

Partners protecting birds in two countries

Did you know that more than 114 bird species migrate between Belize and Wisconsin? That's why we have created Birds Without Borders - *Aves Sin Fronteras*® (BWB-ASF). This is a research, education and conservation project that studies birds in both places. The BWB-ASF project is sponsored by the Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, both based in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, U.S.A. BWB-ASF has many Belizean partners, including the Belize Zoo and Tropical Education Center, and more than 10 Belizean landowners. BWB-ASF has worked with the government of Belize and always has received the necessary permits from the Conservation Division of the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Environment and Industry.

Since 1997, BWB-ASF has worked in Belize to study and protect migratory and resident bird species. Our Belize staff are all Belizeans, and 21 Belizeans have been trained while working with BWB-ASF. Now, five full-time Belizean staff members work year-round to manage the project and do research in Belize.

How does this work help you? The research we conduct is helping landowners in Belize and Wisconsin make better choices on how to manage their land for the benefit of both birds and people! Learn more about our research at:

<http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/research.php>

How are we helping birds? We created a wildlife sanctuary in Belize. The Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc., purchased 6,009 acres of land in central Belize and manages this land as the Runaway Creek Nature Preserve. The land provides large expanses of undisturbed habitats for birds, endangered animals, and rare plants.



Black-cowled Oriole
by James Beveridge

Birds are amazing animals.

The more you know about them, the more they can help you.

Are you a landowner?

Are you a farmer?

Are you a student who wants to help your family and your community?

Open this brochure to find:

- Ten ways birds help you
- Ten ways you can help birds

Want to learn even more?

Get a beautiful book with many wonderful bird photos for FREE. See the back of this brochure.

Or find this book on our Web site:

<http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/>

Adults and children will love the color pictures of birds they see in their yards. Learn the birds' names and what they like to eat. Landowners and farmers will discover the many ways that protecting birds can help them.

Learn more about birds.

Get a **FREE** copy of our guide for Belize landowners: *The Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras*® *Recommendations for Landowners: How to Manage Your Land to Help Birds.* Children will love this book, too, for all its pictures. Contact:

Birds Without Borders - Aves Sin Fronteras®
Forest Drive, Help for Progress Building
P.O. Box 97
Belmopan City, Cayo District
Belize

Phone: 822-0236

E-mail: bwbasf@btl.net

<http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/>

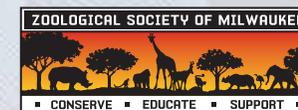
To support this very important conservation effort and assist in combating global warming, please make a tax-exempt gift to the:

Foundation for Wildlife Conservation, Inc.
(BWB-ASF)
10005 W. Blue Mound Road
Milwaukee, WI, 53226
U.S.A.

or go to our Web address:

<http://www.zoosociety.org/Conservation/BWB-ASF/>

Thank you.



Saving Birds Helps Us All



Red-legged Honeycreeper by Richard Brodzeller

Tennessee Warbler by Richard Brodzeller

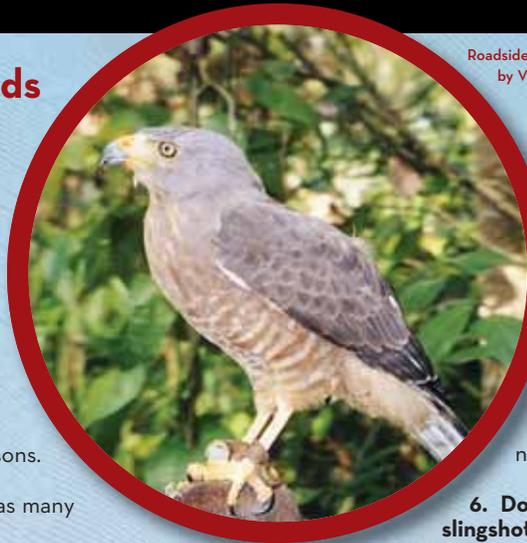
Helping Birds, Helping You

10 ways birds help you

- 1. Birds control insects.** They eat insects such as caterpillars that can damage crops, gardens and forests.
- 2. Birds control pests.** Hawks and owls feed on mice and rats that like to eat human food.
- 3. Birds spread seeds.** Seeds spread by bird droppings allow new trees and other plants to grow without people having to plant them.
- 4. Birds pollinate plants.** Nectar-drinking birds like hummingbirds pollinate plants as they visit flowers seeking nectar. Plants, crops, and trees wouldn't grow without birds and insects to pollinate them.
- 5. Birds belong to the food chain.** Birds and their eggs provide food for predators, including other birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and humans.
- 6. Birds clean up dead things.** Vultures and some hawks eat roadkill and dead livestock. If birds did not eat dead things, these would last (and smell bad!) for a long time.
- 7. Birds offer enjoyment.** Many people enjoy bird-watching and listening to bird songs.
- 8. Birds bring tourism dollars to Belize.** Belize has over 570 species of birds. These beautiful birds bring many tourists who love bird-watching. The money spent by tourists makes an important contribution to Belize's economy.
- 9. Birds have cultural significance.** Feathers may be used in some Maya, Inca, Aztec and North American Indian ceremonies. In the past, people observed bird migration to help them determine appropriate times to plant and harvest crops.
- 10. Birds warn us when our environment is not healthy.** Birds are sensitive to disturbances in the environment. By observing bird behavior and comparing numbers of each bird species from year to year, humans can monitor the environment's health.

10 ways you can help birds

- 1. Preserve and protect native plants that are growing on your land.** Native plants are those that are naturally found in Belize. If you are planning to plant some flowers or trees, choose plants that are native to Belize. Why native plants?
 - They provide fruits, insects and nectar for many birds.
 - They provide shelter and places for birds to build nests.
 - They tolerate both the wet and dry seasons.If you must clear part of your land, leave as many native trees and plants as possible.
- 2. Try to preserve the natural habitats that are present on your land.** (Habitat is a place where birds and other animals naturally and normally live.) The most important habitats are those that are not changed by people. If you need to clear an area of land, leave as much natural vegetation as possible.
- 3. If you have naturally occurring water on your land, preserve it for birds.** Water that occurs naturally, such as flowing streams, small ponds or flooded areas in savannas, can provide birds with much-needed water and/or food. (Stagnant ponds or bird baths provide breeding areas for mosquitoes and should not be used unless they are emptied, rinsed and filled with fresh water every day.)
- 4. Help preserve dead trees and stumps where birds nest.** Many birds nest in holes (cavities) found in living and dead standing trees and stumps, old termite or wasp nests, on cliffs and in the walls of archeological temples. You can help cavity-nesting birds by saving dead trees instead of cutting them down and by leaving termite nests in trees.



Roadside Hawk
by Vicki Piaskowski

- 5. Avoid using pesticides whenever possible. If you must use pesticides, use them wisely, according to the directions on the label.** Birds can be sensitive to and harmed by chemicals we use to control pests in our gardens, fields, orchards and plantations. Remember, birds can do natural pest control.

- 6. Don't kill or harm birds with slingshots or pellet guns for sport.** Instead, use non-living objects like an old can, plastic bottles or drawings for target practice.

- 7. Do not trap or cage wild birds for pets.** Keeping wild birds as pets is illegal in Belize. Report people who have wild birds as pets to the Conservation Unit, Forestry Department. Your report will be kept confidential.
- 8. Prevent injury to birds from hitting glass windows.** Glass is invisible to birds and can reflect images of the sky, trees and plants. You can prevent bird-window collisions by closing curtains or blinds when birds are active, hanging ribbons or streamers in front of windows, and moving houseplants so that they are not directly in front of windows.
- 9. Support or volunteer for groups that work for conservation and educate people about conservation.** Belize has several conservation and conservation-education organizations working to protect Belize's environment and its birds and other wildlife. Many of these groups are looking for volunteers.

Two examples of conservation groups are:

- Belize Audubon Society (phone: 223-5004, located at 12 Fort Street, Belize City, Web site: www.belizeaudubon.org)
 - the Toledo Institute for Development and Environment (phone: 722-2274, located at 1 Mile San Antonio Road, Punta Gorda Town, Web site: www.tidebelize.org)
- 10. Get people excited about birds.** Help count birds with the Belize Audubon Society. Contact their main office (above) for information. Learn about birds and other animals in programs led by conservation and conservation-education organizations.

You can make a big difference in helping Belize's birds. To help save larger areas of habitat, talk with your neighbors and friends to see if they are interested in joining with you to conserve and protect birds.



Collared Aracari
by Nick Stephens



Crested Guan
by Nick Stephens



Red-ored Parrot
by Vicki Piaskowski

