



# Audubon Armchair Activist

Audubon's Letter of the Month Club

December 2002

## 107<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS COMES TO A CLOSE But Conservation Issues Still on the Table!

On November 22, the U.S. Congress officially closed the books on its 107<sup>th</sup> session, adjourning without taking final action on a good number of bills, including the remaining 11 appropriations bills for Fiscal Year 2003, which began October 1. That means in January, Members of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress will be called on to immediately address the laundry list of funding bills their predecessors failed to reach agreement on. These appropriations bills are the funding vehicles Congress must pass each and every year to keep our government up and running. Earlier this month, Congress passed a "Continuing Resolution," (CR) which funds government programs at last year's levels through January, 2003.

The 108th Congress will try to complete work on these bills by the end of January so they can officially roll-out their agenda. They basically have three options: (1) issue another CR for the duration of the present fiscal year, which would fund programs at 2002 levels, (2) take the funding levels passed by the Senate and House for all programs and average them out for the final funding figure, or (3) due to strong con-

stituent support, Congress fights for the highest funding levels possible for specific programs. And that's the option Audubon is pushing for! Audubon's priority conservation programs, such as National Wildlife Refuges, Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act and State Wildlife grants, received higher funding levels in either the U.S. House or Senate this year. We want to make sure the highest amount makes it into the final bill.

Help ensure the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress support the highest funding levels possible for critical conservation programs for Fiscal Year 2003 – which began in October, 2002! Click onto our special TAKE ACTION site to instantly send a letter to your lawmakers on this issue before they convene in January! Or refer to the attached sample letter. <http://www.capitolconnect.com/audubon/contact/default.asp?subject=67>

Thank you for your time, attention, and most importantly, for your support throughout the year. Here's wishing you and yours a very safe and happy holiday season!

# sample letter:

## SAMPLE LETTER TO LAWMAKERS

Your Name  
Address  
City, State, Zip

DATE

The Honorable (NAME OF LAWMAKER)  
United States Senate (Or House of Representatives)  
Washington, D.C. 20510 (or 20515 for the House)

Dear Senator: (or Representative:)

As a constituent concerned with conservation, I stand with the National Audubon Society in urging you to support the highest possible funding levels for conservation programs within the U.S. Department of the Interior. These programs include our National Wildlife Refuge System, State Wildlife grants and the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act.

All of these programs focus on protecting species and habitat critical to their survival. Fully funding the Neo-tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act is critical, as migratory bird populations are dwindling due to destruction of their wintering habitats. The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act can help change the fate of these birds.

In 2003, our National Wildlife Refuge System will celebrate it's 100th Anniversary. More than 500 refuges spanning across all 50 states, protecting one-fifth of America's wetlands and providing habitat for more than 700 species of birds, and are the primary habitat for over 250 threatened and endangered species. But in spite of its critical conservation role, our Refuge System, and the safe harbor it provides to millions of birds, is in trouble as it finds itself in dire need of care. These wildlife havens need the highest possible funding to protect birds and wildlife.

I urge you to support the highest possible funding levels for these critical conservation programs coordinated through the Department of the Interior.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Your Name Here

1901 Pennsylvania Ave, NW #1100  
Washington, D.C. 20006



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## 107th Congress Comes to a Close