



# Urban Conservation Treaty for Migratory Birds



## *Making Cities Healthier Places for Birds and People*

**The Importance of Birds.** Birds enrich our lives through their intrinsic values as pollinators, predators, and prey, and as indicators of the health of ecosystems that we also depend upon. Millions of people throughout the country enjoy watching, feeding, hunting, and photographing birds. In urban areas, birds represent people's most frequent contact with wildlife. By engaging urban communities in appreciating and conserving birds, the Urban Bird Treaty Program is helping make cities healthier places for birds and people, too.



*UBT partners restore city natural areas that can provide important stopover habitat for migratory birds like this Indigo Bunting. / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

### **The Urban Bird Treaty Program.**

Since 1999, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been designating Urban Bird Treaty (UBT) cities all across the United States. UBT city partners work to achieve the following goals:

- \* Protect, restore, and enhance urban habitats for birds;
- \* Reduce urban hazards to birds; and
- \* Educate and engage urban communities in caring about and conserving birds and their habitats.

Urban areas can provide important habitats for birds, especially those on migration that need safe, food-rich areas to rest and refuel. But cities also pose a host of threats to birds, from collision hazards such as building glass and lights to free-roaming cats to hazardous trash and pesticides, all of which can result in mortality.

The Urban Bird Treaty Program supports city partners in carrying out community-based conservation to address bird habitat loss and the above hazards. Activities include native plant restorations; bird-friendly building and lights out programs; and community education and engagement programs that create opportunities for people in cities to learn about and celebrate birds and participate in bird-related recreation, science, and conservation. Restoring natural areas, such as forests and meadows, not only provides bird habitat but also can improve air and water quality and access to urban green space. This benefits the health and well-being of birds and people, too, especially underrepresented and underserved communities.



*Partners in Portland, OR engage community members in reducing bird strike hazards such as retrofitting windows to make them bird safe. / Portland Audubon*

The Urban Bird Treaty Program is a unique collaboration between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and participating U.S. cities and their partners. The Service provides guidance and technical assistance to help partners carry out projects and become designated as Urban Bird Treaty cities. The Service also awards Urban Bird Treaty grants through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program.

For more information, visit the UBT Program web page at <http://www.fws.gov/birds/grants/urban-bird-treaty.php> or the new UBT Story Map at <http://bit.ly/UBTCITIES> or the Service's Urban Program webpage at <https://www.fws.gov/urban/>



*Over 80% of the U.S. lives in urban areas. The future of conservation lies in our ability to inspire all Americans to connect with birds, other wildlife and their habitats. / Susannah Lerman, U.S. Forest Service*

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