

U.S. POLICY ACTIONS FOR BIRD CONSERVATION



The U.S. government is a vital bird conservation partner.
We encourage immediate action on the following priorities
to help reverse bird declines.

Defend and Strengthen the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) has provided more than 100 years of protection for nearly all of the nation's birds and returned many of our bird species from the brink of extinction. Historically, this law prohibited the killing or capturing of more than 1,000 species without a permit. Yet in December 2017, the current administration eliminated protections for birds from industrial hazards. This weakening of the MBTA undermines industry's incentive to minimize preventable bird mortality and puts birds at even greater risk. We must reverse these changes and strengthen the law with solutions that benefit birds and industry alike.

Advance Climate Solutions

Climate change is one of the most serious threats facing birds and the habitats they need. Efforts to reduce emissions from carbon-intensive industrial practices and fossil fuels should be complemented by common-sense policy solutions that provide incentives for responsibly sited and operated clean energy, help birds adapt to the worst effects of climate change, and support nature-based solutions such as replanting forests. A clean energy future will benefit birds, improve public health, and boost the U.S. economy.

Increase Funding for Programs to Protect Bird Habitat

We recommend boosting U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bird conservation programs that help protect and restore bird habitat in the FY 2020 Interior Appropriations bill, including the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, State and Tribal Wildlife Grants, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Endangered Species Recovery, State of the Birds activities, and early detection and control of invasive species. We also support efforts to find new and dedicated sources of funding for tribal, state, and federal bird conservation.

Enact the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Legislation has been introduced to increase funding for state wildlife agencies and tribes to halt the current decline of hundreds of species. This bill would dedicate roughly \$1.4 billion annually to wildlife conservation efforts led by states and tribes, enabling them to implement their wildlife action plans and to conserve Threatened and Endangered species, particularly by increasing recovery efforts. These programs should include renewed emphasis on recovering declining bird populations.

To help and learn more, please visit 3billionbirds.org.