

FY2026 - American Bird Conservancy Appropriations Priorities

Black Tern by Nick Vorobey, Shutterstock



Endangered Species Recovery | USFWS, NPS, USGS, BLM

Amidst a loss of 3 billion North American birds, dozens of bird species are declining at an especially alarming rate. Each has unique habitat needs and faces different threats, but solutions tailored to the recovery of each species are being put in place by dedicated conservationists. Additional funds are needed to keep species like the Red Knot, Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Marbled Murrelet, Sage-Grouse, and Hawaiian forest birds from reaching the point of no return.

Agency	Program	FY24 Final (millions)	FY26ABC Recommendation (millions)
USFWS, NPS, USGS	Hawaiian ESA Recovery	\$15.51	\$20
USFWS	Red Knot Recovery	\$0	\$5
USFWS	Lesser Prairie-Chicken Recovery	\$0	\$5
USFWS, NMFS	Marbled Murrelet Recovery	\$0	\$5
BLM	Sage-Grouse Conservation	\$73	\$73

Pesticide Licensing and Toxics | EPA and USFWS

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently completing pesticide reviews mandated under the Endangered Species Act and other statutes. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service makes species-specific recommendations as part of this process, and also funds and enacts novel programs to protect wildlife from toxins. To comply with court mandated deadlines and protect species, ABC recommends fully funding the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs, increasing the USFWS's Ecological Services Consultations branch appropriation to \$5 million, and funding Voluntary Incentives for Hunters to use non-lead ammunition at \$10 million for FY2026.

Agency	Program	FY24 Final (millions)	FY26ABC Recommendation (millions)
EPA	Pesticides Licensing	\$48.70	\$75.70
USFWS	ESA Pesticide Consultations	\$1	\$5
USFWS	Voluntary Non-lead Ammunition Incentives	\$1	\$10



Marine Conservation | NOAA and EPA

Seabirds depend on healthy marine habitats. We recommend funding the EPA's Marine Pollution Program and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program, which collectively reduce pollution in waterways and fulfill legal obligations under the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act. Likewise, we recommend increased funding for management of the National Marine Sanctuary system, the National Seabird Program, and collaboration across NOAA programs to mitigate seabird bycatch.

Agency	Program	FY24 Final (millions)	FY26ABC Recommendation (millions)
EPA	Marine Pollution Program	\$10.20	\$13
NOAA	Marine Debris Program	\$15	\$15
NOAA	Nat'l Marine Sanctuaries	\$68	\$70
NOAA	National Seabird Program/Seabird Bycatch Technical Assistance	\$0	\$10

Migratory Bird Protection | USFWS

Reducing bird declines requires more than focusing on imperiled species. By addressing threats to birds in the wild, hundreds of species can be protected for generations to come. ABC's core mission work of protecting migratory birds from threats can be better supported by increasing funding for mitigation and permitting under the MBTA; increasing funding for habitat conservation under the NMBCA; and funding improvements and retrofits of federal buildings to reduce threats from window collisions.

Agency	Program	FY24 Final (millions)	FY26ABC Recommendation (millions)
USFWS	MBTA Incidental Take Mitigation	\$0	\$10
USFWS	NMBCA	\$5.10	\$10
USFWS	Window Collision Mitigation	\$0	\$10
USFWS	Urban Bird Treaty Program	\$0.333	\$1

Migratory Bird Joint Ventures | USFWS

The national network of Joint Ventures (JVs) is essential to address the conservation needs of migratory birds. To help reverse bird declines, we recommend that the Joint Ventures be allocated \$30 million to get the program to the minimum base funding amount and to help the JVs reach "full functioning" by leveraging the 1234 funding with other federal agencies. To complete the map, we also recommend appropriations of \$600,000 for the California Central Coast Joint Venture.

Agency	Program	FY24 Final (millions)	FY26ABC Recommendation (millions)
USFWS	Migratory Bird Joint Ventures	\$16.82	\$30
USFWS	California Central Coast Joint Venture	\$0	\$0.60

