



## NATIONAL BIRD DAY - JANUARY 5TH

Many pet owners are surprised to learn that outdoor domestic cats are one of the primary threats to global bird conservation. Within the US, tens of millions of these *non-native* predators kill an estimated 1-2 billion birds each year. We encourage you to help protect our birds and promote indoor cat ownership.

## FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of  
your favorite parks,  
one issue at a time

### Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Georgia and Florida

**FACT 1:** Called *Land of the Trembling Earth* by its early Seminole inhabitants, Okefenokee is home to as many as **15,000** American alligators. These large reptiles were nearly hunted to extinction by the 1950s, but have successfully recovered under Endangered Species Act protections.



**FACT 2:** At about 407,000 acres (1,647 km<sup>2</sup>), Okefenokee is the **largest** National Wildlife Refuge east of the Mississippi and one of the largest and **best-preserved** freshwater wetlands in North America.

Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

# PARK PERKS



Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

While pristine national parks attract much of the public’s attention, areas where human activity is less restricted are often just as important. An [article](#) published last June in the journal *Birds* examined bird conservation in forests used for timber production. Drawing from the current conservation literature, the authors sought to identify the key principles of *bird-friendly forestry*. They described ten principles and associated management practices.

## Principles of Bird-Friendly Forestry



**Promote age and height variation**



**Retain dead and dying trees**



**Establish areas off-limits to logging**



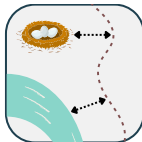
**Preserve large individual trees**



**Preserve stands’ structural complexity**



**Maximize connectivity and limit fragmentation**



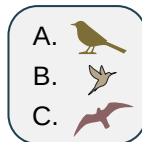
**Establish buffers for nests and wetlands**



**Increase time between harvests**



**Minimize disturbance during regrowth**



**Prioritize key species in management**

This article suggests that forestry and bird conservation **can coexist** so long as the latter is incorporated into management planning. If successful, these methods may provide a template for cooperative conservation of other forest organisms, expanding conservation possibilities within forests worldwide.

## PLAY GROUND

**Where do ecologists find static electricity in nature?**

wherever there’s a bi-ohm

# 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Thank you very much for your readership and support. We are excited to bring you parks and perks all year long.