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Group Sign-On Letter to Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Please consider signing your organization onto a comment letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in support of restoring migratory bird protections and establishing new protections from mortality by industrial sources. We are grateful that the FWS is reviewing and delaying implementation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) regulation (FWS-HQ-MB-2018-0090), which eliminates longstanding protections for birds. We encourage the Service to reconsider this rule, restore these critical bird protections, and initiate a process to consider a permitting program for incidental take under the MBTA. [To review the letter and endorse, please click here.](#) **NOTE: this sign-on letter is for organizations only.** **Deadline: February 26.**

[Endorse Here!](#)



Help Defend the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The current Administration is delaying implementation of a harmful rollback to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) issued by the previous Administration to reassess the changes and provide time for public input. The rule in question would end enforcement against “incidental take” — the unintentional but predictable killing of birds by industrial activities.

The consequences of this rule could be devastating: Industrial activities kill up to 1.1 billion birds per year in the U.S. Public comments are being accepted until March 1. This is an important opportunity to help restore safeguards for migratory birds, and to move ahead with new protections, such as requiring best management practices to reduce deaths. [Please act now: Ask the new Administration to protect migratory birds!](#) **The deadline for comments is March 1 at 11:59pm.**

[Take Action!](#)



Lobbying Blitz for Birds Continues

We've had great success with our lobby week and received increased interest due to the virtual fly-in format. We are now extending these efforts to include additional lobby weeks. We need your help to share just how important it is to provide [strong legislation to conserve birds and their habitats.](#) For groups and individuals wishing to meet virtually with their congressional delegates, to lobby on behalf of priority migratory bird conservation bills, please contact [Jennifer Cipolletti](#) to coordinate meetings with your legislators. Let's get to work and bring birds back!

[Contact to Lobby!](#)



Windmill Removal Improves Water Supply for Livestock While Enhancing Prairie Bird Habitat

Windmills are an iconic sight on the landscape of eastern Montana, but often these structures no longer serve landowners, rangeland management programs, nor the ground-nesting birds that live near them. Benefiting cattle and birds alike, a new initiative that began last summer helps to bring down these obsolete structures, replacing them with efficient solar-powered pumps. Partners in this effort include private landowners, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Northern Great Plains Joint Venture (NGPJV), and American Bird Conservancy (ABC).

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Reverse Bird Declines: Boost Conservation Programs

As the new Congress begins, we are happy to report that your voice was heard by the 116th Congress. In total, bird conservation programs received a substantial \$26-million increase. This is

a great start. Now we need to raise our voices again and make sure that conservation programs get the funding needed to reverse bird declines. The loss of bird populations in North America continues to be alarming. Habitat loss, collisions with glass, and climate change all pose serious threats to birds, and adequately funded federal conservation programs are critically needed to address these issues. [Speak up to ensure that federal conservation programs have the resources needed to protect birds.](#)

[Take Action!](#)



How Many Birds Are Killed by Wind Turbines?

Renewable energy development is a critically important part of the fight against climate change. Unfortunately, we also know that wind energy development has a substantial negative impact on birds. But just how many birds are killed by wind turbines? A Google search can turn up a wide array of answers to this question, with a nearly five-fold difference between the lowest and highest estimates. It has been a while since these estimates were updated; in the meantime, the wind energy industry has grown a lot. So, we thought it was time to take a close look at the

numbers, and see what a current estimate might look like.

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The Surprisingly Complex Science of Bird Longevity

How long do birds live? Whether you want to ace this question at your next bird-themed trivia challenge or just impress someone spontaneously, here's the answer: Birds can live between four and 100 years, depending on the species and circumstances. While it may win you trivia points, this answer may raise more questions than it resolves: Why is there such a range of lifespans? Which birds live the longest? Can some birds really live to be 100? Answering these questions proves to be surprisingly hard. In many cases, the seemingly simple question of "how old is that bird?" can be impossible to answer.

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At Home in The Cold: An Intro to the World of Winter Birds

Sure, winter can be dark, cold, and barren in the northern U.S., but that doesn't mean it isn't a

great time to see birds. After all, winter heralds the arrival of Dark-eyed Juncos, the famous snowbirds, and other visitors such as Snowy Owls and Evening Grosbeaks. And they aren't alone. Plenty of other cold-adapted resident species — Northern Cardinals and Blue Jays, to name two — stay put during winter months. Not only are birds active in winter — they can be much easier to spot, too. With no leaves on many trees, fewer people, less noise, and a monochrome landscape (if there's snow), winter birds often seem to pop into view without much effort by those seeking them.

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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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