

AMERICAN BIRD CONSERVANCY + CORNELL LAB OF ORNITHOLOGY + DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE + NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY + OVER 100 BIRD CONSERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

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.

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.

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
Environment for the Americas
Great Old Broads for Wilderness
National Audubon Society
Western Watersheds Project
WildEarth Guardians

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
Black Swamp Bird Observatory
Boulder County Audubon Society
Californians for Western Wilderness
Cascadia Wildlands
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
Maryland Ornithological 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
Oregon Wild
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
Saving Birds Thru Habitat
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