

Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife News

August 30, 2012

Around the Nation & World...

[Flight Risk](http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2012/08/flight-risk/?utm_source=Conservation+Magazine&utm_campaign=7a5d08e6fb-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email). Golden eagles tend to fly lower over mountaintops and ridges — some of the same areas considered most promising for wind turbine installation, researchers have found. The overlap could put this species at risk, particularly birds that are foraging for food and roosting in trees. (http://www.conservationmagazine.org/2012/08/flight-risk/?utm_source=Conservation+Magazine&utm_campaign=7a5d08e6fb-RSS_EMAIL_CAMPAIGN&utm_medium=email).

For the complete study, check out the article authored by Todd E. Katzner *et al.*, "**[Topography drives migratory flight altitude of golden eagles: implications for on-shore wind energy development](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02185.x/pdf)**" published in the Journal of Applied Ecology (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2664.2012.02185.x/pdf>).

[Bird research to help avoid wind turbine accidents](http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/08/24/bird-research-to-help-avoid-wind-turbine-incidents/). There are four radar and 16 acoustic recording devices set up throughout the Two Creeks Conservation Area in Wheatley, including on top of the toboggan hill. The devices will tell researchers the height, speed and direction birds and bats fly. Eventually researchers will design a model of behavior to use as a reference for wind turbine operators who can decide when to shut off the machines during certain migration events to prevent accidents with birds. (<http://blogs.windsorstar.com/2012/08/24/bird-research-to-help-avoid-wind-turbine-incidents/>).

[W. Va. Wind farm seeks permits for some bat kills](http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-08-23/w-dot-va-dot-wind-farm-seeks-permit-for-some-bat-kills). The operator of a southern West Virginia wind farm has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a permit that would allow the "incidental take," or killing, of endangered bats that might fly into its turbine blades. (<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/2012-08-23/w-dot-va-dot-wind-farm-seeks-permit-for-some-bat-kills>).

[NaturEner to move wind turbines to protect birds](http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_21336227/naturener-move-wind-turbines-protect-birds). NaturEner USA LLC and Montana Audubon announced Thursday the towers at the \$400 million Rim Rock Wind Farm will be moved a half mile away from the Kevin (KEE'-vin) Rim, identified as a key raptor area by the Bureau of Land Management. (http://www.mercurynews.com/california/ci_21336227/naturener-move-wind-turbines-protect-birds).

[Caithness geese fly in wind farm 'collision risk zone', says SNH report](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-19254875). Most wild geese foraging for grass in Caithness fly at a height that could put them at risk of colliding with wind turbines, according to a new report. (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-19254875>).

[Songbird elevated on 'watch' list](http://www.pressherald.com/news/nationworld/songbird-elevated-on-watch-list_2012-08-15.html). The Bicknell's thrush, which can impede wind project plans, moves closer to possible U.S. protection. (http://www.pressherald.com/news/nationworld/songbird-elevated-on-watch-list_2012-08-15.html).

Wildlife

[Bats threatened by climate change.](http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19346348#story_continues_3) Climate change threatens the future of a significant number of bat species. The foraging and feeding, roosting, range sizes and reproduction of bats will all be affected, while extreme weather and disease will also impact many bat species, they say. (http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/19346348#story_continues_3).

For the complete study, check out the article authored by Hayley A. Sherwin *et al.*, "**[The impact and implications of climate change for bats](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2907.2012.00214.x/abstract)**" published in Mammal Review (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1365-2907.2012.00214.x/abstract>).

Action Items

[Midwest Wind Energy Conservation Plan in Eight States.](#) To ensure conservation of federally-listed species while meeting the growing demand for rapid approval of wind energy plants, the Service and a coalition of eight states, The Conservation Fund, and representatives of the wind energy industry are preparing a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan.

A Notice of Intent was put into the *Federal Register* on August 30, 2012. Interested parties can submit their input, suggestions and information at this stage in the planning process. The Notice of Intent opens a 30-day public comment period that will close on October 1, 2012. (<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/>).

Upcoming Events

[The Wildlife Society Annual Conference](http://wildlifesociety.org/) is taking place in Portland, Oregon, October 13-18, 2012. There are two symposia dedicated to wind-wildlife studies: 1) Mitigating Impacts of Wind Energy Development on Golden Eagles, 2) Bats and wind energy: Ecology, behavior, and methodology. Registration for the conference is open. (<http://wildlifesociety.org/>).

[Fifth annual Nebraska Wind Conference set for October.](http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag_news/fifth-annual-nebraska-wind-conference-set-for-october/article_ff928fd5-bc66-5b66-988e-00bde5e50a13.html) The Nebraska Wind Conference, the fifth annual wind conference organized by the Nebraska Wind Conference Committee (NWCC), will be conducted Oct. 22-23, 2012 in Lincoln at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The two-day conference will focus on Nebraska's future wind energy development challenges and opportunities. (http://www.theindependent.com/news/ag_news/fifth-annual-nebraska-wind-conference-set-for-october/article_ff928fd5-bc66-5b66-988e-00bde5e50a13.html).

The **[Wind Wildlife Research Meeting](http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/researchmeetingix.aspx)** will be held on November 27-30, 2012 in Denver, CO. Topics of interest for the meeting include assessing direct and indirect effects on wildlife and their habitats, evaluating approaches used to avoid and minimize impacts, testing the efficacy of mitigation and conservation measures, and considering the context of wind energy development among other energy choices. (<http://www.nationalwind.org/issues/wildlife/researchmeetingix.aspx>).

Around Nebraska...

[Construction nearly done on Broken Bow wind farm turbines.](http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/construction-nearly-done-on-broken-bow-wind-farm-turbines/article_de4a15e8-e6f5-11e1-8770-0019bb2963f4.html) The 50 General Electric 1.6 megawatt turbines will have the capacity to generate 80 megawatts of power. Richardson said the towers run for approximately 20 miles from northwest to southeast and the sites involve leases with 18 landowners. . (http://www.kearneyhub.com/news/local/construction-nearly-done-on-broken-bow-wind-farm-turbines/article_de4a15e8-e6f5-11e1-8770-0019bb2963f4.html).

[Edison's Broken Bow Wind Project Nears Completion.](http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10307) The wind turbines are scheduled to be commissioned in the first week of September and will start "hitting the grid" by the second week of September. NOTE: In the article, it states that Edison Mission Group (EMG) has another wind project, Crofton Bluffs. In addition to these two projects, EMG also operates Elkhorn Ridge and Laredo Ridge wind projects in Nebraska. (http://www.nawindpower.com/e107_plugins/content/content.php?content.10307).

Check out the **Nebraska Wind Energy and Wildlife Project website** at: <http://snr.unl.edu/renewableenergy/wind/> and **Wind Energy and Wildlife news** at: <http://www.scoop.it/t/wind-energy-and-wildlife>.

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