



Audubon Armchair Activist

Audubon's Letter of the Month Club

June 2003

NEO-TROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRDS

Did you know that the United States Congress has an opportunity to help save threatened and endangered neo-tropical migratory birds, including the Kirtland's Warbler, Bicknell's Thrush, Black-capped Vireo and a species of great concern, the Cerulean Warbler?

It's true! They can do so by increasing funding for the Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Fund — a special program aimed specifically at restoring habitat for neo-tropical migratory birds. You'll recall, the Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act was signed into law three years ago – a first-of-its-kind law that directly impacts songbirds by helping to restore and conserve their wintering habitat.

The law established a \$5 million fund to support partnership programs to enhance habitat in the U.S., as well as the Caribbean and Latin America, where approximately 5 billion birds of 500 species spend their winters – including

species considered the most endangered birds in North America. For the past several years, Congress has failed to secure the full \$5 million for this program – a miniscule figure far less than almost all conservation programs coordinated through the U.S. Department of the Interior

We need your help to convince both the House & Senate to secure full funding for this species saving program, thus ensure that Neotropical Migratory Birds return to our backyards by protecting their wintering habitat! Please contact your two U.S. Senators and U.S. Representative today and urge them to fully fund the Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. Refer to the sample letter enclosed, or if you have access to the web, you can identify and communicate instantly with your lawmakers via our special TAKE ACTION site. You can reach our special site at www.audubon.org, then select TAKE ACTION!

sample letter:

Your Name
Address
City State Zip

DATE

The Honorable (Name of lawmaker Here)
U.S. Senate (or U.S. House of Representatives)
Washington, D.C. 20515 (or 20510 for the U.S. House)

Dear Senator Last Name Here: (or Representative Last Name Here)

As a constituent concerned with conservation, I stand with the National Audubon Society in urging you to fully fund the Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Conservation at \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2004.

Habitat destruction overseas has pushed far too many bird species closer to extinction. Neotropical migratory birds are currently migrating to our shores and backyards, but in far fewer numbers than last year for several species. Neotropical 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. That's why I urge you to support full funding of \$5 million for the Neo-Tropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act this year.

Please let me know where you stand on this issue, and what you feel are the chances it will receive its full funding this year.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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Washington, D.C. 20036



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