

Support the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

Species in Peril

Approximately 350 species of birds migrate between their winter homes in Latin America and their breeding grounds in North America. Habitat loss due to deforestation and development, as well as mortality from human-caused hazards, threaten these Neotropical migrants. Conservation is crucial to ensure their continued survival.

Of the 178 continental bird species included on the American Bird Conservancy/Audubon WatchList 2007 (www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/science/watchlist/watchlist.html), more than one-third are Neotropical migrants. At least 29 of these species are estimated to have experienced population

declines of 45% or greater since surveys began in the 1960s.

The Cerulean Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher have each declined more than 70%.

Prothonotary Warbler:
Greg Lavaty



Supporting Migratory Birds

Conservation programs can help reverse this downward trend. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA) established a matching grants program that supports migratory bird conservation projects in the United States, Canada, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and has a proven record of success.

Partners in 44 U.S. states/territories and 34 other countries have been involved in 225 Act-supported projects. More than \$21 million in Act grants has leveraged \$97 million in total partner

contributions. Land conservation projects have impacted almost three million acres of bird habitat.

Funding of NMBCA

The Act passed in 2000 with a maximum authorization of \$5 million per year. Every five years the Act must be reauthorized, and funds must be appropriated annually by Congress. In its first year of funding in 2002, appropriations fell \$2 million short. Current authorization is \$6 million per year, but in 2008, the Act was only appropriated at \$4.5 million. Representatives Ron Kind (D-WI) and Wayne Gilchrest (R-MD) introduced H.R.5756, and Senator Benjamin Cardin of Maryland introduced legislation S.3490, companion bills that reauthorize the existing NMBCA at significantly higher funding levels (\$20 million by 2015), to meet the growing conservation needs of Neotropical migratory birds.

Because the NMBCA and its funding are so important for bird conservation in the Americas, American Bird Conservancy and members of the Bird Conservation Alliance have formed a coalition to work for reauthorization of the Act and increased funding.

Act for Songbirds

Join the *Act for Songbirds* campaign to advocate for reauthorization of the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act—America's only source of federal funds specifically dedicated to conserving migratory birds. You can add your voice to the thousands taking action by sending a letter to your Representatives requesting that they cosponsor H.R.5756 and S. 3490.



Scarlet Tanager:
Robert Roysse

BCA facilitated by:



Visit www.actforsongbirds.org
 and see how you can Act for
 Songbirds today!