

CONGRATULATIONS!

On Thursday, March 17, Ashley Dayer, a PhD Student in the Cornell University Department of Natural Resources, was presented with a Partners in Flight (www.partnersinflight.org) bird conservation award by the Appointed Director of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The award honors Ashley's outstanding leadership in education and communications efforts of international bird conservation initiatives.

Ashley began these efforts while serving as the Education and Outreach Director at Klamath Bird Observatory (www.klamathbird.org) until 2009 and has continued while at Cornell University through her affiliation with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Highlights of her achievements include:

- founding and chairing the international network of bird conservation education and communications professionals – the Bird Education Alliance for Conservation (www.birdedalliance.org);
- serving as a Managing Editor of *Saving Our Shared Birds: The Partners in Flight Tri-national Vision for Landbird Conservation* (www.savingoursharedbirds.org), which was produced in English, French, and Spanish and prioritizes bird conservation activities in the US, Canada, and Mexico;
- playing a key role in the Communications Team for the United States State of the Birds reports (www.stateofthebirds.org), released annually since 2009 by the Secretary of the Interior;
- and leading bird conservation initiatives in developing communications strategies and products that speak to policymakers, conservation professionals, ornithologists, and others who influence bird and habitat conservation.

The award presentation occurred at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Kansas City, Missouri. This conference is the premier annual gathering of the natural resource profession's top administrators, scientists, managers and educators. The North American Conference sessions, workshops and more than 150 separate meetings and functions, serve as the annual forum to set conservation policy in North America.



Ashley Dayer with her award – a hand-carved Po'ouli plaque. This Hawaiian honeycreeper species was selected for Ashley's award as this species was the focus of the first bird conservation project Ashley worked on. At the time, in 2001, this species had three remaining individuals in a remote Maui rainforest. Now the species is believed to be extinct.