

For 2018, Resolve to Help Birds in Three Simple Ways

Celebrate the [Year of the Bird](#) by committing to these three simple actions you can take to help our feathered friends thrive.

- 1) **Plant more native plants.** Depending on where you live, you might need to wait a few months before busting out your shovel and work gloves. But winter is a great time to [start planning](#) a bird-friendly garden, and [Audubon's native plants database](#) can help you find the right trees, shrubs, grasses, and flowers for your backyard.

- 2) **Help reduce window collisions.** As many as [a billion birds](#) in North America die every year from collisions with buildings, and the windows of homes in the United States make up at least 150 million of those deaths. The good news is there are easy steps you can take to prevent window strikes and [make your home truly bird-friendly](#).
 - Relocate bird feeders - Many people hang birdfeeders in a tree close to their house so they can easily watch the birds from a window. This is the worst place to put them. It draws birds close to windows while also giving them space to gain the necessary flying speed to hurt themselves. Place feeder and birdbaths within three feet of the nearest window so that birds don't hurt themselves upon liftoff; or place them more than 30 feet away so that feeding birds have plenty of space to clear the house.
 - Consider installing exterior screens to protect birds from your windows. An alternative is to hang [BirdScreen](#), a product designed for this very purpose.
 - Hang strings, ribbons, or cords in front of your window.
 - Don't clean your windows. Dirty windows are less reflective and can reduce collisions.
 - Use a lot of decals – one won't work. But if you don't want to clutter up your windows, the [American Bird Conservancy sells translucent tape](#), or you can purchase [decals that reflect UV light](#), which birds can see but people cannot.

- 3) **Stand up for the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.** The MBTA, which turns 100 years old in 2018, is [America's cornerstone bird conservation law](#). Its passage was one of the first victories for the National Audubon Society. Today, however, the MBTA is under attack, and it's up to birders to once again [stand up for the law](#) and the creatures it protects. The House Committee on Natural Resources has passed a

harmful energy bill (HR 4239) with an amendment that would gut our nation's strongest bird conservation law. If the bill becomes law, industries would no longer be held accountable for bird deaths, such as birds killed in oil spills. In other words, if this bill had been the law in 2010, BP would not have been held liable for killing more than one million birds during the Gulf oil spill. Then on Dec 22, the Interior Department quietly rolled back an Obama-era policy aimed at protecting migratory birds, stating in a new interpretation of the MBTA, that it will no longer prosecute oil and gas, wind, and solar operators that accidentally kill birds. Just last week, 17 former leaders from the U.S. Department of the Interior submitted [a letter](#) to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke denouncing the agency's recent announcement reinterpreting—and essentially gutting—the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and to instead work with them to find a solution that balances development and conservation. **Urge your U.S. Representative to vote NO on the Bird-Killer Amendment and the bad energy bill.**

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