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Speak Up to Protect the Threatened Northern Spotted Owl

Please act now to help save the Northern Spotted Owl and Marbled Murrelet, and ensure that the many benefits of the Northwest Forest Plan, such as carbon storage to fight climate change and clean drinking water supplies from national forests, are not lost. Agency scientists just concluded that the Northern Spotted Owl's rapidly declining population should be listed as Endangered, recognizing that it has been inching closer to extinction. Unfortunately, despite this finding, the Administration has decided the owl will not receive any additional protection. In fact, it is actually proposing to reduce the owl's protected habitat under the Endangered Species Act. [Please act now to help save the Northern Spotted Owl and the Threatened Marbled Murrelet, which shares its habitat,](#) and speak out for a strong Endangered Species Act.

[Take Action!](#)



New York's Renewable Energy Regulations Neglect Bird Impacts

New York's renewable energy development process overhaul continues to move forward with draft regulations, which do little to address renewable energy projects' substantial negative impacts on birds. ABC led a group of 25 bird conservation organizations in developing comments to express concerns about these regulations. The groups [propose commonsense solutions](#) that would correct some of the regulations' major flaws and provide better protection for birds. By incorporating the recommended changes from these bird conservation experts, the State could set a positive precedent for environmentally friendly renewable energy development. But to make this happen, substantial revisions to the current draft regulations would be needed.

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Continued Threats Plague the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The new Administration will face many bird conservation challenges in the year ahead. We

had a major bird conservation victory in August 2020 when a federal judge ruled in favor of a lawsuit defending the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which had been a challenge filed by ABC, six partner organizations including the National Audubon Society, and eight states. The ruling voided the 2017 Department of the Interior Solicitor’s Opinion that the Act does not forbid the predictable (and often avoidable) killing of migratory birds by industrial activity (so-called “incidental take”). The government has appealed – and there’s now a real possibility that the case will wind up in the U.S. Supreme Court, unless the new Administration first restores the long-standing interpretation of the Act to cover incidental take. **Please tell the next Congress** to reintroduce the [Migratory Bird Protection Act](#) to ensure these protections will persist through future changes in administrations.

[Take Action!](#)



What Do the Election Results Mean for Birds?

With a new Administration poised to be inaugurated, and Senate control still up for grabs, what new opportunities and challenges await bird advocates in the next year? Last month, we hosted a webinar with members of ABC's policy team to [provide a bird advocacy update](#). We

discussed progress on our Bird-Safe Buildings campaign, Bird-Smart Wind Energy, and federal funding for bird conservation. We also went over changes we can expect to see from the Administration and Congress, and previewed the 2021 bird conservation agenda, including a migratory bird rescue package we developed in partnership with the National Audubon Society. [This presentation is available online, along with our other policy webinars.](#)

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Parrot Paradox: The Unprotected, Endangered Red-crowned Parrot

The Red-crowned Parrot could be a poster-bird for the travails facing wild parrot populations around the world. Pummeled for decades by the one-two punch of habitat loss and capture for the bird trade, this chunky green bird with red cap and wing flashes has vanished from 50 to 85 percent of its original range, its population down an estimated 95 percent. Not surprisingly, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) lists the species as Endangered. But there is a silver lining: Usually a bird of remaining wild, scrub-forest habitat in its small range in northeastern Mexico, this parrot now also occupies South Texas suburbs in a big way. Scientists studying the birds both north and south

of the border hope that by tapping into our affection for these colorful, intelligent birds — and appreciating them as wild birds, not prospective pets — that the Red-crowned Parrot can be saved.

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American Bird Conservancy's 2019 Annual Report

ABC's 2019 Annual Report is now available online. With your help, we delivered another strong year of conservation results. ABC won its legal case to overturn the harmful 2017 reinterpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) that gave some industries a free pass for killing birds. This win is one of the most important blows we have landed in the struggle to restore declining birds — an effort made even more urgent since a study, co-authored by ABC and published in *Science* in fall 2019, documented the loss of almost 3 billion birds from the United States and Canada since 1970. Read additional conservation highlights below, as well as our [winter magazine!](#)

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Thank You for Your Support!

2020 has been a tough year for everyone and we want to thank you, more than ever, for your continued support. The Bird Conservation Alliance (BCA) would not exist without our members and supporters. Many of you have been members of the Alliance for years, and others have joined recently. We have created an option for Alliance members to donate to the BCA to help continue our advocacy efforts, including the newsletter publication, webinars, Hill meetings and events, and lobby days. You can also access previous newsletters and webinar recordings, as well as [Take Action](#) on important issues. Organizations and groups can join the BCA today, so click below to get started!

[Become a Member!](#)

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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