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## **Court Overturns Administration Efforts to Weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act**

On August 11, 2020, a federal court [overturned](#) a reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that had upended decades of enforcement and let industry polluters off the hook for killing birds. [Citing the novel \*To Kill a Mockingbird\*](#), U.S. District Court Judge Valerie Caproni wrote that “if the Department of the Interior has its way, many Mockingbirds and other migratory birds that delight people and support ecosystems throughout the country will be killed without legal consequence.” ABC and our partners went to court to challenge the reinterpretation. This ruling is a much-needed win for migratory birds and the millions of Americans who cherish them. The MBTA is one of our nation’s most important environmental laws. Among other things, it has spurred industry innovation to protect birds, such as screening off toxic waste pits and marking power lines to reduce collisions. This key decision

to uphold the Act's strength by blocking the injurious reinterpretation comes at a key time, as we seek to restore our nation's declining bird populations.

[Read Press Release!](#)



## **Join Us on September 16 for a Webinar on How to Save 1 Billion Birds from Collisions**

On July 1, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, which included H.R. 919 – the Bird-Safe Buildings Act. This bipartisan bill is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features. Congressman Mike Quigley has been the driving force behind this legislation since he first introduced it in 2009. ABC has been steadfast in our efforts to get this bill passed, and in our support for bird-safe building legislation across the country, including New York City's groundbreaking Local Law 15. [Please join us](#) on Wednesday, September 16, when ABC collisions expert Dr. Chris Sheppard will introduce the collisions issue and discuss the importance of the Bird-Safe Buildings Act and Local Law 15.

[Register Here!](#)



## **First Bird-Friendly Building Ordinance in Wisconsin Passed**

On August 4, the Madison Common Council unanimously adopted the state's first bird-friendly building [ordinance](#). Introduced by Alders Marsha Rummel and Keith Furman, drafted by city staff, and revised with input from ABC, the city-wide ordinance will require new large construction and expansion projects to use modern bird-safe strategies and materials that allow birds to see glass. The new requirements are expected to dramatically reduce bird mortalities. The ordinance goes into effect October 1, 2020. "The well-being of birds and people in Wisconsin are very intertwined, from the economic benefits of tourism and birdwatching to free services like pest control and pollination," says Matt Reetz, Executive Director of Madison Audubon, one of the organizations that has been advocating for the ordinance.

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## **Pesticides Are Back on the Agenda: Act Now to Protect Birds**

Earlier this month, major legislation was introduced in Congress that could transform the way pesticides are regulated in the U.S. This long-overdue reform would help counter the pernicious effects of some pesticides on people and wildlife, including declining bird populations. [The Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticides Act](#) would ban the most damaging pesticides, increase citizen

participation in the regulation process, and provide stronger protections for farmworkers and vulnerable communities. A major study has just found that the massive loss of North American birds is due in part to the growing use of poorly regulated pesticides. And, for far too long, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has failed to ban chlorpyrifos, in spite of its known effects on children, farm workers, and wildlife. [Please act now and tell your Senators and Representative](#) to ban the most dangerous pesticides and compel the EPA to make human health and the environment its top priority.

[Take Action!](#)



## **Chair Grijalva Hails Passage of Great American Outdoors Act**

Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) hailed House passage of the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), one of Congress' most significant investments in environmental conservation in a generation. The bill fully funds the successful and popular [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#) (LWCF) at \$900 million annually, well above its yearly average funding level, and creates the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, which will provide funding to the National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Indian Education to repair buildings, trails, roads, and other public infrastructure for the next five years. "This is a win for the country and for Arizona.

We're going to start seeing the benefits sooner than people think," Chair Grijalva said. Chair Grijalva's remarks on the House floor can be [viewed here](#).

[View Remarks!](#)



## How About a Songbird Stamp to Boost Bird Conservation?

One of the reasons waterfowl are doing better is because of the Duck Stamp, more formally known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. This federally mandated annual waterfowl hunting license has raised over \$1 billion for wetlands conservation since it was established in 1934. The program has had a huge impact, leading to the acquisition of 6 million acres of habitat. If proposed and enacted, a Songbird Stamp would be similar to the Duck Stamp, featuring different migratory songbirds on a new stamp each year. Funds from Songbird Stamp sales could be used to support migratory songbird conservation and national wildlife refuges. We are requesting feedback from the conservation community to determine if there is broad support for such an initiative. **Please take a moment and complete this [short survey](#)** to provide your feedback.

[Take Survey!](#)



## **New Annual "Duck Stamp" Launched**

In late June, the new annual "Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp," or Duck Stamp, was launched by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. "This year, the stamp shows five Black-bellied Whistling-Ducks painted by Eddie LeRoy of Alabama. Similarly, its younger sibling, the Junior Duck Stamp became available for purchase at official locations and online. Funds raised from the sale of Federal Duck Stamps go toward the acquisition or lease of habitat for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Although required for waterfowl hunters as an annual license, Duck Stamps may also be voluntarily purchased by birders, outdoor enthusiasts, and other fans of national wildlife refuges who understand the value of preserving some of the most diverse and important wildlife habitats in our nation. The Duck Stamp plays a critically important role in wildlife conservation. A current Federal Duck Stamp is also good for free admission to any National Wildlife Refuge that charges for entry." *U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service*

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## **Nevada Court Protects Nesting Bi-State Sage-Grouse From Off-Road Vehicles**

On July 7, 2020, ABC and other advocates for the rare Bi-State Sage-Grouse won a legal case against off-roaders who planned a 250-mile dirt bike rally in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest — one of the last places this

isolated population of Greater Sage-Grouse can breed. The Nevada District Court upheld U.S. Forest Service measures put in place to protect the birds' nesting habitat. Isolated from other sage-grouse populations, the Bi-State Sage-Grouse exists only in the Mono Basin along the California-Nevada border. With an estimated 3,305 birds, this population has fallen far below the 5,000-bird population threshold identified as necessary to maintain it well into the future.

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*Inside Bird Conservation* is produced by American Bird Conservancy for those who want a closer look at bird conservation policy and related issues. Past editions and other issue updates are available on the [Bird Conservation Alliance website](#). Please forward to interested conservationists. To subscribe, please send a message to [sholmer@abcbirds.org](mailto:sholmer@abcbirds.org).

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