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## **Fall Campaign: How to Save 1 Billion Birds From Collisions**

We've made some major strides this year in our efforts to make buildings safer for birds. We just launched a fall Senate campaign to highlight the need to reduce bird mortality from building collisions, which is estimated at about 1 billion per year in the U.S. alone. Dr. Chris Sheppard, ABC's Collisions Program Director, recently hosted a webinar called "The Bird-Safe Buildings Act: How to Save 1 Billion Birds from Collisions." You can access the full recording of the [webinar here](#). As reported before, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the [Bird-Safe Buildings Act](#) after adding it to H.R. 2. This bipartisan bill is designed to reduce bird mortality by calling for federal buildings to incorporate bird-safe building materials and design features. Now, it's the Senate's turn. We need your help in **reaching out to your Senators to ask them to support passage of the Bird-Safe Buildings Act, and the introduction of a Senate companion bill.** This bill and other

bird-friendly building legislation across the country, including New York City's groundbreaking [Local Law 15](#), are paving the way to saving 1 billion birds from collisions.

[Take Action!](#)



## **Ohio Drops “Feathering” Requirement for Icebreaker Wind**

Last week, the Ohio Power Siting Board (OPSB) reversed its decision to require a stringent wildlife protection measure for Icebreaker Wind, [approved in May](#) to be the nation's first freshwater offshore wind energy facility. This precedent-setting project poses high risks to birds and bats due to its location in Lake Erie, within a globally important migration hotspot. The decision increases these risks, but provisions remain that, if implemented correctly, could still provide protective measures for birds. At issue was a [condition of the project's approval](#) that required “feathering,” or turning off, turbines at night eight months of the year. The feathering requirement, which has now been removed, was required to protect birds from collisions with turbines, unless and until post-construction studies could show that impacts to wildlife would be within acceptable limits.

[Read Press Release!](#)



## **Last Chance to Participate in the Songbird Stamp Survey**

We recently sent out a survey link to explore interest in creating a new federal Songbird Stamp as a means to [boost bird conservation](#). We know 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 your input](#) to determine if there is broad support for such an initiative!

[Take Survey!](#)



## **We Won Our MBTA Lawsuit....Now What?**

In August, a federal court [overturned](#) a reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that had upended decades of

enforcement of protections for birds from "incidental take." This decision represents the next vital step on the path to restoring our nation's declining bird populations and is a major victory for birds and the environment. However, the decision can be appealed, and we still have a lot of work to do – for instance, passing the new [Migratory Bird Protection Act](#). We recently hosted a webinar on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and had an informative conversation with ABC President Mike Parr, General Counsel William "Bishop" Sheehan, and VP of Policy Steve Holmer. You can **take action by asking your members of Congress to support and cosponsor the Migratory Bird Protection Act.**

[Take Action!](#)



## **Community's Scientific Analysis Confirms: TNR Not Effective**

The North Utah Valley Animal Services Special Service District conducted an analysis on "[The Science of Feral Cats](#)" at the request of the City of Saratoga Springs, Utah, to help it understand and effectively address feral cat issues in the community. The report was initiated after Best Friends Animal Society called on the city to implement a trap, neuter, release (TNR) program. This extensive report (100 pages) found that

"overwhelmingly, science does not support TNR programs as an effective method to reduce feral cat populations," and that such programs "fail to adequately mitigate the significant threat to public health or alleviate the negative impacts on wildlife that feral and free-roaming cats pose." [Click here](#) to read the full report.

[Read report!](#)



## **The Neotrop Act: Two Decades of Conservation Across the Hemisphere**

"This year we celebrate a watershed in bird conservation: The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA). Building on the momentum created in the 1980's that led to the 1990 launch of Partners in Flight, Congress passed the NMBCA in July of 2000. The goals of the NMBCA include perpetuating healthy bird populations, providing financial resources for bird conservation, and fostering international cooperation. The impact has been incredible and has been a significant resource for Partners in Flight to help meet our objectives. Since the first projects were funded in 2002, NMBCA has provided 628 grants throughout the Western Hemisphere, totaling nearly \$75 million and

leveraging over \$287 million in matching contributions." *Partners in Flight*

[Read More!](#)



## **Is Painting Wind Turbine Blades an Effective Way to Reduce Bird Mortality?**

A [July 2020 study](#) from a wind energy facility in Norway found that painting one blade on a wind turbine black significantly reduced bird mortalities due to collisions. This is a positive finding.

However, only four of 68 turbines in the facility featured the black blade. ABC hopes that in the near future, larger studies elsewhere bear the same results. If so, this method might be applied more broadly.

"This is a good start in seeking additional ways to reduce the threat of wind turbines to wildlife," said Joel Merriman, ABC's Bird-Smart Wind Energy Campaign Director. "That said, it's too soon to bill this as a proven technique to minimize bird mortality at wind energy facilities. We're seeing many people refer to this paper as if it's a proven method, rather than what it is — an encouraging starting point for further study. Above all, siting turbines away from high bird-use areas remains the best way to reduce bird mortality."

[Read More!](#)



## **BirdCast: Live Migration Radar and Forecasts**

"Fall migration is an exciting period for all birders, and the synchrony between weather conditions, especially wind and the movements of fronts, can be helpful in understanding and appreciating nightly bird migrations and predicting upcoming migration activities. Birders will enjoy checking in on these interesting migration maps periodically, if not nightly. BirdCast develops and maintains some [remarkable tools](#) that allow you to monitor bird migration and inform yourself about migration forecasts. Information gleaned from weather radar were essential to develop and maintain BirdCast tools. One tool provides live radar bird migration maps that show where birds are migrating in real time. Another tool maps forecasted bird migration that predicts where and when migration will take place during a given night. A third tool provides migration alerts that you can subscribe to and find out when bird migrations are forecast." *The Birding Wire*

[Learn More!](#)

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