

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial



Years of Bird Conservation in North America

Be sure to visit the "Nestbox" at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/nestbox.php> an online toolkit containing products and resources related to the Centennial of this first Migratory Bird Treaty between the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada). We encourage you to make these tools and products your own and welcome your feedback on these products to MBTreaty100@fws.gov.

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Migratory Bird Conservation -- Why it is Important

- Migratory birds connect people to nature and provide multiple benefits – ecological, economic, aesthetic, recreational and spiritual – to humans and the natural environment.
- Migratory birds connect nations and even continents through migration, providing opportunities for international understanding and collaboration.
- Migratory birds are good indicators of environmental health because they are visible and relatively easy to study.
- Many bird species undertake lengthy and perilous annual migration journeys that involve a wide range of threats, many of which are caused by humans.
- Habitat losses due to urban development, agriculture and other land uses are among the main threats to migrating birds.
- Conservation works! Where we have invested in healthy habitats, birds do better.

Centennial Celebration Goals

There are four broad goals for the Centennial celebration:

- Create awareness about the importance of migratory bird conservation.
- Promote key actions to help birds.
- Increase support for migratory bird conservation programs and initiatives.
- Expand opportunities for engagement in bird-watching, hunting and conservation.

Migratory Bird Treaty and the Importance of International Cooperation on Conservation

- In 2016, we celebrate the centennial of the signing of the foundational treaty that recognizes the significance of international commitment to protect and conserve migratory birds.

On Aug. 16, 1916, the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) adopted a uniform system of protection for nearly all migratory bird species that inhabit - and often migrate between - the United States and Canada.

In 1918, the United States signed the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the domestic legislation that formally implements the United States' commitment to the 1916 Treaty and (as amended) three subsequent international conventions, with Russia, Japan and Mexico, for the protection of migratory birds that travel among and inhabit these nations.

- National and international cooperation and action are essential in conserving and protecting the world's migratory birds.
- The Service and our partners work to coordinate and galvanize efforts to protect and conserve migratory birds for present and future generations.

Economic and Societal Significance of Birds and Bird Conservation

- Birds and bird-related activities have a significant economic impact.
- Waterfowl hunters, bird watchers and other outdoor enthusiasts make significant contributions to conservation by purchasing Federal Duck Stamps.
- Promoting abundant sustainable bird populations and healthy habitats affords significant benefits to human society.

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