



**NORTH AMERICAN SONGBIRD WORKING GROUP**

An initiative of the AZA PaCCT TAG

# What we do

Advocate for native songbirds



Yellow-breasted chat photo by Eric Peterson

## Vision

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



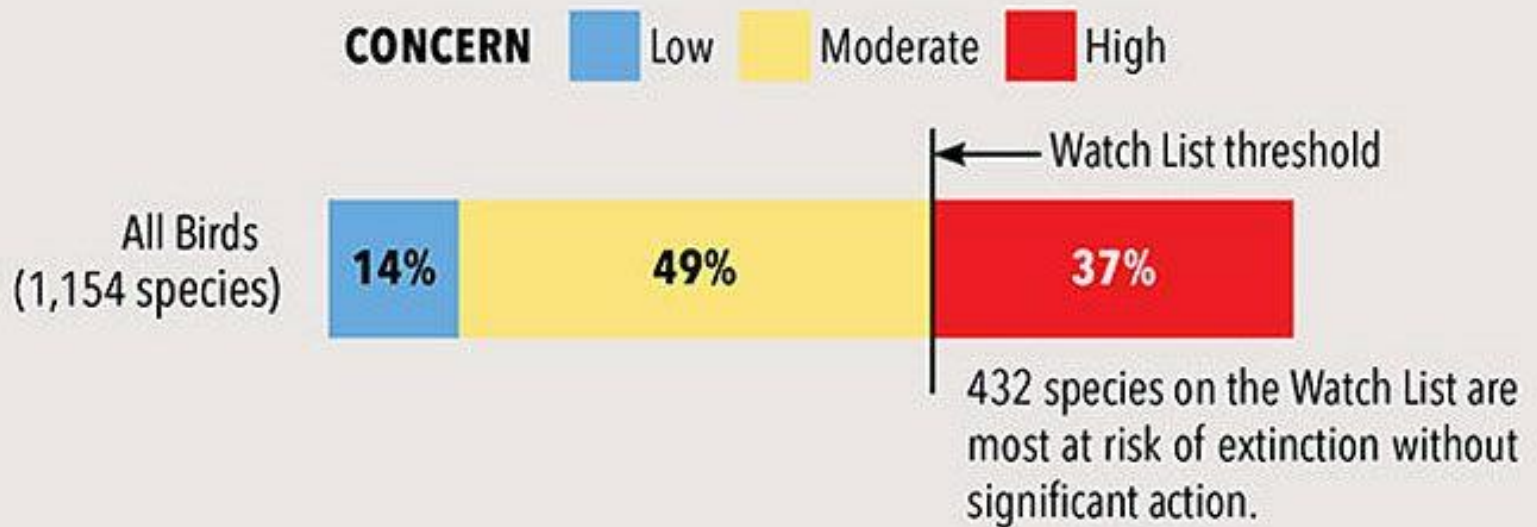
## Mission










To raise awareness of issues facing North American songbirds and to promote their conservation within AZA facilities

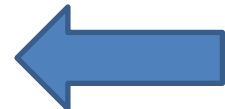
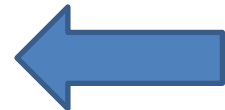
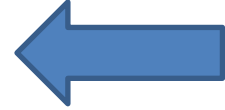
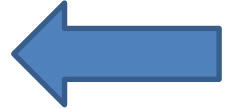
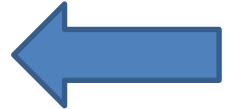


Painting bunting photo by Eric Peterson

# ONE-THIRD OF ALL NORTH AMERICAN BIRD SPECIES NEED URGENT CONSERVATION ACTION



	HABITAT	PERCENTAGE ON THE WATCHLIST
	<b>Oceans</b> <i>IN CRISIS</i> Seabird populations have crashed since the 1950s, a warning that our oceans are stressed.	<b>57%</b> OF 54 SPECIES
	<b>Tropical Forests</b> <i>IN CRISIS</i> The continent's cradle of diversity is under siege from deforestation and fragmentation.	<b>56%</b> OF 478 SPECIES
	<b>Coasts</b> <i>STEEP DECLINES</i> Species that breed in mangroves, saltmarshes, and sandy beaches are of highest concern.	<b>37%</b> OF 164 SPECIES
	<b>Aridlands</b> <i>STEEP DECLINES</i> Vast open spaces support unique birds sensitive to development and overgrazing.	<b>28%</b> OF 64 SPECIES
	<b>Grasslands</b> <i>STEEP DECLINES</i> Once the heart of our continent; now sustainable grazing programs offer hope for what remains.	<b>27%</b> OF 45 SPECIES
	<b>Temperate Forests</b> <i>MIXED STATUS</i> With more forest today than 100 years ago, conservation centers on age diversity and fire regimes.	<b>22%</b> OF 144 SPECIES
	<b>Tundra</b> <i>MIXED STATUS</i> Challenges include climate change and threats along migration routes.	<b>20%</b> OF 78 SPECIES
	<b>Wetlands</b> <i>MIXED STATUS</i> Most wetland bird species are widespread and common thanks to intensive efforts to restore wetlands.	<b>19%</b> OF 171 SPECIES
	<b>Boreal Forest</b> <i>MIXED STATUS</i> Boreal forest is 80% intact and supports 3+ billion birds; resident species are faring better than migrants.	<b>19%</b> OF 73 SPECIES





## COMMON BIRDS IN STEEP DECLINE

Chimney swift, loggerhead shrike, horned lark, bank swallow, verdin, varied thrush, snow bunting, Cape May warbler, blackpoll warbler, Wilson's warbler, field sparrow, lark bunting, grasshopper sparrow, eastern meadowlark, rusty blackbird, Brewer's blackbird, common grackle, pine siskin

# 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**

U.S. Canada

\* 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

# How we advocate

- Animal Keepers Forum
- AZA network (aka aig listserve)
- AZA Connect
- Annual Newsletter
- AZA conferences
- ASAG website  
([www.aviansag.org](http://www.aviansag.org))





# Issues/Causes that are important to us

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- Cats
- Glass strike prevention
- Lights Out
- WMBD
- Developing husbandry
- Increasing awareness of native songbirds



Altamira oriole photo by Eric Peterson

# Issues/Causes that are important to us

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- C2S2 songbird initiative
- Motus stations
- Welfare of rehab songbirds
- Education
- Native songbird trafficking
- Emerging health issues



Blue grosbeak photo by Eric Peterson

# Who we are



## Core Team

- Sara Hallager  
Smithsonian National Zoological Park (Co-Chair)  
(Husbandry Champion)
- Nikki Smith  
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (Co-Chair) (Husbandry  
Champion)
- Anne Tieber  
Saint Louis Zoo (World Migratory Bird Day  
Champion)
- Shane Good  
Akron Zoo (Glass Strike Prevention Champion; Lights out  
Champion)
- Jason Fischer  
Disney's Animal Kingdom (Research Advisor)
- Tom Schneider  
Detroit Zoological Society (Urban Bird Treaty Champion)
- Bonnie Van Dam  
Detroit Zoological Society (Glass Strike Prevention  
Champion)
- Lindsay Jacks  
Lights out Baltimore (Glass Strike Prevention Champion)

# Who we are

## Advisors

Danielle Ross	Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; The Wilds (Education Advisor)
Matt Igleski	Lincoln Park Zoo (Education Advisor)
Rhana Paris	NC Aquarium on Roanoke Island (Education Advisor)
Kelly Vineyard	Columbus Zoo and Aquarium (Husbandry Advisor)
Joe Smith	Ft Wayne's Children's Zoo (Veterinary Advisor)
Kim Cook	Akron Zoo (Veterinary Advisor)
Eric Peterson	Utah's Hogle Zoo (Photographer)
Mike Kreger	Columbus Zoo and Aquarium; The Wilds (Conservation Advisor)
Jo Anna Lutmerding	USFWS (Permit Advisor)
Grant Sizemore	American Bird Conservancy (Cat Advisor)
Chris Sheppard	American Bird Conservancy (Glass Collisions Advisor)
Kirby Pitchford	Birmingham Zoo (Newsletter Editor & Keeper Rep)

# Thank you!

