



## Oregon Wild Bird Conservation

What is the Oregon Wild Bird Conservation Act? The Wild Bird Conservation Act was developed by a team representing over 30 diverse organizations and Oregon's largest independent bird feeding stores, the Backyard Bird Shops. It is aimed at enhancing wild bird species and their habitats on both urban and rural landscapes, aiming particularly at those species currently in decline while engaging broad audiences in avian conservation.

What is our challenge? More than one out of four native bird species in Oregon is currently experiencing serious long-term declines. This is mostly due to habitat loss and disturbance. We must reverse these declines and minimize the risk of federal listing. Increased funding and more people involved in voluntary conservation will be needed to do this.

Who pays for wildlife conservation in Oregon? Oregon's 300 thousand hunters and 600 thousand anglers spend about \$1.3 billion per year pursuing their sport. They currently pay \$62 million each year in license and equipment fees to directly support state management of the species they value.

According to recent surveys, 1.7 million people in Oregon engage in wildlife viewing as a recreational activity, spending over \$1 billion per year pursuing this activity. Wildlife viewers are interested in helping fund wildlife management in Oregon. However, there is no funding mechanism for them to contribute directly to support the management of the species they appreciate.

A nickel a pound for birds! According to Oregon Department of Agriculture estimates, Oregonians purchase about 20,000 tons of wild bird seed each year. A proposed Wild Bird Conservation Act would establish a wholesale level 5¢ per pound fee on wild bird feed distributed for sale in the state of Oregon. The revenues will be used to implement Oregon Conservation Strategy actions aimed at enhancing wild bird species and their habitats.

What would be accomplished? Specifically, the Wild Bird Conservation Act would:

- Directly fund on-the-ground habitat restoration projects on both urban and rural lands around the state.
- Provide information and education programs to communities so they can help conserve Oregon's native bird species.
- Build public and private partnerships to engage in wild bird conservation efforts.
- Engage new, underserved and diverse communities (such as inner city and small town neighborhoods) in wild bird conservation.
- Support native bird management efforts by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and its conservation partners.

How would this happen? Revenues, estimated at \$2 to \$4 million per biennium, would be used by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to fund an Avian Conservation Coordinator and to provide \$1.8 to \$3.8 million in program and project funds. These program and project funds will be leveraged with public and private funds.

Accountability. This wild bird conservation program would be overseen by a stakeholder committee and the act would have to be renewed before 2019.

## Background Information

### Examples of wild bird species currently declining in Oregon

Western meadowlark (due to habitat loss and disturbance)  
 Streaked Horned Lark (due to habitat loss and disturbance)  
 Common Nighthawk (due to habitat loss, disturbance and pesticide effects)  
 Oregon Vesper Sparrow (due to mowing and farming practices)  
 Chipping Sparrow (due to habitat loss, particularly cutting of trees and shrubs)  
 Acorn Woodpecker (due to degradation of oak woodlands)  
 Lewis's Woodpecker (due to habitat loss, particularly loss of large trees and snags)  
 White-breasted Nuthatch (due to habitat loss, particularly loss of large oak trees)  
 Yellow-breasted Chat (due to loss of habitat and shrub removal)  
 Willow Flycatcher (due to habitat loss and shrub removal)  
 Olive-sided Flycatcher (due to habitat loss and coniferous tree cutting)  
 Rufous Hummingbird (due to tree and shrub cutting, removal of nectar sources)  
 Golden-crowned Kinglet (due to habitat loss and coniferous tree cutting)

Source: Andrea Hanson, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

### Examples of potential projects that would benefit wild bird species in Oregon:

Conservation action	Strategy species benefiting
Expand and promote backyard bird habitat and stewardship programs such as naturescaping, providing water, proper feeding and effective use of nestboxes	Chipping sparrow White-breasted nuthatch Western bluebird
Restore grassland habitat in parcels of over 100 acres so as to increase plant diversity, create nesting areas, remove invasive plants and minimize disturbance during breeding season	Western meadowlark Streaked horned lark Oregon vesper sparrow
Maintain and restore parcels of oak savannahs with open understories; control invasive species	Acorn woodpecker Lewis's woodpecker
Maintain and create habitats with large diameter hollow trees and tall, newly dead snags	Lewis's woodpecker Western purple martin
Restore parcels of brushy willow and other native shrubby habitat near water	Willow flycatcher Yellow-breasted chat
Assess and address the issue of bird collisions with tall buildings	American peregrine falcon

Strategy species are defined and listed in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW 2006)

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