



North American Songbird Working Group,
an Initiative of the AZA PaCCT TAG

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AZA PaCCT TAG**

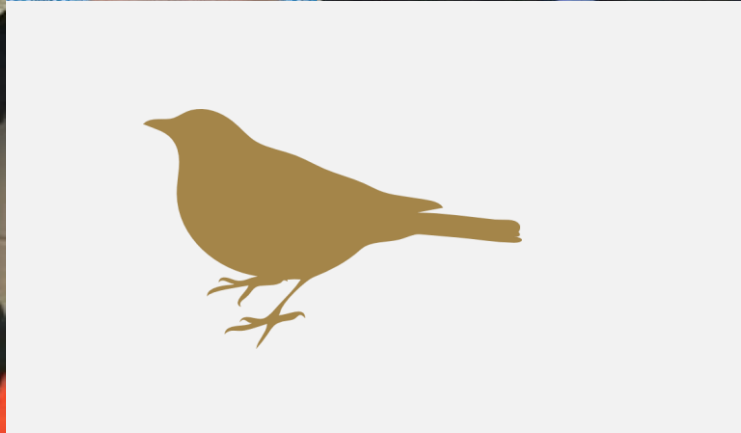
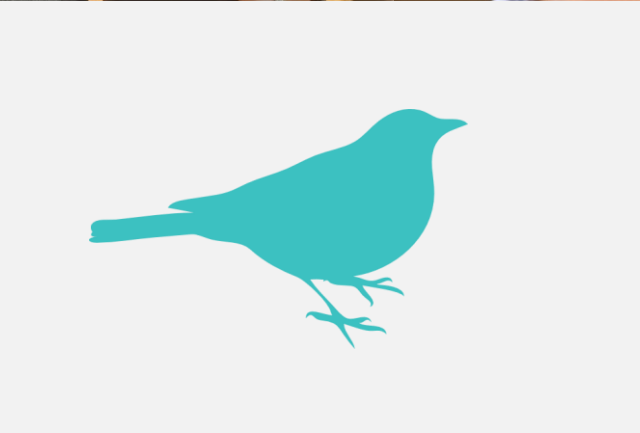
Vision

**The North American Songbird Working Group is a recognized leader
in the conservation of North American songbirds**

Mission

**The mission of the North American Songbird Working Group is to
raise awareness of issues facing North American songbirds and to
promote their conservation within AZA facilities**





WHY NATIVE SONGBIRDS?

They're in trouble
They're important
They need us



NATIVE SONGBIRDS ARE IN TROUBLE

Out of 425 North American migratory songbirds, 38% have significant negative trends. BirdLife International reports over half of neotropical migratory songbirds have suffered widespread declines over the last 40 years.

Major threats include habitat loss and degradation, predation by domestic and feral, cats, and collisions with buildings and towers. More recently, pesticides (e.g. neonicotinoids) are recognized as detrimental to songbirds.



Field sparrow
Lark bunting
Grasshopper sparrow
Eastern meadowlark
Rusty blackbird
Common grackle
Brewer's blackbird
Pine siskin
Wilson's warbler

Loggerhead shrike
Horned lark
Bank swallow
Verdin
Varied thrush
Snow bunting
Cape May warbler
Blackpoll warbler

BIRD MORTALITY

ITS CAUSES AND WAYS TO REDUCE IT



HABITAT LOSS
IS BY FAR THE
GREATEST CAUSE
OF BIRD POPULATION
DECLINES



CAUSE:
CATS

2.4 billion /
196 million
birds are killed
by cats annually

HOW TO REDUCE THEIR IMPACT:

- Keep cats indoors



CAUSE:
CHEMICALS

2.7M*
birds are killed
by agricultural
chemicals
annually

HOW TO REDUCE THEIR IMPACT:

- Limit the broadcast spray of pesticides and insecticides
- Introduce integrated pest management practices in agricultural areas

LEGEND

Estimated Number of Birds Killed per Year



* US numbers unavailable.

Source: State of the Birds report 2014
stateofthebirds.org

CAUSE:
COLLISIONS

HOW TO REDUCE THEIR IMPACT:

Reduce night lighting in and on tall buildings

Warn car drivers in high-collision areas

Install flash rather than steady-burning lights on communication towers

Place wind turbines away from areas of high bird concentrations



599M / 25M
birds are killed by
building windows
annually



6.6M / 220K
birds are killed by
communication towers
annually



234K / 17K
birds are killed by
wind turbines annually



200M / 14M
birds are killed by
cars annually



30.6M / 26.5 M
birds are killed by
power lines
(collision and electrocution
combined) annually

NATIVE SONGBIRDS ARE IMPORTANT

Native songbirds are some of the most familiar wildlife to Americans, and they connect us to nature — essential for human well-being.

“Birds are our last, best connection to a natural world that is otherwise receding.” (Nat Geo)



NATIVE SONGBIRDS NEED US



**ASSOCIATION
OF ZOOS &
AQUARIUMS**

- **We** have the expertise and experience to be leaders in native songbird conservation and research.
- **We** can generate fundamental information about species biology on topics important for conservation but difficult to study in nature, (nutritional requirements, reproductive physiology, disease sensitivity).
- **We** can develop best practices for animal care, breeding, and genetic management in the event that *ex situ* management is deemed essential to avoid extinction.
- **We** can drive North American songbird conservation.
- **We** can act as hubs to help grow essential networks and partnerships



- 1) **Promote North American songbirds in AZA accredited zoos and aquariums**
- 2) **Establish husbandry and management best practices for native songbirds**
- 3) **Partner with in situ organizations to enhance conservation of N.American species in the wild**
- 4) **Serve as expert advisors to programs seeking guidance on captive management**
- 5) **Promote and support Migratory Bird Day in zoos and aquariums**
- 6) **Streamline permitting processes for acquisition of native songbirds**
- 7) **Establish best practices for wild acquisition**
- 8) **Promote window collision prevention and Fatal Light Awareness Programs (FLAP) in zoos and aquariums, and our local communities**

What has NASWG done to date since its founding in 2017?

- NASWG up and running with core team members and advisors
- Working closely with C2S2 on its songbird initiative
- Organized this workshop!
- Answering your questions
- NA songbird survey
- Making connections with local and national federal and conservation agencies
- Listserve postings, raising awareness

Future plans

- AKF dedicated native songbird issue
- Annual newsletter – summer 2018
- IMBD events



AVIAN CONSERVATION
AZA-Accredited Zoos and Aquariums
Work to Save Local Bird Species

SAVING ASIAN SONGBIRDS
Many Asian Songbirds
on Verge of Disappearing

TAKING FLIGHT
Making Zoos and Aquariums
Safer for Wild Birds



C2S2

Create a vision for saving North American songbirds and to develop strategies for linking *in situ* and *ex situ* efforts through a One Plan Approach



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