




THE UNIVERSITY of TENNESSEE 
KNOXVILLE



Baker Center Energy and Environment Forum

Thursday, September 29, 2016 – 1:00-2:30 pm
Toyota Auditorium, Howard Baker Center
1640 Cumberland Avenue, UT Campus

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Bird Smart Wind Energy Campaign,
American Bird Conservancy**

Wind Energy Development and Wildlife: Are They Compatible?

Wind energy development, along with solar energy, have become the darlings of the so-called “green” revolution. Renewable energy, including wind energy, is touted as the solution to anthropogenic climate change, a major emerging threat to wildlife conservation. But, is wind energy truly the savior that it is made out to be? Does it deserve its green reputation? My intent in this talk is to review the current status of wind energy development in the United States. I will also review its record, particularly with regard to its impact on native bird and bat populations, as well as discuss the current status of the science and regulatory framework. In addition, I will fully explain the American Bird Conservancy’s (ABC’s) policy on wind energy development, as well as its justification. Examples will be provided to illustrate the weaknesses of the current federal voluntary permitting system for wind energy projects. Lastly, I will provide a brief overview of where ABC believes wind energy development needs to go in the future.

