

**AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY + CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY + DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE + NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and undersigned organizations, please support boosting effective U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bird conservation programs in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill including the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA), Endangered Species Recovery State of the Birds Activities, and the early detection and control of invasive species. These programs are well-integrated and mutually support each other to promote bird conservation.

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**Please Increase the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to \$6.5 million.**

**Please Increase Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to \$19.9 million.**

**Please Increase State and Tribal Wildlife Grants to \$70 million.**

**Please Increase the North American Wetlands Conservation Act to \$50 million.**

**Please Increase State of the Birds Activities to \$5 million.**

**Please Increase Funding for DOI Invasive Species Control by \$10 million.**

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**Please Increase Funding for the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act to \$6.5 Million**

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has functioned as a matching grant program to fund projects that conserve neotropical migratory birds--those that breed in or migrate through the United States and Canada and spend the non-breeding season in Latin America and the Caribbean. NMBCA has helped conserve 400 species, representing more than 4 billion birds, including some of the most endangered birds in North America. All NMBCA grant requests must be matched with non-federal funds at least 3 to 1, and to date, the match has been 4 to 1. Please support increasing NMBCA to \$6.5 million.

**Please Increase Funding for Migratory Bird Joint Ventures to \$19.9 Million**

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures are regional partnerships managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that identify conservation priorities and carry out projects to reverse population declines of at-risk bird species. The Joint Ventures (JVs) are essential to address the conservation needs of migratory birds, and they leverage significant matching contributions from partner organizations and foundations. Since the program's inception in 1986, Joint Ventures have conserved over 22 million acres of critical habitat for wildlife and people and

leveraged 34 dollars of support for every federal dollar spent. We urge that the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures be fully funded at \$19.9 million.

**Please Increase Funding for State and Tribal Wildlife Grants to \$70 Million**

State and Tribal Wildlife Grants fund is the nation's core program for preventing wildlife from becoming endangered, and supports a wide variety of wildlife-related projects by state fish and wildlife agencies throughout the United States. In order to receive federal funds through the State Wildlife Grants Program, Congress charged each state and territory with developing an "action plan." The State Wildlife Action Plans are the result of a collaborative effort by scientists, sportsmen, conservationists, and other members of the community, and they now guide conservation actions in each state. We respectfully request the Committee allocate \$70 million for FY2020.

**Please Increase Funding for the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to \$50 Million**

NAWCA provides funding for conservation projects for the benefit of wetland-associated migratory birds in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Unfortunately, more than half of the original wetlands in the U.S. have been lost, contributing to the steady decline of migratory birds. NAWCA, in existence since 1989, has preserved over 30 million acres of wetlands by leveraging \$1.6 billion in federal funds with more than \$3.3 billion in partner contributions. We respectfully requests the Committee prioritize FY2020 funding for NAWCA at \$50 million.

**Please Increase State of the Birds Activities for Critically Endangered Birds to \$5 Million**

We greatly appreciate the funding provided in the FY 2018 spending agreement for State of the Birds Activities dedicated to arresting the bird extinction crisis in Hawaii. More than 90 Hawaiian bird species have become extinct, and nine listed Hawaiian bird species are currently in decline. This prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to provide \$2.5 million in annual State of the Birds Activities funding since 2009. We request \$5 million per year to fully fund ESA recovery funding for Hawaiian birds.

**Please Increase Funding for Invasive Species Early Detection and Response by \$10 Million**

Early Detection and Rapid Response (including Eradication) survey for, report, and verify the presence of a non-native species before the founding population becomes established or spreads so widely that eradication is no longer feasible. Rapid Response is then employed to eradicate the founding population of a non-native species from a specific location. We recommend increasing funding for Early Detection and Rapid Response by \$10 million.

Thank you for considering these requests.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy  
Association of Zoos and Aquariums  
Cornell Lab of Ornithology  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Endangered Species Coalition  
National Audubon Society  
Western Watersheds Project

Ancient Forest International  
Audubon Society of Northern Virginia  
Bedford Audubon  
Bird City Wisconsin  
Bird Conservation Network  
Birding Under Nevada Skies  
BirdsCaribbean  
Black Canyon Audubon Society  
Boulder County Audubon Society  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Clinton County Park District, Ohio  
Colorado Wild Rabbit Foundation  
Columbia Land Trust  
Columbus Zoo and Aquarium  
Conservation Congress  
Cumberland-Harpeth Audubon Society  
Delaware Valley Ornithological Club  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Delta Wind Birds  
Denver Audubon  
ECOAN  
Endangered Habitats League  
Environmental Protection in the Caribbean  
Environmental Protection Information Center  
Friends of Kaena  
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Bitterroot  
Friends of the Wild Whoopers  
Geos Institute  
Greater Hells Canyon Council  
Halifax River Audubon  
High Country Audubon Society  
Hoy Audubon Society

International Bird Rescue  
Iowa Audubon  
Joanna Burger Ph.D. Rutgers University – School of Arts and Sciences  
Kalmia Gardens of Coker College  
Kaua'i Albatross Network  
Kentucky Ornithological Society  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Lane County Audubon Society  
Lehigh Valley Audubon Society  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Madison Audubon Society  
Maryland Bluebird Society  
Memphis Chapter of Tennessee Ornithological Society  
Michael Reed, Tufts University  
Michigan Audubon  
Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative  
Minnesota River Valley Audubon Chapter  
Mission Mountain Audubon  
Monmouth County Audubon Society  
Mount Vernon Songbird sanctuary  
Nebraska Wildlife Federation  
New Mexico Audubon Council  
New York City Audubon  
North American Grouse Partnership  
North Cascades Audubon  
Northcoast Environmental Center  
Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society  
Northern Catskills Audubon Society, Inc.  
Oakland Audubon Society  
Ohio Bird Banding Association  
Old Hemlock Bird Observatory  
Olympic Vulture Study  
Orleans Audubon Society  
Paso Pacifico  
People for Animal Rights (Central NY)  
Peoria Audubon Society  
Peregrine Audubon Society  
Pilchuck Audubon Society  
Pomona Valley Audubon  
Port Crescent Hawk Watch  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
Prince George's County Audubon Society

Raptors Are The Solution  
Roaring Fork Audubon Society  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Sacramento Audubon Society  
Safe Alternatives for our Forest Environment  
Salem Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Diego Zoo Global  
San Fernando Valley Audubon Society  
Sangre de Cristo Audubon Society  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Skagit Audubon Society  
Sequoia ForestKeeper®  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
South Shore Audubon Society of Long Island  
Southern Maryland Audubon Society  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
State of Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Oahu Wildlife  
Sweetbay Chapter, Florida Native Plant Society  
Tennessee Native Plant Society  
Tennessee Naturalist Program  
The Jordan Center  
The Lands Council  
The Urban Wildlands Group  
The Wilds  
Tracy Aviary  
Tucson Audubon Society  
Umpqua Valley Audubon Society  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
Virginia Bluebird Society  
Virginia Society of Ornithology  
Wabash Valley Audubon Society  
Washington Crossing Audubon Society  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Western Great Lakes Bird and Bat Observatory, Inc.  
Whidbey Environmental Action Network  
Wild Birds Unlimited of Syosset  
Wild Nature Institute  
Wildbirds in Northern Kentucky, Inc.  
Wildcare Eastern Sierra  
Wildlife Conservation Advocacy Southwest  
Yosemite Area Audubon Society

