

Dear FCC:I am an avid birder (birdwatcher) and have been for most of my life. I am 53 years old. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that avian collisions with communication towers is on the rise at an alarming rate and that something needs to be done about it NOW! In the last decade, due to the public's increased demand for cellphone, wireless internet and other forms of communication, communication towers have sprung up all over this country, many in direct paths of migratory birds. Many, many avian fatalities have occurred as a direct result. Most migratory species migrate at night and thus collide with these communication towers or guy-wires due to the lights on these structures that act as beacons to these avian travelers. I believe that the FCC has an obligation to help reduce these avian fatalities. I often find bird carcasses near these communication towers in seemingly "remote" areas here in extreme south Florida in the Big Cypress National Preserve and even in suburban settings. It is upsetting to say the least, to hold in one's hand the limp body of a Cerulean Warbler, for example, which is a federally listed threatened species, knowing all too well this bird met its hapless fate due to a human error in judgment i.e. the construction of a cellphone tower in the direct flight path of this bird! The only one who benefits from these collisions are the ornithological collections in the various public and university collections who will take these "skins" for educational purposes. Such a shame and such a needless death of such a lovely and rare bird!

A good first step in reducing bird fatalities and injuries caused by collisions with communications towers would be to require all of the different cellphone companies to share towers rather than each of them building their own. Also, cellphone transmitters should be constructed on existing structures such as highway light poles. This would eliminate a lot of eyesores as well.

Thank you for allowing me to comment.

Sincerely,

Vincent Lucas