



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL



January 19, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20554

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JAN 25 2007
FCC-MAILROOM

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

Please accept these comments regarding WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164.

I am writing to you on behalf of the 1400 members of the Birmingham Audubon Society and the Alabama Ornithological Society. We are very concerned about the millions of migratory birds that are being killed each year by collision with one of the thousands of communication towers scattered across the country. I am writing to urge you to use your authority to require communication towers to minimize these unnecessary bird deaths however possible.

The American Bird Conservancy reports that 230 individual species are known to have been killed at towers, which translates to one fourth of all bird species found in the United States. Neotropical migratory songbirds (small birds arriving from central and south America) are the most heavily affected due to their night migrations, because tower lights meant to warn human pilots actually disorient night-flying birds.

Out of these affected species, 52 have been identified by the Fish and Wildlife Service as species of concern, whose populations are already stressed from other threats. These include Black Rail, Bell's Vireo, Golden-winged Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Henslow's Sparrow, Bachman's Sparrow, and McCown's Longspur. For some species, the increased threat of tower collisions on these already at-risk populations could be enough to push them over the brink.

We rely on, benefit from, and appreciate our nation's advanced communication system. However, we also know the importance of healthy migratory bird populations as an important part of our national and international ecosystems. As simple ways to address this problem exist, such as using lights with white or red strobes, minimizing the use of guy wires, and consolidating multiple towers together, we believe it would be indefensible not to require these measures for new towers.

Please carefully consider the mounting scientific evidence of how dangerous these towers are to our migratory birds, and do everything in your power to require simple tower construction improvements that are known to minimize migratory bird deaths.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Harbor
Gregory J. Harbor, Conservation Committee
Alabama Ornithological Society
Birmingham Audubon Society

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DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

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JAN 25 2007
FCC-MAILROOM

To: FCC
Re: Tower Lighting, WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164
From: Scott Hickman, N9550 Shore Drive, AuTrain, MI 49806

Dear FCC:

I would greatly appreciate your adopting the USFWS guidelines for lighting of communication towers. In particular, I urge you to accept the USFWS and FAA's preference of medium intensity white strobe lights rather than the continuously shining red lights that birds find particularly attractive. This is a genuine chance to greatly improve the landscape for birds as the USFWS estimates that 4 - these towers kill 50 million birds/year. Research, as provided you by USFWS and the American Bird Conservancy clearly indicates that adopting this change in lighting regulations would significantly lessen the number of migratory birds killed by communication towers.

A primary question this proposal raises is likely one that is seldom addressed. Why is protection of birds desirable? Current economics, and the potential benefits we may learn from studying birds both indicate that it would be worth minimizing the number of birds inadvertently killed by towers.

The USFWS estimates that sixty-five million adults watch and/or feed birds in the U.S., spend at least 5.2 billion dollars per year to do so, and thereby support at least 200,000 American jobs. Minimizing tower kills to maintain avian populations helps to maintain this interest (fewer birds = less rewarding birding and fewer birders) and thereby, this economic asset. Similarly, the potential benefits we may derive from studying birds are great, provided we have the right birds to study. Research of singing in birds has led to detailed investigations of the avian brain. The unforeseen benefits of this research include discovery of a protein (synelfin) involved in the learning of song that is now known to also be abnormally deposited in the brains of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease patients (U of IL LAS News, Fall 1998). Hopefully, insights gained by studying this protein in birds will prove to be useful in finding cures for these diseases. Studies by Fernando Nottebohm (see Smithsonian, June 2002) demonstrated that some birds could regrow central nervous system neurons. This was a shock to researchers of human brain disorders, as no vertebrate was known to be able to regrow these cells, hence the permanent damage caused by a severed spinal cord. Nottebohm's research served as the basis for current work being done by scientists attempting to determine how to heal human patients with debilitating central nervous system damage. If there are fewer birds, there will be fewer ornithologists, fewer research specimens, and fewer unforeseen breakthroughs beneficial to human patients. Which species are needed for future breakthroughs? No one knows.

Since the change in lighting requirements can be made without compromising air safety, and since it is also in our own interest to protect birds, I urge you to adopt the USFWS and FAA's preference of medium intensity white strobe lights rather than the continuously shining red lights that migrating birds find particularly attractive. Prohibiting the use of guy-wires would also be very advantageous.

Thank you for considering this issue.

Scott Hickman

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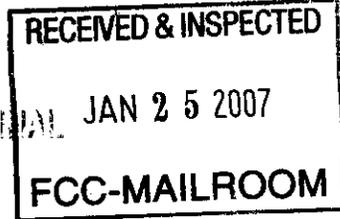
Ridgeland Family Medical Center

**305 Highway 51
Ridgeland, MS 39157**

Phone 856-9980

Fax 856-9994

**Diane Ferguson, MD
Robert Russell, MD
Christie Hull, CFNP**



DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

January 18, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I am in support of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). I am concerned about the plight of migratory birds and the role that communication towers play in this situation. Please adopt the regulations to protect migratory birds and rule requiring tower applicants to prepare an environmental assessment.

Sincerely,

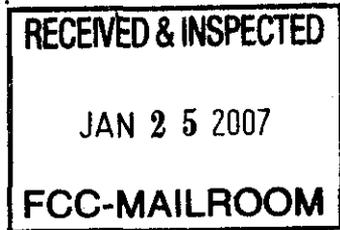
Diane Ferguson, M.D.

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Wednesday, January 17, 2007

Joshua Hough
184 Willow Springs Dr.
Talent, OR 97540

WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554



Dear Federal Communications Commission:

Please accept these comments regarding WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164. I am very concerned about the millions of migratory birds that are being killed each year by collision with one of the thousands of communication towers scattered across the country. I am writing to urge you to use your authority to require communication towers to minimize these unnecessary bird deaths however possible.

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Please carefully consider the mounting scientific evidence of how dangerous these towers are to our migratory birds, and do everything in your power to require simple tower construction improvements that are known to minimize migratory bird deaths.

Sincerely,

Joshua Hough

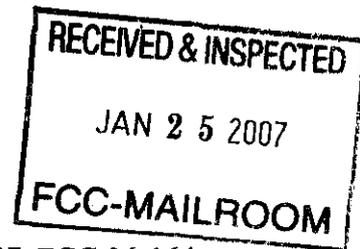
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January 19, 2007

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554



WT Docket No. 03-187, FCC 06-164

To whom it concerns:

We sincerely hope that rules will be made and followed to alleviate the massive bird mortality caused by tower kills each year. With the proliferation of towers over the past few years, the problem has grown tremendously.

Tall towers with guy wires and steady red lights on towers are death traps for migratory birds. But I'm sure you are aware of all this.

I have personally observed only one "minor" tower kill on the coast of Georgia some years ago. A relatively short tower with multitudinous guy wires and slowly blinking white lights, not strobes, killed several hundred migratory songbirds in one night. I helped retrieve almost 200 mangled bird bodies, trying to assess the species mix and overall number of birds killed. We were able to access only about 40% of the area surrounding the base of this tower because of thick under story vegetation. We extrapolated the total kill to be about 500 birds lost in one night. Multiply this by hundreds, now by thousands and project the senseless killing of some of the world's more important species.

Our birds are not only aesthetically pleasing, they are a very important part of our overall ecological picture. They have important roles to play in trying to keep our earth in a condition fit for all sentient beings to live in.

This slaughter can be reduced. Strobe lighting. No guy wires. I don't need to tell you the alternatives. You have the facts from elsewhere.

I'm a bird bander. I respect and care for every living bird that I handle, band, and release back into the wild sky. Let's spread this respect and caring. Please do what you can to adopt new standards for tower construction and lighting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doris Cohrs".

Doris Cohrs (federal banding permit #20845)
P.O. Box 1908
Darien, GA 31305

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