**Shared Birds, Shared Habitats**

**Conservation Challenges and Actions “Answer” Table**

Note: One easy solution, wherever you live, is to contribute to citizen science counts! Your data will help scientists understand where birds live and what their populations are like in your area.

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| **US Bird** | **N. American Habitat** | | **Conservation Challenge** | | **Conservation Action** |
| Blackburnian Warbler | **Boreal Forest, such as evergreen forests in Northern Canada and Alaska** | | Large parts of forests are being cut down for trees to make paper products like toilet paper and sales catalogs. Sometimes, people also cut down these forests to search for oil and other natural resources. | | I can:   * Recycle paper and encourage others to recycle. * Use less paper, including printed paper, paper towels, and even toilet paper. Take only what you actually need. * Don’t use tissue paper when wrapping gifts. * Check out books from the library instead of buying new ones. * Don’t use disposable cups and plates. * Encourage adults to think about paper products and decrease the amount of paper they use.   Adults can:   * Buy products made from recycled paper, especially toilet paper (Our average consumption of toilet paper in North America is roughly 50 pounds per person per year!) * Remove their names from catalog mailing lists. * Use cloth napkins instead of paper napkins or towels. Don’t use disposable tableware. |
| Chestnut-collared Longspur | **Temperate Grassland, such as the Great Plains of the United States.** | | Overgrazing by livestock and plowing are the two greatest threats to temperate grasslands. Since the development of the steel plow, much of these grasslands have been converted to agricultural lands because of their rich soil. About 47 percent of temperate grasslands have been converted to agriculture or urban development. Lack of fire and fragmentation are also threats. | | I can:   * Find out about “local foods,” and encourage your family to buy from local farms. * Learn more about grasslands and the resources they provide us. * Learn how to protect the environment from urban expansion and over-farming.   Adults can:   * Buy locally-produced food, available at farmer’s markets and by joining a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program if they exist in your area. * Advocate for grassland conservation. |
| Hudsonian Godwit | **Arctic Coast, such as the northern coasts of Alaska and Canada, within the Arctic Circle** | | This habitat is being destroyed by rapidly changing temperatures and weather conditions (climate change caused by greenhouse gases), and by humans drilling for oil. Climate change and oil exploration disturb the ice that the Arctic flora and fauna depend upon. | | I can:   * Walk, bike, or ride the bus to school. * Turn things off when they are not in use, unplug and use electrical appliances less. Turn off the lights when you leave a room. * Ask my parents and bus driver to turn off the car engine when we are parked. * Re-use plastic bottles rather than buying new drinks from the vending machine or store.   Adults can:   * Walk, bike, carpool, or take public transportation to work. * Drive an energy-efficient car. * Combine errands into as few trips as possible. * Don’t idle: turn the car engine off. * Purchase energy-efficient appliances and make sure their house is insulated. * Don’t set the thermostat as high/low. |
| Summer Tanager | **Temperate Eastern Forest, such as the deciduous forests in many states east of the Mississippi River** | | Forests are being cut down to give humans more space to build housing developments and roads. There is increasing demand to drill in North American forests for natural gas. Acid rain (caused by industrial and vehicle emissions) is also a threat. Another problem is the introduction of non-native plant and animal species. Non-natives may compete for food and habitat space, possibly threatening the native species. | | I can:   * Save energy: use less gas and power (see above). * Learn how I can reduce my families carbon emissions. * Write to their local, state, and U.S. representatives and urge them to protect forests and other key habitats. * Learn about energy alternatives to natural gas, such as wind and solar power.   Adults can:   * Save energy (see above) * Don’t move firewood (which can carry invasive pests). * Don’t plant invasive species. Plant native perennials when gardening. |
| Black-headed Grosbeak | **Temperate Western Forest, such as deciduous forests in northern California** | | Trees in this habitat are being destroyed by new diseases and insect pests. Acid rain (caused by industrial and vehicle emissions) is also a threat. Humans prevent forest fires, which are a normal and important part of getting rid of waste and encouraging the growth of new trees in this habitat. Forests are being flooded to make reservoirs for drinking water. | | I can:   * Save energy (see above). * Learn about bird-friendly policies on public lands (since birds control insect pests). * Encourage local leaders to support controlled burns (if you live in the temperate western forest). * Turn off the faucet while brushing teeth.   Adults can:   * Save energy (see above). * Plant native plants that are adapted for the environment and don’t need to be watered so much. * Vote for or donate to campaigns that support the effort to preserve local forests. |
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| **Tropical Resident Birds** | **Tropical Habitat** | **Conservation Challenge** | | **Conservation Action** | |
| Resplendent Quetzal;  Highland Guan; Azure-hooded Jay | **Tropical highland (cloud) forests of Central and Northern South America, such as the very humid rainforests of Costa Rica** | These rainforests are cleared for raising livestock and growing crops. The soil in these forests quickly loses its nutrients to the growing crops, so more rainforest gets cut down. | | I can:   * Raise money to protect the rainforest or raise awareness about what we can do to help. * Don’t waste food. * Learn more about deforestation and its impact on the environment. * Know where my food comes from by asking my parents at home, and cafeteria workers at school.   Adults can:   * Buy shade-grown, sustainably produced coffee and chocolate. * Make sure the timber or wood products you buy, such as furniture, are not made from trees found in the rainforest. * Burn coal instead of firewood in the fireplace during winter months. | |
| Worthen’s Sparrow; Aplomado Falcon;  Lillian’s Meadowlark | **Tropical Grasslands, such as the Chihuahuan grassland in Mexico** | Grasslands with native plants are being cleared to make space for agriculture that uses a lot of chemical fertilizer, water and energy, which are scarce resources. About 16 percent of tropical grasslands have been converted for agriculture or urban development. Desertification is also a significant threat. | | I can:   * Plant a tree or start a garden in my neighborhood or backyard. * Conserve water and energy when I can. * Find out more about reforestation projects.   Adults can:   * Become an organic grower and start or support a garden using inexpensive, natural fertilizers. * Join environmental awareness groups that would help you be an advocate of reforestation. | |
| Snowy-crowned Tern;  Two-banded Plover; Chubut Steamer Duck | **South American coastline (such as Chile’s coast)** | Overfishing and unsustainable aquaculture (such as fish and shrimp farms) are damaging this habitat and removing important species from it. Invasive species, such as rabbits, minks, cats, and a variety of plants also effect birds through competition, predation, and changing the plant communities in the area. | | I can:   * Learn about fisheries and shrimp farms and how they impact the environment and share what you’ve learned with your school. * Find other sources of protein.   Adults can:   * Avoid buying unsustainably produced seafood, especially shrimp. * Use a seafood guide to check whether a certain fish should be avoided, based on fishing practices and stock status. * Join or volunteer in a group that raises awareness about overfishing. | |
| Scarlet Macaw, Harpy Eagle\*,  Great Tinamou (KVR) | **Tropical Evergreen Forests, such as evergreen forests in the mountains of South India** | These forests are being cut down to make space for livestock and agriculture that uses a lot of chemical fertilizer, water and other precious resources | | I can:   * Eat less fast food (which often contains beef from tropical countries and is packaged in throw-away, unsustainable wrappers). * Go vegetarian once or twice a week, or eat less meat in general.   Adults can:   * Avoid buying beef from tropical countries, often found in fast food hamburgers. Choose local, grass-fed beef instead, and lessen the amount of meat servings in general. * Buy locally-raised food. * Be sure that furniture doesn’t come from threatened tropical trees. | |
| Red-breasted Chat, Purplish-backed Jay;  Mexican Wood-nymph | **Tropical deciduous forests in western Mexico and Central America, such as deciduous dry forests in Mexico and northwestern South America** | These forests are being cut down to make space for growing crops and to build resorts for tourism in coastal areas. | | I can:   * Participate in recycling programs. * Visit and support national parks. * Learn more about my carbon footprint and how I can reduce it.   Adults can:   * Choose eco-friendly vacations. * Use public transportation or carpool instead of taking the car. * Advocate on behalf of the environment in these coastal areas | |