

# Educators and Rehabilitators and the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial 1916-2016

*Celebrating 100 years of migratory bird conservation and your important role in conserving today's birds for tomorrow*

## Why Celebrate the Migratory Bird Treaty? (MBTreaty 100)

The year 2016 marks the centennial of the Convention between the United States and Great Britain (for Canada) for the Protection of Migratory Birds (also called the Migratory Bird Treaty), signed on Aug. 16, 1916. The Migratory Bird Treaty, and three others that followed, form the cornerstones of our efforts to conserve birds that migrate across international borders.

The Treaty connects the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with our federal, state, private, non-governmental, tribal, and international partners, who share a long, successful history of conserving, protecting, and managing migratory bird populations and their habitats. Celebrating the centennial of the first Treaty allows us to bring together those who have contributed to its success, and to galvanize efforts to protect migratory birds for the generations to come.

## Migratory birds

- ...connect people with nature and add beauty, sound and color to our world. They provide countless opportunities for enjoyment by birders, hunters, and outdoor enthusiasts and have cultural and spiritual importance.
- ...contribute environmental benefits, including pollination, insect and rodent control, and seed dispersal.
- ...are good indicators of environmental health because they are so visible and relatively easy to study. Studying birds can give us a picture of what is going on in the world.
- ...play a key role in the U.S. economy, supporting recreational opportunities that create jobs and generate billions of dollars in revenue.

## Goals and Objectives

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

## How does your permit and the MBTreaty 100 make a difference?

- *We ensure the best possible care for wild birds kept in captivity.*  
There are over 1,250 active permits nationwide for the use of live, wild migratory birds and eagles in conservation education programs.
- *We help sick, injured, and orphaned wild birds and eagles return to the wild.*  
There are over 1,500 rehabilitators nationwide that provide care to injured and orphaned birds and eagles, helping them return to the wild.
- *We simplify connecting people with nature.*  
Nearly 4,000 educators use live birds, as well as specimens, feathers, eggs and nests for wildlife education.
- *We facilitate Native American Traditions.*  
Nearly 36,000 Native Americans have feathers and parts for use in cultural traditions. Many of these feathers are provided by educators and rehabilitators when birds molt or when they do not survive due to their injuries.
- *We protect our nation's symbol.*  
The delisting of the bald eagle is a landmark success for all of us. Ongoing efforts through rehabilitation and education have been key factors in making sure eagles continue to thrive nationwide.



*Every bird and everybody can make a difference!*

## Our Goal

*Create awareness, promote key actions, increase support, and expand opportunities for engagement in the conservation of migratory birds*

## What can you do for the MBTreaty 100?

- Visit the “Nestbox” for ideas, talking points, key messages, speech tips & quotes and various resources to use in your educational programs! <http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/nestbox.php>
- Use the enclosed “Tweet Sheet” key messages in your outreach programs
- Present a program dedicated to the MBTreaty 100
- Add an MBTreaty 100 component or message to your existing programs
- Lead a bird hike and talk about the MB Treaty 100
- Participate in an MBTreaty 100 celebration already planned for your community
- Promote the MBTreaty 100 on your website, blog, Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, etc.
- Support environmentally bird-friendly products like shadegrown coffee and fair trade certified chocolate or cocoa
- Plant gardens and landscape for migratory birds to share with your family, friends, and neighbors
- Reduce, reuse and recycle!



Education is important to protecting birds for future generations.

### "Words to the Birds"

#### Here's an MBTreaty 100 activity...

In August 2016, we celebrate 100 years of bird protection under the original Migratory Bird Treaty! August is also when many birds begin their annual migration to their wintering habitats. Be a part of this year's migration and send us your:

-  Drawing about why birds matter to you
-  Poem about birds
-  Write a letter to the birds to wish them good luck & safe travels on their migration
-  Tell-a-story (100 words) about your favorite bird encounter or adventure

#### We want to hear from you

 Please send your "Words to the Birds" during 2016 to [wordstothebirds@fws.gov](mailto:wordstothebirds@fws.gov).

 Random entries will be posted 2016 on our MBTreaty100 website at [www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/](http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/).

#### Contact us to learn more and get involved:

Email: [MBTreaty100@fws.gov](mailto:MBTreaty100@fws.gov)

Web: [www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/](http://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/)

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Participate in the Junior Duck Stamp Contest!  
[www.fws.gov/juniorduck/](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/)



Visit a National Wildlife Refuge to see and learn about birds!  
[www.fws.gov/refuges/](http://www.fws.gov/refuges/)

