

Habitat Happenings

SAVING BIRDS THRU HABITAT NEWSLETTER

November, 2019, Volume 18, Number 2

SBTH Goes to Washington

This past spring, American Bird Conservancy's Vice-President of Policy, Steve Holmer, invited our Executive Director, Kay Charter, to join him in lobbying several members of Congress on legislation affecting birds. In mid-October, she returned from two weeks in our Capitol where she met with aides of Michigan Senators Stabenow and Peters, Congressman Jack Bergman (who represents Michigan's first district), and Illinois Congressman Mike Quigley.



Kay Charter is in front of Senator Debbie Stabenow's office with Steve Holmer, Vice President of Policy for the American Bird Conservancy, and Jennifer Cipoletti, Director of Conservation Advocacy and Director of the Bird Conservation Alliance for the American Bird Conservancy

Kay was asked to discuss three of the thirteen legislative issues American Bird Conservancy is currently working on. She opted to address neonicotinoids (systemic insecticides that stay in plants for years, killing birds, butterflies and bees), Congressman Quigley's Botany Bill (providing for research on the conservation and management of native plants). Her third subject was "longlining." Longlining is a commercial fishing technique that uses lines as long as 60 miles with thousands of baited hooks dragged behind fishing trawlers. Seabirds see the bait from the air, dive down to snag it, get hooked and drown. Some seabirds, especially albatross, are now at risk of extinction because of longlining.

When Kay arrived at their first appointment, Steve Holmer and his assistant Jennifer Cipoletti were waiting for her. Steve asked her to speak first and share her history with Charter Sanctuary and Saving Birds.

"You'll be the star," he said. "Politicians like to know what their constituents are doing, especially if it is something like Saving Birds."

At each office, Kay presented an inscribed copy of Doug Tallamy's excellent book, *Bringing Nature Home*. (Senator Peters' aide was so

excited about the book he said would read it before the Senator returned from recess.) Discussions about the three pieces of legislation followed with the aides, Steve, Jennifer and Kay. Information on all issues was well received at every office.

"Having the opportunity to speak to people who can really make a difference was one of the highlights of my career as a conservationist," Kay said. Better yet, she reports that she has been invited to return next year.

If you would like to have more information about the issues Kay addressed, go to: abcbirds.org, click

on Get Involved, and drop down to Birds in Crisis (under "Snowy Owl"). There you will find petitions regarding legislation ABC is working on. Signatures are welcome and encouraged. 🐸



Mike Dawson Taught Us About Michigan's Frogs

On Saturday, June 29, Michael Dawson presented a program about the 13 frog and toad species of Michigan, and how to identify the different species based on their breeding calls. He explained the importance of frogs and toads to ecosystems where they occur, and what's happening to our amphibian friends both globally and in our own communities. After his presentation, he led a "frog walk" on Charter Sanctuary.

Mike is a conservation educator for the Saint Louis Zoo's Education Department. He is also the Saint Louis Zoo's FrogWatch Chapter coordinator and adjunct professor at Webster University where he teaches courses in Animal Behavior and Citizen Science. Mike was so struck with the numbers of frogs on Charter Sanctuary that he readily accepted an invitation to return next year. Watch for his evening frog walks in our spring edition. 🐸



Green Frog on Lily Pad in Saving Birds' Pond

Website: www.savingbirds.org

Executive Director

Kay Charter

Board Members:

Bert Thomas, President
Carol Ross, Secretary

Sheen Watkins, Vice President
Dave Watkins, Treasurer

Brian Allen Barb Richman
Dave Barrons Jack Dunn
Lisa Six Jim Kartsimas

Honorary Board Member: Doug Tallamy

Advisor to the Board: Dr. Greg Butcher

Technical Advisor: David Dister

Edited by: Kathie Snedeker, Kay Charter



SBTH Educates and Inspires

By Glen Chown, Executive Director for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy



In the middle of June, present and past board members went to visit the grassland at the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy's T. S. Mott Nature Preserve. From left are Dave Watkins, GTRLC's Angie Lucas, Mary Valpey, Jack Dunn, Kay Charter, Brian Allen, Bobbie Poor, Bert Thomas, Diane Thomas, John Erb, Gina Erb, and Marlin Bussey.

Saving Birds Thru Habitat is forward-looking! You educate landowners, children, and the general public on the importance of native plants and the insect biomass they support, and why we need to protect and restore critical habitat for our bird species. Your organization has proven that installing native plants and winning the war on invasive species is not an insurmountable task. It can be done, and the joy of seeing bird populations thrive as a result of your work is inspiring.

Here is a great example that SBTH members should be proud of. Your organization provided inspiration for the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy to embark on a 300-acre grassland restoration effort on a fallow farmland, located within Arcadia Dunes: The C.S. Mott Nature Preserve. In 2005, active local birders brought the area to the Conservancy's attention. Their monitoring efforts revealed a number of declining bird species that are dependent on quality grassland habitat for survival. However, with invasive species like spotted knapweed beginning to move aggressively into the area there was considerable urgency to act before the area became a "biological desert" rather than an oasis for our feathered friends.

As we were laying the groundwork for this large-scale and rather daunting project, Kay Charter was kind enough to present information to our staff on not only why we should consider a restoration using native grassland species, but also how we could be successful. This certainly fired up our team as we prepared to take on this significant challenge.

Ed. Note: The Conservancy has doubled the size of this project since its inception. 🐦



Glen Chown is right when he says the Saving Birds is forward looking. Two months ago an alarming report published in *ScienceNews* stated that one in four of North America's birds have quietly vanished. That came as a startling surprise to many people, but it did not surprise us. After all, this organization was founded 18 years ago because we knew that birds were declining at an unsustainable rate.

A state of the birds report from 2014 reported that one sixth of our birds needed "Urgent Conservation Action." Two years later, that number doubled to a third. Sadly, 90% of the losses were songbirds like warblers, swallows, sparrows, finches, and blackbirds.

Habitat loss and degradation is the number one cause. That includes the loss of habitat to invasive species like autumn olive and spotted knapweed. Check out "Habitat Hints" on our website. The first of twelve hints is to use native plants. It is those plants that host the insect abundance that our birds depend on – especially during breeding season.

The next two causes listed for the declines are window strike kills and free ranging cats. These are also numbers two and three on our Habitat Hints.

More recently we began to raise the alarm about pesticides – especially systemic insecticides known as "neonicotinoids." This issue was one our director spoke on when she went to DC to lobby for birds.

We have invited many speakers, both nationally known and local experts, to join us for educational events. As we move forward, we will be staying up to date on the issues facing our birds and sharing information on ways to mitigate them. We hope you will continue to join us - and then get involved in the solutions. 🐦

The Ron Brown Academy Program Continues



We are still providing bird conservation education and field trips for the Ronald Brown Academy - and will be underwriting our seventh year in 2020. 🐦

From the Executive Director's Desk

by Kay Charter

Saving Birds is Forward Looking

The recent report about the serious loss of native birds (one in four over the last 50 years) did not come as a surprise to me. Twenty-seven years ago, the decline of our native bird populations was brought home in a personal and heartbreaking way. I had the good fortune to watch as a pair of Winter Wrens coaxed their nestlings from under the brush pile on the lake front property where my late husband and I then lived. Winter Wrens are a special favorite of mine; their song is so rich and melodic that it brings joy to my soul.


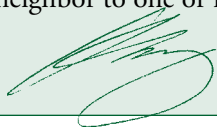
But as I watched the little family scurry over the forest floor, the thrill of seeing them turned to anguish as I reflected on their decline and the awareness that those losses were largely the result of people like my husband and me destroying their breeding habitat for our own use.

That heartbreaking awareness was the inspiration for selling our lakefront home to purchase 47 acres that became Charter Sanctuary, and the later creation of this organization. Because not all species have lost ground (no one would suggest that either Canada or Snow Goose populations are declining – and the Sandhill Crane population was estimated around 9,000 in 1977 and today is 650,000), some declining species have lost more than 25%.

When we bought this property in 1993, there were three nesting pairs of Black-billed Cuckoos and one pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos. And during our first spring, I watched a “wave” of warblers move past the bay window in our living room that included 13 separate species. The cuckoos quietly vanished about ten years ago, and there were no more warbler waves after that first one. Grassland birds have all but disappeared, and our nesting Tree Swallow population has dropped by 70%.

Glen Chown, Executive Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has said that Saving Birds is forward-looking. And so we are. We began sounding the alarm about the devastating losses in our bird populations nearly twenty years ago, and we have cited exactly the reasons for those losses identified in the report: Habitat loss; free ranging cats, and window crashes are at the top of the list.

We also educate people on how to mitigate those losses in events and special speakers that we host from late spring through early fall. You can help spread the word by attending our events and bringing a friend or neighbor to one or more of those events.



Letter From Our Board President

by Bert Thomas

Hello everyone. I am sure you have seen disturbing news about the decline of bird populations across the U.S., so we know our mission remains as essential as ever. Good news is the bald eagle population continues to rebound in Michigan and elsewhere and the Kirtland warbler is off the endangered list. And increasingly there's a buzz about native plants.

Our simple message is as fresh as it was in the beginning. Distilled it means stop or cut back significantly the use of chemical herbicides and pesticides for all the obvious reasons you know well. Find ways to avoid bird collisions with your windows. And for cripes sake, plant natives when revising your landscapes. And tell others. Amazing things can happen in our own backyards if we work with nature and not against it.

You may think we're just a boring old board of directors, but we actually have fun together, helping Kay, helping out at functions. We've also instituted new policies to help focus on essential areas and created several advisory groups to explore important topics in an organized fashion. New board member Barb Richman has revitalized our member and donor database. Jim Kartsimas joined the board this year and brings a sound understanding of financial matters. But we had to say goodbye to retiring directors Barb Nowinski and former president Linda Ketterer.

Core board responsibilities have not changed – raising funds and ensuring donations are spent wisely (Kay does that to perfection). Imagine, our Executive Director was able to go to D. C. at the behest of the American Bird Conservancy to lobby Congress. She'll be returning there, too. Think how much that raises our visibility!

I am pleased so many of you responded to notices to renew memberships, and some even increased their donations. This has helped us make all programs (except our fundraising event!) free for all. We thank you for being so generous. Free programs will bring more people to hear great speakers and learn about the good work we do.

This isn't an organization for bird watchers; it's an organization for birds. I'm a birder in my heart more than my head, so I am still learning. A book I'm reading is *What the Robin Knows* by Jon Young. Who knew?

If you have any questions or comments, please drop me a note at bertthomas@gmail.com. Have a marvelous winter!



Bert Thomas

SBTH Board of Directors President



The Secret Lives of Birds

On Saturday, June 8, Howard Youth – Senior Editor for the American Bird Conservancy presented a program about “The Secret Life of Birds.” More than 70 people joined us for his presentation answering



that question. Once our striking summer migrants, like Baltimore Orioles, Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanagers and others finish their breeding cycle, they disappear until the following spring. Where do they go and how do they survive? Howard spent three years in Nicaragua observing these and other North American birds. Each year from October through April, species we consider to be our birds - orioles, tanagers, buntings, and others

Indigo Bunting was one of the species Howard watched in Nicaragua.

- spend more time in the tropics than they do on breeding grounds in the United States. Howard shared information about the strange distribution of wintering Neotropical migrants, and how, in the steamy Tropical lands south of our border, species from the western part of North America join those from our area. Many adjust their diets and behaviors; some change from insects to fruits and berries. Others, which can be highly territorial on their breeding grounds, are much more communal.

Howard became smitten with herons while visiting Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge in 1978 and has been an avid birder since. As a free-lance writer, his articles have appeared in many publications. In 2014, he authored the Field Guide to the Natural World of Washington, D.C., which highlights the wild places and flora and fauna of the Nation’s Capitol. He has lived and birded extensively in Ecuador, Nicaragua, Canada, Spain, and India. 🐦

A Speaker’s Impression of Saving Birds

By Howard Youth, Sr. Editor for American Bird Conservancy

I’d read about Saving Birds Thru Habitat but actually being here on the ground really drives home a clear message: One person – each of us – can make a huge difference for birds and their habitats. Each individual effort adds to the much-needed forward motion that saves our meadows, wetlands, forests, and thickets. Every contribution or hour volunteered to this organization is helping to spread the word about how all of us on our own properties, and in our local parks or other public lands, need to focus on birds. If birds aren’t doing well, often we and other creatures are ailing.

Walk the Charter Sanctuary and see all the bird activity. Then think. This is a great place to think. Think about what’s feeding those birds. Think about what’s fueling them and their growing nestlings. Insects. Insects powered by native plants. Native plants thriving when invasive exotic weeds are removed. Soil that’s rejuvenated by the plants. And so it goes. A contribution to Saving Birds Thru Habitat is a gift to our future, and the future birds touch all of us. 🐦



The pond at Saving Birds Thru Habitat



The Youths’ garden plants include rosemary, sedum autumn joy, and perennial salvia. In the back, in summer, you can see jewelweed, arrowwood viburnum, pawpaw, and a sassafras tree – all of which they planted to attract and shelter birds and insects.



This image shows the same area, but in spring, when the arrowwood viburnum is flowering, attracting insects. The jewelweed is lower. You can also see, in the back left, a native fringe-tree.

Howard Youth Walks the Talk

Howard practices what Saving Birds preaches - let’s all work to help our native birds. He lives with his family in a home with a small yard in densely populated Bethesda, MD. He helps in two ways: he has created a safe haven of native plants in his yard, and he spends time on weekends attacking porcelain-berry, a horticultural plant that is so invasive that the Virginia Native Plant Society says it is making a “bold attempt at taking over the world.” At our request, he sent photos of his yard, which has hosted nesting Gray Catbirds, Northern Cardinals, Northern Mockingbirds and Song Sparrows. Avian visitors include foraging post-breeding Northern

Flickers, Great Crested Flycatchers, woodpeckers and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Migrants visiting his yard include: Cape May and Black-throated Blue Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Red-eyed Vireo. His “yard bird” list (birds seen in or from his yard) stands at 124 species including the latest... a Barred Owl.

Howard’s yard is proof positive that you don’t have to have acres of land in order to make a difference for birds. If you want to help our declining bird populations, you can do the same in your yard – regardless of size. 🐦



Jerry Weinrich, Official Federal and State Bald Eagle Counter Reports

Jerry Weinrich, retired Michigan DNR biologist, filled Saving Birds Thru Habitat's nature center giving his program about the status of Bald Eagles in Michigan. Jerry has been the official state and federal eagle (and Osprey) counter for decades. He shared population numbers from the time the birds were first declared endangered in the 1970's - less than 30 nesting pairs in the Lower Peninsula - to this year's numbers - more than 700 nesting pairs in the Lower Peninsula. He also said part of that increase is due to the fact that although conservationists once believed our national symbol only nested in more remote and wild areas, in fact they are far more opportunistic. Nests now occur in developed areas - especially around golf courses. Several birds are nesting in yards of private homes. Someone in the audience asked Jerry if there was an estimated ceiling on the numbers of Bald Eagle nests in the Lower Peninsula and Jerry answered that, because they are so much more opportunistic than first believed, that question can't be answered.

Jerry and his wife Darlene are long time supporters of Saving Birds Thru Habitat. 🐦



Jerry answering questions after his presentation.

NEW FEATURE



THE POWER of ONE

Brian Allen Acts on Behalf of Upland Sandpipers

In each edition, we will select one individual who has made a difference for birds and/or the pollinators that make up their food base. This first column is about an action by Saving Birds' Board Member Brian Allen. Brian was driving by the Manistee County Blacker Airport when he saw an Upland Sandpiper. He also noticed a mower cutting grass nearby. He immediately contacted Airport Manager Barry Lind. Following their conversation, Brian sent him the following email message:

Hi, this is Brian Allen. Thanks for taking the time to meet with me yesterday afternoon when I stopped by. I appreciate you taking the time to talk about Upland Sandpipers at the airport with me.

Here is a link from Cornell University with a brief summary about the bird: https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Upland_Sandpiper/overview

Also here is a link to one of the websites that record bird data from Manistee County Blacker Airport: <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3762563>

These scarce birds are now more than ever depending on areas with open grassland like the airport. They nest in late May and June and then migrate south as early as mid July. Mowing grassland areas where they nest before the end of June can destroy nests and young birds. There are few, if any, other areas in the county now with these birds and the next nearest population I know of is in an area of protected grassland in the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore in Leelanau County.

In addition to the Sandpipers, other scarce birds such as Eastern Meadowlarks, Bobolinks and Brewer's Blackbirds are also utilizing the grasslands of the airport.

Thanks for your flexibility you expressed for the mowing to be reduced in some areas prior to the end of June.

Please contact me if you have any questions or I can help in any way with additional information.

- Brian Allen

Ed. Note: Mr. Lind did delay cutting, and as far as Brian knows, the birds were successful. 🐦

What is the Truth?

By John Putnam

Professor Emeritus, US Air Force Academy

Last September, the journal *ScienceNews* reported the number of birds in Canada and the USA has declined by three billion (nearly



John Putnam (right) talks with Jerry Weinrich, after Jerry's eagle presentation.

30%) since 1970. But my friend Morgan S. did not believe the report. He couldn't wait to tell me that birds are doing very well. "Every May, migrating songbirds passing through my yard are as abundant as ever," he said.

This is a prime example of anecdotal evidence of one individual's experience at a single location as opposed to scientifically recorded data collected over an entire continent. It is also important to note that they may not be mutually exclusive. In fact, they may both be true.

Scientific explanations emerge from an established methodology, and have a reliable track record. But Morgan has observed North American bird migration for years. Whenever we have questions about the natural world, should we favor science's explanations over a friend's years-long anecdotal observations?

Join us next summer to explore this question further, and - to think about our thinking! (Dates will be announced in our spring edition.)

John Putnam is a happily retired medical entomologist. He served three years in the Peace Corps (Thailand), and thirty in the US Air Force. John spent most of his career at the Air Force Academy as a professor in the Department of Biology. Recently, John and his wife Wanchalee returned to his father's hometown, Omena, where spends his summers sailing and drinking coffee. 🐦

Kama's Walk With Doug



Kama Ross is Forestry Assistance Program Forester for Leelanau, Benzie and Grand Traverse Conservation Districts.

I was at Saving Birds Thru Habitat on Saturday, August 24th for a wonderful "Bug Walk" With Doug Tallamy. And though we barely "walked," I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to meet someone I quote almost every time I speak to forest landowners about native plants. All around us were native plants and insects to observe, identify and talk about. I came away with such an appreciation for the life work that Doug has provided our community of environmentalists. We all have our strengths and areas of expertise and I firmly believe that together, we are doing such important work.

Doug's analogies in his writings and presentations are powerful and a great gift to the cause of saving native habitats. Doug has a lot of statistics and data from solid research and his lifetime of observations that doesn't paint a very optimistic future for this planet. But he was able to share the truth with such passion and enthusiasm for what we CAN DO together. I left the morning walk with more hope and energy to share the bad and good that we are all facing together. Thanks Doug Tallamy and Saving Birds Thru Habitat for giving me such an inspiring morning. 🐦

Our August Fundraiser

Doug Tallamy returned to Omena again as the featured speaker for our annual fundraiser. More than 80 people joined us for great music by The True Falsettos, wine and food and our silent auction. Doug's new book, *Nature's Best Hope*, will be out early next year. Famed author, Richard Louv, said about this new volume: "Doug Tallamy is a quiet revolutionary and a hero of our time, taking back the future one yard at a time. In *Nature's Best Hope*, he shows how each of us can help turn our cities, towns and world into engines of biodiversity and human health." —Richard Louv, author of *The Nature Principle* and *Last Child in the Woods*.

Saving Birds will have this book in stock as soon as we can order it.



Doug speaks about the importance of preserving habitat for caterpillars by installing the plants that support them. He refers to caterpillars as "baby food for birds."



Supporters Debby and Les Disch at fundraiser.



Board Vice President Dave Watkins (center) with member volunteers Dave Williams and Ann Hooper.

Four Season Nursery and Grant from Leelanau Township Community Foundation Underwrites Our Community Tree Planting Day



On Saturday, September 7, thirty participants, young and older, joined us under a tent for a PowerPoint presentation by our Executive Director, Kay Charter, on the importance of native vegetation to the insects that support our birds. Following the presentation, everyone received a tee shirt designed for the event. After lunch, participants then moved to Charter Sanctuary to plant 250 trees. The trees were shipped to Four Season Nursery in April as



Our youngest worker was quite a gal; she was determined to do it all by herself.

bare root seedlings, where they were potted and cared for over the summer. The Leelanau Township Community Foundation grant of \$1285 underwrote the cost for the tent and tee shirts. Saving Birds provided the food and the Leelanau County Conservation District facilitated pine seedlings for each participant at a reduced cost. The new, emerging forest of white spruce, white pine, black cherry and aspen will provide for birds like orioles, grosbeaks, catbirds and robins. 🐦

Benefactor Society

By Karen Wachs, Development Advisor

Bobbie Poor, a long-time supporter and founding member of Saving Birds, recently let us know that she has designated SBTH as a beneficiary of IRA proceeds that would be paid out at the time of her death. This is what is known in the fundraising world as planned giving – a donation that is arranged in the present and allocated at a future date which is most often at the time of the donor’s death. Making a bequest in your will or trust to an organization that you care about, or naming it as a beneficiary of an insurance or retirement plan, is a lovely way to turn your support into a legacy that extends beyond your lifetime.

Bobbie Poor decided to share her story about her planned gift to SBTH because she wants other people to know about the POWER OF ONE PERSON. She wishes to set an example for others to follow.

You do not have to have great wealth to make an impact on an organization that is important to you and about whose mission you are passionate. Many people have IRAs or insurance policies for which

they have the right to designate a death beneficiary or beneficiaries. It is also very easy to make bequests to your favorite non-profits in your estate planning documents. Your personal attorney or financial advisor can easily guide you in these efforts.

Sometimes, when a non-profit organization receives a death benefit or bequest from someone it is a total surprise. Though this type of generosity is much appreciated, the downside is that the organization has not had a chance to thank the person during his or her lifetime. If you already have included SBTH in your estate plan or made any other arrangements for a future gift, we would love to know about it. If you decide to extend your commitment to SBTH beyond your lifetime, please advise us of your intentions so that we can recognize you as a member of the Saving Birds Benefactor Society.

“Our earthly possessions are, after all, but life holdings and the grace with which we part with them at the end of life’s journey shows the heart in its least disguised form.” – L Dale Dorney, Ohio philanthropist, 1886 - 1976 ✂️

Saving Birds Thru Habitat gratefully accepts gifts in honor or in memory of others. When making such a donation, please let us know who should be informed of your gift.

- Yes! I want to support Saving Birds Thru Habitat with a Membership _____ Renewal at the following level:**
- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chickadee (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bluebird (\$50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Piping Plover (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Loon (\$1000) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bald Eagle (\$5000) | Other (\$_____) |
- Nest Builders:** Those who make an annual pledge at the Bobolink level (\$250) or higher
- In memory / honor (please circle one) of: _____
- Acknowledgment card to go to: _____
- Would you prefer your membership/gift to be anonymous?
- Enclosed is my check for \$ _____
(payable to **Saving Birds thru Habitat**)

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Summer Address (if different)

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Thank you for your donation. We are a 501(c)(3) organization; your tax-deductible gift is very important to us.

Questions? Please call (231) 271-3738 or email: bobolink2000@gmail.com

SBTH • P.O. Box 288 • Omena, MI 49674 **Thank You!**



5020 N. Putnam Rd.
P.O. Box 288
Omena, MI 49674-0288
www.SavingBirds.org



Saving-Birds-Thru-Habitat

Please recycle this newsletter by sharing it with a friend. If you would like to receive your newsletter as a PDF via email, please let us know at: bobolink2000@gmail.com. Be sure to include your email address. Electronic versions will reduce paper consumption and will save the organization printing and mailing costs.

The mission of Saving Birds Thru Habitat is to protect, enhance, and restore habitat for North American birds, and to educate people of all ages about this important mission and how to achieve it. Our goal is to improve habitat for migrating birds one backyard at a time.



AmazonSmile is an automatic way for you to support Saving Birds every time you shop at Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Saving Birds. It's easy. Just designate Saving Birds Thru Habitat as your non-profit-of-choice, and then use the **smile.amazon** page to shop.

- Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same Amazon Prime benefits.
- Support your charitable organization by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Eastern Meadowlark