



Congressional Priorities for 117th Congress

Presented here are a series of bird conservation opportunities divided between spending recommendations and policy priorities.

Spending Recommendations

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$6.5 million (increase to \$20 million, revise match to 1:1)
Migratory Bird Joint Ventures		\$25 million
Songbird Stamp		\$0.25 million
State of the Birds Hawaii		\$10 million
California Condors, Eiders, and Grasshopper Sparrows		\$4 million
Invasive Strike Teams for National Wildlife Refuges		\$5 million increase above enacted level
Mosquito Control for Avian Malaria in Hawaii		\$7 million
Wildlife Mitigation Fund		\$10 million
Window Collisions Research	Department of Energy	\$10 million

Migratory Birds: Increase funding for migratory birds including conservation of wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean through the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA), establishment of a Songbird Stamp program to generate additional revenues for NMBCA and National Wildlife Refuges, and fully developing the Migratory Bird Joint Ventures.

Endangered Species: Increase funding for avian recovery programs, particularly in Hawaii, and for critically endangered birds such as California Condor, Spectacled Eider, and Florida Grasshopper Sparrow. We recommend \$10 million for State of the Birds activities, and \$4 million for recovery of condors, eiders, and other critically endangered birds.

Invasive Species: Provide a \$5 million increase to eradicate invasive species on National Wildlife Refuges, and \$7 million per year for five years to control non-native mosquitos that are decimating Hawaiian bird populations and threaten several species with imminent extinction.



The Patuxent Wildlife Research Center eliminated window collisions by installing an artistic film that allows light into the interior.

Window Collisions: Provide \$10 million in annual funding to research and develop bird-safe glass products, including solar-collecting windows.

Renewable Energy Wildlife Mitigation Fund: Provide \$10 million in annual funding to minimize impacts from wind and other renewables.

Policy Priorities

Migratory Birds: To reverse bird declines we recommend that Congress:

1. Pass the Migratory Bird Protection Act, H.R. 5552, to restore protections for birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and authorize an incidental take permitting system for industrial sectors known to cause significant mortality.
2. Introduce legislation to create a Songbird Stamp program similar to the Duck Stamp.
3. Introduce legislation to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act at a higher funding level and with a reduced 1:1 match requirement.
4. Pass the Recovering America's Wildlife Act to boost funding for state wildlife programs.
5. Introduce legislation based on recommendations of the NABCI policy subcommittee's grasslands working group.

Endangered Species:

1. Repeal the Greater Sage-Grouse listing prohibition.
2. Pass the Protect America's Wildlife and Fish in Need of Protection Act of 2019, H.R. 4348/S. 2491, to restore Endangered Species Act protections.

Window Collisions:

1. Adopt Bird Safe Building guidelines for all federal buildings by passing the Bird Safe Buildings Act, H.R. 919.
2. Introduce buildings legislation, such as the recently enacted New York City legislation, to establish collisions reduction guidelines for all U.S. buildings.

Pesticides:

1. Ban chlorpyrifos.
2. Enact a moratorium on new neonicotinoid registrations.
3. Restrict the pre-emptive use of all currently registered neonicotinoid products, while conducting a scientific review of their impacts to birds, insects, and the overall environment.
4. Ban use of neonicotinoids on National Wildlife Refuges.

Renewable Energy:

1. Require that wildlife impacts be considered and avoided to the extent possible in wind energy facility development planning.
2. Require minimization and mitigation measures to ensure that development on public lands results in a net benefit to wildlife populations and diversity.
3. Promote and subsidize efficiency measures and distributed solar energy development, which have the least impacts to birds compared to other energy options.



Public Lands, Reforestation, and Forest Carbon:

1. Protect existing carbon stores in mature and old growth forests that provide habitat for the Marbled Murrelet and Northern Spotted Owl.
2. Reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools Act to promote sustainable forestry on federal forests in Oregon, and provide funding for rural counties and forest restoration nationwide.
3. Expand easement programs such as Forest Legacy to keep forests as forest, and avoid their conversion to non-habitat.
4. Create new landowner payment mechanisms, such as a national carbon credit system, to incentivize good forest management practices, and reforestation.

Oceans and Seabirds:

1. Senate vote to accede to the Agreement for the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels, and enact the Albatross and Petrel Conservation Act, H.R. 1305, to implement the agreement.
2. Pass the Forage Fish Conservation Act, H.R.2236, to improve the management of forage fish which will benefit endangered seabirds.
3. Pass the Break Free from Plastic Pollution Act to reduce plastic pollution that is filling up the oceans and being ingested by seabirds.

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Golden-winged Warbler