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Legislation to Reduce Bird Collisions Passes U.S. House Of Representatives!

On July 1, 2020, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 2, which includes [H.R. 919 – Bird-Safe Buildings Act](#), in a monumental victory for bird conservation. This bipartisan bill is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features. As many as 1 billion birds a year die in collisions with buildings in the United States alone. Congressman Mike Quigley has been the driving force behind this bipartisan legislation for more than a decade, and American Bird Conservancy has been steadfast in our efforts to pass this bill. We are seeing great progress on this issue, as more than 20 states, counties, and municipalities have passed bird-friendly legislation. Enacting H.R. 919 into law will be a game-changer. Recognition of this issue at the federal level will be a momentous achievement because if passed by the Senate and put into law, it will set an example for the entire U.S. The Bird-Safe Buildings Act will soon be introduced in the Senate, and we need your

help to ensure its passage with bipartisan support. [Please contact your Senators today in support of this bill!](#) You can [read the press release here](#).

[Take Action!](#)



Migratory Bird Treaty Act Remains Under Threat – Comments Due July 20

The public has until July 20 to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement to weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. [Click here to find more information](#) on how to comment, as well as talking points to incorporate into your letter. In January 2020, the administration proposed a new regulation to cement its harmful policy change to the MBTA, reversing decades of bipartisan policy and practice and declaring that the MBTA no longer protects birds from harms caused by industrial activities. Despite strong public opposition - and while other news rightly captures much public attention - the administration is working quickly to finalize the proposed rule. Please submit a comment today!

[Submit Comment!](#)



Act Now to Protect Our Nation's Migratory Birds

Last week, environmental groups [hosted a briefing](#) to highlight recent administrative attacks on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), as well as look at Representative

Lowenthal's legislative solution, the Migratory Bird Protection Act ([H.R. 5552](#)). The MBTA was enacted to implement our international treaty commitments to protect migratory birds. Unfortunately, the administration has severely weakened the MBTA by declaring that it no longer protects birds from harms caused by industrial activities. Rep. Lowenthal and experts including Dr. Amanda Rodewald at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology discussed how H.R. 5552 restores longstanding protections under the MBTA. Dr. Rodewald has contributed a thoughtful opinion piece to *The Hill* on this issue that can be accessed [here](#).

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Senate Migratory Bird Treaty Act DEIS Letter Released

"This week, U.S. Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) and Tom Carper (D-Del.) led a group of 20 of their colleagues in sending a letter to Department of Interior (DOI) Secretary David Bernhardt voicing their concerns with the draft Environmental Impact Statement for DOI's proposed rule implementing changes to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The proposed rule would undermine a longstanding interpretation of the MBTA that holds companies responsible for oil spills and other actions that incidentally kill migratory birds. Senator Van Hollen has repeatedly pressed DOI on this issue, including in [an earlier letter to then-Acting Secretary David Bernhardt](#) and in [questioning in an Environment and Public Works Committee hearing](#)." *Senator Van Hollen*

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House Continues Higher Funding Levels for Birds

Programs conserving migratory birds and other wildlife receive significant funding increases in the FY 2021 House Interior Appropriations bill. There is also strong support in the bill for recovering Greater Sage-Grouse, including dropping a rider preventing Endangered Species Act protection for grouse. If enacted, key bird conservation programs would receive a \$15 million boost, building on a \$10 million increase in the FY 2021 bill. Important guidance is also provided to federal agencies to reduce bird collisions at federal buildings, to enforce the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and work to eliminate mosquitoes that are decimating bird populations on Hawaii. [A large coalition](#) of over 150 conservation groups including American Bird Conservancy, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Defenders of Wildlife, and National Audubon Society, asked for increases to NMBCA, Migratory Bird Joint Ventures, NAWCA, State of the Birds activities for Hawaiian birds, and Invasive Species Early Detection and Rapid Response efforts. [Please contact your Senators today in support of bird conservation funding!](#) You can [read the Committee press release here](#).

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NWF Affiliates Urge Local, Humane Measures to Protect Island Wildlife from Cats, Invasive Predators

Species that evolved together over millions of years can be devastated by cats and other introduced invasive species. Unique, localized, and endangered species like the Marvelous Spatuletail of Peru and the Maui Parrotbill of Hawai'i are highly vulnerable to the impacts of invasive plants and animals. Competing with native species, transmitting diseases, or even killing native species outright, invasive species also inflict huge economic losses and can harm human health. As landscapes are increasingly fragmented by people, invasives find new inroads. Learn more about [ABC's Cats and Invasives](#) program, and read more from National Wildlife Federation on how state and local governments should take humane steps to protect island wildlife from domestic cats and other invasive predators.

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Building Collision Survey Identifies Some Birds at a Higher Risk

Glass collisions: It's a huge problem for birds. Up to a billion birds die in collisions with glass each year in the United States. Although most people have seen or heard a bird hit a window, they often believe it is an unusual event. Add up all those deaths and the number is staggering. Both common and rare bird species hit windows. According to a 2014

study, species commonly reported in glass collisions include White-throated Sparrow and Dark-eyed Junco. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are frequent victims as well, along with the Wood Thrush and other species of conservation concern. Expanding on this subject is a recent survey done by Mike Butler, associate professor of biology, and David Brandes, professor of civil and environmental engineering both at Lafayette College in Easton, PA. "The findings indicate that certain species of birds are more vulnerable to building collisions, including black-throated blue warblers and white-breasted nuthatches. The data also found that migratory birds, insect-eating birds, and woodland birds were more likely to strike a building." (*Lafayette*) Expanded coverage from [Audubon](#) and [The Wildlife Society](#) on this story can be found at the link.

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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.

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