

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Since 2002, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) grant program has provided a key source of funding and partnerships for conserving birds across the Western Hemisphere. More than half of our nation's bird species migrate to Central and South America, and the Caribbean, and additional funding, program updates, and reauthorization is urgently needed to help address the ongoing declines facing the more than 350 species of birds this program helps conserve.

North America's bird population has declined by 3 billion birds since 1970 -- a loss of more than one in four birds. Successful recovery will require efforts across the full ranges of migratory birds. By doing so, we can help ensure that birds continue to provide significant benefits to the nation. Consumer spending on birdwatching generates nearly \$100 billion in economic output in the U.S., and birds provide key ecosystem services through pest control, seed dispersal, pollination, and more.

Many beloved species across the nation benefit from the NMBCA, such as Baltimore Orioles and Tree Swallows, Ospreys and Blue-winged Teal, Ruby-throated Hummingbirds and Cerulean Warblers, and more. Projects have helped conserve key habitat and landscapes across their hemispheric journeys, including the Andes Mountains in Colombia, islands off the coast of Chile, the wetlands of Panama Bay, to the grasslands and forests of the U.S. and Canada.

The NMBCA has helped spur numerous partnerships and funded more than 700 projects, benefitting conservation, research, and education throughout the Western Hemisphere, including in the U.S., Canada, and more than 35 countries across Central and South America, and the Caribbean. In the past 20 years, the NMBCA has provided \$89 million in grants, and partners have contributed an additional \$346 million to these projects, benefitting more than 5 million acres of migratory bird habitat.



How Congress Can Help

Bipartisan legislation titled the Migratory Birds of the Americas Conservation Enhancements Act ([H.R. 4389](#)) has been introduced in the U.S. House by Rep. Salazar (R-FL) and Rep. Larsen (D-WA) to enhance the NMBCA by reauthorizing the program, growing its authorized funding level from \$6.5M to \$10M, and making program updates. The legislation would help improve the accessibility and management of the program by easing the matching requirements from 3:1 to 2:1, and raising the cap on administrative support from 3 to 4 percent.

Audubon urges Members of Congress to cosponsor the Migratory Birds of the Americas legislation to reauthorize and enhance the NMBCA program in the U.S. House and to support fully funding NMBCA appropriations in FY24.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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