



Hello everyone and Happy May!

We are coming to you with a brief, albeit time sensitive, special edition of the Bird Conservation Alliance. Stay tuned for the full edition coming soon!

[Virginia MBTA Sign On letter for Organizations](#)

Good news: The Commonwealth of Virginia has made great strides to provide [alternate breeding habitat](#) for South Island's waterbird colony, which was displaced this year by construction for the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion project. Rip Raps Island has now been prepared for the birds, and barges are being put in place to provide additional habitat. There is more to be done, but we are greatly encouraged by this progress! Look for more information soon.

We're also encouraged by Virginia's discussion draft of legislation to protect migratory birds, which the Commonwealth has advanced given harmful enforcement changes of the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Virginia is one of the first states to step up with measures to "backstop" the federal rollbacks of longstanding migratory bird protection. Learn more about Virginia's legislation [here](#).

We hope you will contact Virginia officials to express your support for these measures. **The deadline for comments is May 15**, so please act now!

First, [please sign on to our comment petition](#), which is also open to conservation organizations.

Second, **please provide feedback to Virginia officials** through the Commonwealth's commenting process directly into the [Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries website](#).

ABC Policy Webinar Series

Back by popular demand, our May 7th presentation of the "Enjoying and Helping Birds from Home" webinar discussion was a success! We are grateful for your interest in hearing how we all can appreciate and help conserve birds from home during these challenging times. We'll host another webinar soon, and will send details in the full newsletter.

You can access the full recording of the webinar on American Bird Conservancy's (ABC's) YouTube Channel [here](#). In addition, check out all of ABC's webinars, collected in this [YouTube playlist](#).

To engage further with birds and the birding community, and to make your home more bird-friendly, check out these resources from [ABC, American Birding Association](#) (ABA), and [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#), which were mentioned during the webinar:

- [ABC](#) has a wealth of information on how to help birds at home and across the entire Western Hemisphere.
- Connect with the birding community at large and learn more about birdwatching from [ABA](#).
- [Cornell Lab of Ornithology's](#) online resources about birds and citizen science are perfect for spring migration, or any season.
- Learn more about solutions and why it's important to keep [cats indoors](#) or safely contained for the health and safety of people, cats, and birds.
- Get ideas and options for how to [make your home windows bird-friendly](#).

[Support the Bird Conservation Alliance](#)

With your support, we are building the capacity needed to reduce threats to birds, garner vital funding for bird conservation work, and protect and restore key habitats for threatened species!

The BCA is managed by American Bird Conservancy to coordinate initiatives for birds. But, this work couldn't happen without your support. We encourage and welcome your participation in coalition events and initiatives. Any support your organization can provide will help us do more for birds. [All gifts go directly to support outreach activities and events.](#)

Thank you for being an advocate for birds and for supporting American Bird Conservancy!