

# Reduce the Reader's Workload— Coordinate & Subordinate the Right Ideas

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Critical Writing / Critical Thinking

The Everglades of South Florida provide a large area of undisturbed sub-tropical habitat, including saline and freshwater wetlands. These are home to a diverse array of wildlife. Over the last ten years, however, the exotic, invasive Burmese python has entered the region and spread at an alarming rate. Between 2000 and 2007, the python population has increased more than 200 percent. Current population is estimated in the thousands. The fish and Wildlife Service must determine if invasive pythons are injurious to native wildlife under the Lacey Act.

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to conserving wild birds and their habitats throughout the Americas ([www.abcbirds.org](http://www.abcbirds.org)). Together, ABC and its more than 300 partners buy land, restore degraded habitats, remove invasive and non-native species from natural areas, and effect policy changes. ABC draws on people and organizations through bird conservation networks to identify the most critical issues affecting birds in the Americas and address them. ABC measures its success in terms of changes on the ground for the benefit of target bird species and populations. ABC has over 7,000 members throughout the United States, including Hawaii. ABC and its members are concerned with the conservation of endangered species, including the Akikiki.

Homer (1950), in Arkansas, thought that prairie dogs were killed by hyperdermetitis based on his general observations, which were not specified. Both hyperdermetitis and plague can be found in desert populations, but they have not been confirmed in prairie dogs. Plague is a bacterial disease that is transmitted by fleas infected with the bacterium, *Pestis bubonicoid*. Hyperdermetitis is caused by the bacterium *Itchalotaskin* and is commonly transmitted by fingernails. These diseases often spread rapidly and can be fatal.