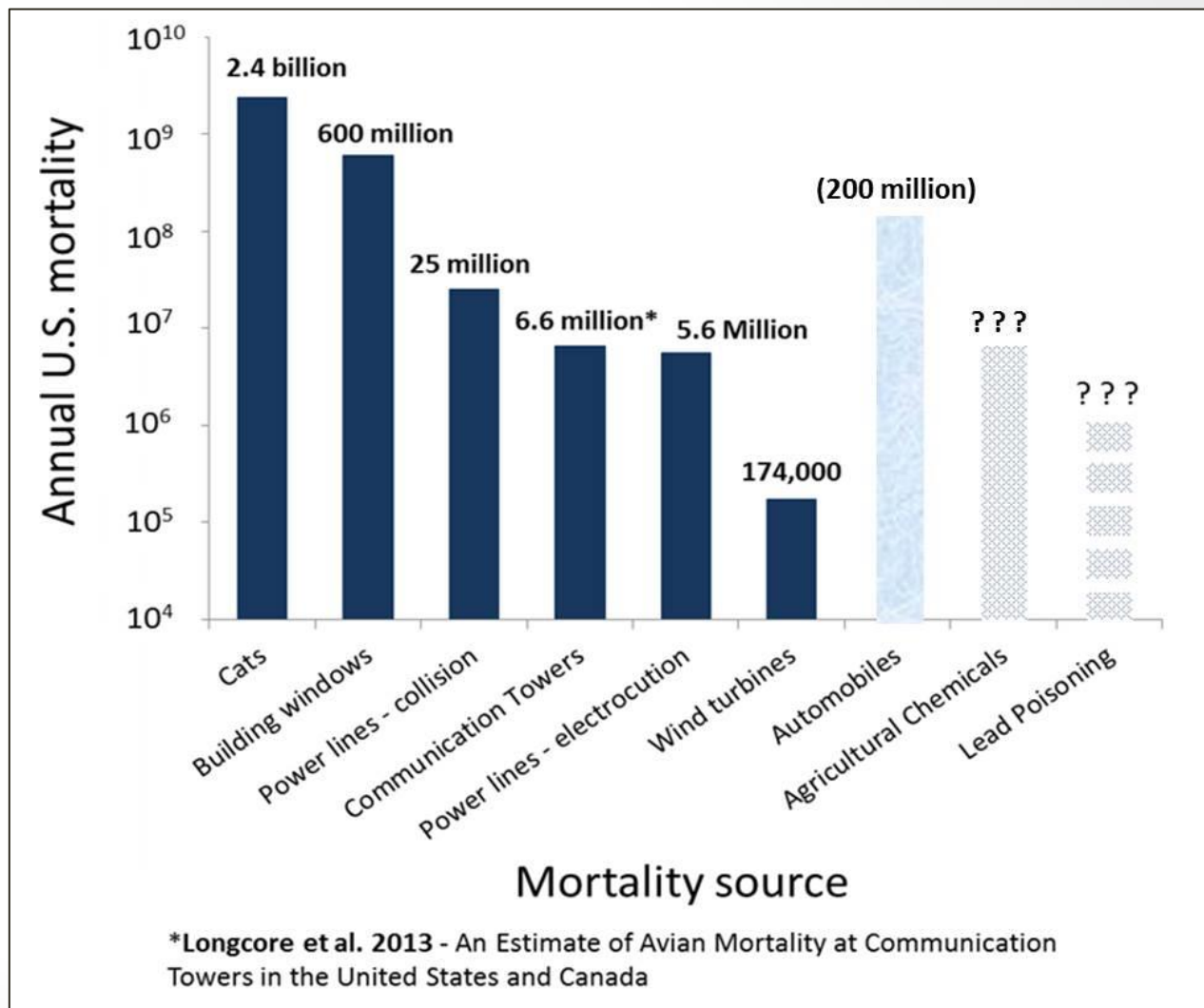
## BIRD POPULATION INDICATORS IN FIVE INLAND HABITATS

● Grasslands ● Aridlands ● Eastern Forests ● Western Forests ● Wetlands





# The status of migratory bird populations





# Current conservation initiatives

- Changing focus to inherent benefits of voluntary conservation measures that incidentally contribute to bird conservation
- How can private individuals or industry benefit from conservation measures that incidentally provide an advantage to birds? (financially, public perception, meeting sustainability goals, etc.)
- If such actions can become mainstream, then bird conservation will sell itself!
- Need to continue to spread the word



# Current conservation initiatives

- Examples:
  - Building Glass and Lighting
    - Working with partners on energy efficient building designs that also benefit birds
  - Communication Towers
    - Modifying tower lighting to solely flashing lights reduces bird mortality and can save tower owners \$\$\$
  - Guidance documents developed by our program and are available on our website
    - Working on homeowner guidance



*Migratory*






# Avian Knowledge Network


Meghan Sadlowski, Environmental Scientist, [meghan\\_sadlowski@fws.gov](mailto:meghan_sadlowski@fws.gov)

**National Node**  
Part of the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN) and a Node for the Council for the Conservation of Migratory Birds


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**About AKN Data and How You Can Contribute**



**Upload, Enter and Manage Your Data**  
Upload and manage your data in bulk through the AKN.



**Use AKN Tools with AKN Data to Explore Patterns and Trends**  
Use other AKN tools with AKN data to explore patterns and trends, generate simple visualizations, or apply advanced analyses to field observation data.



**Discover and Download Data**  
Discover and Download Data

Interested in contributing to the National Node Project? [Get Involved](#)  
Want to learn more?



## *It's almost ready for launch!*

*What does it do?*

*Aggregates a number of different bird survey datasets: survey, banding, citizen science, so they can be examined alone or together.*

*Provides tools to enable quick and easy data summaries at different scales.*

*Provides tools to enable users to get their data in and get raw data out for customized analysis.*



# Current conservation initiatives

## *Rehabbers and Zoos*

- Continue to support coordinating transfer of non-releasable birds between rehabbers and zoos
- Pilot program for non-releasable eagles
- Regional offices can provide assistance





# Service Permit System Modernization

Eric Kershner, Branch Chief, [eric\\_kershner@fws.gov](mailto:eric_kershner@fws.gov)



## ePermits

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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## Welcome to the ePermits online application website

Welcome to the ePermits online application website

Please note that this site is currently only for electronic submission of new permit applications. If you have an existing permit you want to renew or amend, or if you would prefer to apply by mail you will need to visit [www.fws.gov/forms](http://www.fws.gov/forms), select the appropriate form, and complete the application process by regular mail.

To apply for a new permit online (ePermit), follow these steps:

If you do not yet have an ePermits account, click "Register" and follow the instructions for creating a new account. A user account must be created in order to access the eforms.

Once you are registered and logged in, follow the instructions provided for submitting an online application. Currently, only new applications for the following permitted activities can be applied for online:

- Depredation of Migratory Birds
- Scientific Collection of Migratory Birds and Eagles
- Taxidermy of Migratory Birds
- Possession of Live Migratory Birds for Educational Purpose
- Possession of Dead Migratory Birds for Educational Purpose
- Special Purpose
  - Migratory Bird Salvage
  - Migratory Bird Abatement Using Raptors
- Import of:
  - Sport-Hunted Bontebok Trophies From Southern Africa
  - Sport-Hunted Trophies of Argali
  - Sport-Hunted Trophies of Southern African Leopard, African Elephant, and Namibian Southern White Rhinoceros

[For Resident Canada Geese Registration](#)

### USER LOGIN

Username \*

Password \*

[Create new account](#)

[Request new password](#)

### CAPTCHA

This question is for testing whether or not you are a human visitor and to prevent automated spam submissions.

Math question \*

3 + 13 =

Solve this simple math problem and enter the result. E.g. for 1+3, enter 4.

*rica's Birds*



*The modernization of the USFWS's permit system is in full swing!  
The modernization will involve a transition from a paper application and reporting process to a fully automated online system.  
The development of and transition to the new system is not expected to be complete until 2019. However, some permit applications (those listed in the screen capture to the left) may be accepted online as early as Spring 2018.*



# Why AZA is important to what we do

- The future of conservation is getting people interested
- AZA facilities host millions of visitors a year that Service has a more difficult time reaching
- AZA's conservation mission aligns with Service mission:
  - *“Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”*
- AZA facilities can foster local or regional networks to promote hands-on conservation initiatives
- There is increasing interest in exhibits to highlight North American migratory bird species and promote their conservation



# Building on Success

FWS and National Zoo Exhibit celebrating 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

## Baltimore Rivers to Harbor Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership

*Baltimore, Maryland*



Community Garden Planning

Over the course of the next 10 years, the Partnership will grow from the communities around the Middle Branch and Masonville Cove into the key watersheds of Jones Falls, Gwynns Falls, and the Patapsco River through:

- Expanding youth employment opportunities and conservation careers
- Enhancing connectivity and accessibility of green spaces
- Restoring and protecting green space through habitat restoration and land protection projects that provide wildlife habitat, climate change resiliency, and community recreation and education.

Partners include the Baltimore National Aquarium, FWS Field Office, and FWS Patuxent Research Refuge

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# Building on success

- Urban Bird Treaty Program

Roxanne Bogart, [roxanne\\_bogart@fws.gov](mailto:roxanne_bogart@fws.gov)

- An opportunity where urban zoos & aquariums, the Service, and conservation efforts can intersect
- Supporting public-private partnerships in U.S. cities to:

- Conserve urban habitats for birds
- Reduce hazards to birds
- Educate and engage citizens in caring about and conserving birds and their habitats



Updated June 2017





*The Urban Bird Treaty program emphasizes:*

- *habitat conservation through invasive species control and native plant restoration;*
- *hazard reductions through bird-safe building programs;*
- *citizen science activities involving bird and habitat monitoring; and*
- *education and outreach programs that give people, especially youth, opportunities to learn about and appreciate birds and participate in their conservation.*

*Other key features of the program include:*

- *constructing schoolyard and backyard habitats,*
- *learning about and adopting sustainable practices that benefit birds, and*
- *providing opportunities for wildlife and natural resource job skill and career development for young people.*



# The Vision

- Increase the number of AZA facilities that:
  - Host messaging or an event promoting bird awareness and conservation
    - IMBD events
    - Joining or initiating network to become an UBT city
    - Signage that shows human-sourced threats to birds throughout their annual cycle and how to reduce them
    - Promoting homeowner conservation measures (planting native, reduce pesticide use and window collisions)
  - Have native migratory birds in aviaries
    - Continue to enhance potential with rehabbers
    - C2S2
    - In and around aviaries have interpretation that describes how to benefit the species



# Looking to the future

- Headquarters will continue to be available for coordination and support
  - Promoting mainstream conservation
  - Bird conservation messaging and information
  - Permitting questions/concerns
  - Building regional partnerships among:
    - Refuges
    - Field Offices
    - Regional Offices



# We would like to hear from you!

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Thank you!

- Questions/comments contact:

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