

The Honorable María Elvira Salazar  
House of Representatives  
2162 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Dave Joyce  
House of Representatives  
2065 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mary Peltola  
House of Representatives  
153 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

December 6, 2023

Dear Representatives María Elvira Salazar (R-FL), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Dave Joyce (R-OH), and Mary Peltola (D-AK),

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we wish to share our support for the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023 (H. R. 4389).

Migratory birds are of immense value to millions of Americans and the economy. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation](#) found that more than 96 million people observed birds last year. Combined with the larger wildlife-watching category, this group spent a staggering \$250.2 billion on these activities, which benefits local communities across the nation. Further, birds provide critical ecosystem services such as pest control, pollination, seed dispersal, and more.

Each year, more than 350 species of migratory birds that people enjoy throughout the United States will fly to and from their wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean. Included are colorful songbirds like the Golden-Winged Warbler and Bobolink – species that have lost 50% of their population since 1970 and are on track to lose another half in the next fifty years without immediate action. Overall, North America has lost 3 billion birds since 1970, and more than half of U.S. bird species are declining, according to the [State of the Birds 2022](#) report.

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) has helped benefit migratory bird habitat, fund research, and catalyze partnerships and international cooperation across the Western Hemisphere. The funding for international projects is essential for ensuring that beloved species like the Baltimore Oriole and Ruby-throated Hummingbird return to the U.S. year after year. NMBCA has funded 717 projects in 43 countries. Critically, it is also a cost-effective program; it is estimated that for every \$1 invested, \$5 has been spent on conservation action via leveraged partner support.

We commend your leadership of the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act of 2023 to help conserve and recover our migratory birds through this bipartisan legislation. This bill makes meaningful changes to boost the NMBCA program,

including increasing the authorization level from \$6.5 million annually to \$10 million by 2028 and lowering the cost share from 3:1 to 2:1. These critical updates will help meet the demand for grants, and increase accessibility to allow for more diverse projects to be funded, with the net benefit of conserving more birds.

Thank you for championing this legislation, which will benefit birdlife, our economy, and international partnerships. Please let us know how we can continue to support this legislation as it moves through Congress.

Sincerely,

American Bird Conservancy  
American Bird Conservancy Action Fund  
Audubon Americas  
National Audubon Society  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever  
Environment for the Americas  
Friends of the Earth  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Wildlife Society  
World Wildlife Fund  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Actions@EBMF  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
Alliance for International Reforestation, Inc.  
Amos Butler Audubon Society  
Animal Welfare Institute  
Arkansas Audubon Society  
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society  
Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs  
Audubon Alaska  
Audubon California  
Audubon Colorado Council  
Audubon Connecticut & New York  
Audubon Delta  
Audubon Florida  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Audubon Great Plains  
Audubon Miami Valley  
Audubon Mid-Atlantic  
Audubon North Carolina  
Audubon Rockies

Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland  
Audubon South Carolina  
Audubon Southwest  
Audubon Texas  
Audubon Vermont  
Audubon Washington  
Avian Welfare Coalition  
Badgerland Bird Alliance  
Bedford Audubon Society  
Bexar Audubon Society  
Birds Connect Seattle  
BirdsCaribbean  
Black Hills Audubon Society  
Black River Audubon Society  
Blackbrook Audubon Society  
Blue Mountain Audubon Society  
Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon  
Brookline Bird Club  
Bucks County Audubon Society  
Buffalo Field Campaign  
Californians for Western Wilderness  
Cape Henry Audubon Society  
Central Lakes College Natural Resources  
Club  
Central Westchester Audubon Society  
Charleston Natural History Society  
Chequamegon Bird Club  
Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage  
Chicago Bird Alliance  
City Wildlife  
Coastal Bend Audubon Society  
Columbia Land Trust  
Columbus Audubon Society

Conejo Valley Audubon Society  
Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC  
Duval Audubon  
EarthAction Network & 2020 Action  
East Cascades Audubon Society  
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch  
Endangered Habitats League  
Forest Web  
Fort Worth Audubon Society  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of Merrymeeting Bay  
Friends of the Kalmiopsis  
Gallatin Wildlife Association  
Gaviota Coast Conservancy  
Georgia Audubon  
Grand Valley Audubon Society  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
Grazing Reform Project  
Great Salt Lake Audubon  
Greater Akron Audubon Society  
Greater Ozarks Audubon Society  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
Help Wild Birds  
High Country Audubon Society  
Hilton Head Audubon  
Howling For Wolves  
Humane Action Pennsylvania  
Humane Action Pittsburgh  
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society  
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe  
Sanctuary  
Indivisible Santa Fe  
International Bird Rescue  
International Crane Foundation  
International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
Iowa Audubon  
Juniata Valley Audubon Society  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society

Kettle Range Conservation Group  
Kirtland Bird Club of Northeast Ohio  
Kitsap Audubon Society  
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Lake Michigan Bird Observatory  
Lane County Audubon Center  
Little Rock Audubon Center  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society  
Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center  
Mahoning Valley Audubon Society  
Maine Audubon  
Maryland Ornithological Society  
Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
Michigan Audubon  
Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative  
Missouri River Bird Observatory  
Native Songbird Care & Conservation  
Natura International  
Nature Forward  
New Hampshire Audubon  
New Jersey Audubon  
New York City Audubon Society  
North American Grouse Partnership  
North Cascades Audubon Society  
North Central Washington Audubon Society  
North Fork Audubon Society  
North Shore Audubon Society  
Northern Catskills Audubon Society  
Northwest Arkansas Audubon Society  
Occupy Bergen County  
Olympic Peninsula Audubon Society  
Onondaga Audubon  
Orleans Audubon Society  
Osa Birds: Research and Conservation  
Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology  
Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
Predator Defense  
Presque Isle Audubon  
Purple Martin Conservation Association  
Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society  
Raptor Education Group Inc.  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Redwood Region Audubon Society

Resource Renewal Institute  
Road to Recovery, Saving Our Shared Birds  
Roaring Fork Audubon  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
Safe Skies Maryland  
Salem Audubon Society  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Francisco Bay Joint Venture  
San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Save Our Allegheny Ridges  
Save Our Sky Blue Waters  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
Sheet Metal Workers Local #9  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
Skagit Audubon Society  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Soil and Water Conservation Society  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Southern Maryland Audubon Society  
Spokane Audubon Society  
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center  
St. Louis Audubon Society  
State College Bird Club  
Sycamore Audubon Society

Tennessee Ornithological Society  
The Connecticut Audubon Society  
The Conservation Angler  
The Trumpeter Swan Society  
Todd Bird Club  
Tracy Aviary  
Tree Fredericksburg  
Tucson Audubon Society  
Umpqua Watersheds  
United Plant Savers  
UVM Birding Club  
Valley Forge Audubon Society  
Vancouver Audubon Society  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
VJ Rosenfield Family Trust  
Weminuche Audubon Society  
West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
Wild Farm Alliance  
Wild Nature Institute  
WildCare of Western New York  
Willistown Conservation Trust  
Words for Birds  
Wyoming Untrapped  
Yuma Audubon Society  
Zumbro Valley Audubon Society

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### **National/International**

American Bird Conservancy  
American Bird Conservancy Action Fund  
Alberta Wilderness Association  
Alliance for International Reforestation, Inc.  
Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies  
Audubon Americas  
Avian Welfare Coalition  
BirdsCaribbean  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment for the Americas  
International Bird Rescue  
International Crane Foundation  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council  
National Audubon Society  
Natura International  
North American Grouse Partnership  
Osa Birds: Research and Conservation  
Road to Recovery, Saving Our Shared Birds  
The Nature Conservancy  
World Wildlife Fund

### **Alaska**

Audubon Alaska

### **Arizona**

Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center  
Tucson Audubon Society  
Yuma Audubon Society  
Audubon Southwest

### **Arkansas**

Arkansas Audubon Society  
Arkansas Valley Audubon Society  
Audubon Delta  
Little Rock Audubon Center

### **California**

Californians for Western Wilderness  
Conejo Valley Audubon Society  
Endangered Habitats League

Gaviota Coast Conservancy  
Grazing Reform Project  
Los Angeles Audubon Society  
Native Songbird Care & Conservation  
Raptors Are The Solution  
Redwood Region Audubon Society  
Resource Renewal Institute  
San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society  
San Francisco Bay Wildlife Society  
Santa Barbara Audubon Society  
Sierra Foothills Audubon Society  
Audubon California

### **Colorado**

Audubon Colorado Council  
Colorado Wild Rabbit Foundation  
Grand Valley Audubon Society  
Roaring Fork Audubon  
Rocky Mountain Wild  
Sheet Metal Workers Local #9  
Audubon Rockies

### **Connecticut**

Audubon Connecticut & New York  
Menunkatuck Audubon Society  
Quinnipiac Valley Audubon Society  
The Connecticut Audubon Society

### **Florida**

Audubon Miami Valley  
Duval Audubon  
Audubon Florida

### **Georgia**

Georgia Audubon

### **Illinois**

Chicago Bird Alliance  
Audubon Great Lakes

### **Indiana**

Amos Butler Audubon Society  
Sycamore Audubon Society  
Audubon Great Lakes

**Iowa**

Iowa Audubon

**Louisiana**

Orleans Audubon Society

Audubon Delta

**Maine**

Friends of Merrymeeting Bay

Maine Audubon

**Maryland**

Chesapeake Wildlife Heritage

Maryland Ornithological Society

Nature Forward

Safe Skies Maryland

Southern Maryland Audubon Society

Audubon Mid-Atlantic

**Massachusetts**

Association of Massachusetts Bird Clubs

Brookline Bird Club

Eastern Massachusetts Hawk Watch

**Michigan**

Michigan Audubon

Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative

Audubon Great Lakes

**Minnesota**

Central Lakes College Natural Resources Club

Howling For Wolves

Zumbro Valley Audubon Society

The Trumpeter Swan Society

**Mississippi**

Audubon Delta

**Missouri**

Greater Ozarks Audubon Society

Missouri River Bird Observatory

St. Louis Audubon Society

**Nebraska**

Audubon Great Plains  
Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary  
Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center

**Nevada**

Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC

**New Hampshire**

New Hampshire Audubon

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Audubon  
Occupy Bergen County

**New Mexico**

Audubon Southwest

**New York**

Actions@EBMF  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
Eastern Long Island Audubon Society  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
Audubon Connecticut & New York  
Bedford Audubon Society  
Bronx River Sound Shore Audubon  
Central Westchester Audubon Society  
Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society  
New York City Audubon Society  
North Fork Audubon Society  
North Shore Audubon Society  
Northern Catskills Audubon Society  
Onondaga Audubon  
Saw Mill River Audubon  
South Shore Audubon Society  
Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society

**North Carolina**

High Country Audubon Society  
Wild Nature Institute  
Audubon North Carolina

**North Dakota**

Audubon Great Plains



## **Ohio**

Kirtland Bird Club  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society  
United Plant Savers  
Audubon Great Lakes  
Audubon Society of Greater Cleveland  
Black River Audubon Society  
Blackbrook Audubon Society  
Columbus Audubon Society  
Council of Ohio Audubon Chapters  
Grange Insurance Audubon Center  
Greater Akron Audubon Society  
Mahoning Valley Audubon Society  
Western Cuyahoga Audubon Society

## **Oregon**

East Cascades Audubon Society  
Forest Web  
Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge  
Friends of the Kalmiopsis  
Kalmiopsis Audubon Society  
Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center  
Lane County Audubon Center  
Rogue Valley Audubon Society  
Salem Audubon Society  
Soda Mountain Wilderness Council  
Umpqua Watersheds

## **Pennsylvania**

Bucks County Audubon Society  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association  
Humane Action Pennsylvania  
Humane Action Pittsburgh  
Presque Isle Audubon  
Purple Martin Conservation Association  
Willistown Conservation Trust  
Todd Bird Club  
Valley Forge Audubon Society  
Audubon Mid-Atlantic

## **South Carolina**

Hilton Head Audubon  
Audubon South Carolina  
Charleston Natural History Society

### **South Dakota**

Prairie Hills Audubon Society  
Audubon Great Plains

### **Tennessee**

Tennessee Ornithological Society

### **Texas**

Bexar Audubon Society  
Coastal Bend Audubon Society  
Fort Worth Audubon Society  
Audubon Texas

### **Utah**

Great Salt Lake Audubon  
Tracy Aviary  
Audubon Rockies

### **Vermont**

UVM Birding Club  
Vermont Center for Ecostudies  
Audubon Vermont

### **Virginia**

Cape Henry Audubon Society  
Friends of Dyke Marsh  
Help Wild Birds  
Rockbridge Bird Club  
Tree Fredericksburg

### **Washington**

Birds Connect Seattle  
Columbia Land Trust  
Kettle Range Conservation Group  
North Central Washington Audubon Society  
Audubon Washington

### **Washington D.C.**

City Wildlife  
Audubon Mid-Atlantic

### **West Virginia**

West Virginia Highlands Conservancy  
Wisconsin

Badgerland Bird Alliance  
Chequamegon Bird Club  
Lake Michigan Bird Observatory  
Raptor Education Group Inc.  
Audubon Great Lakes

**Wyoming**

Audubon Rockies