



*International  
Migratory  
Bird Day  
(IMBD),  
held annually  
on the second  
Saturday in  
May, is an  
invitation to  
celebrate and  
support  
migratory bird  
conservation.*

**IMBD Information**

web - <http://birds.fws.gov/imbd>

phone - 703 /358-2318

**IMBD Sales**

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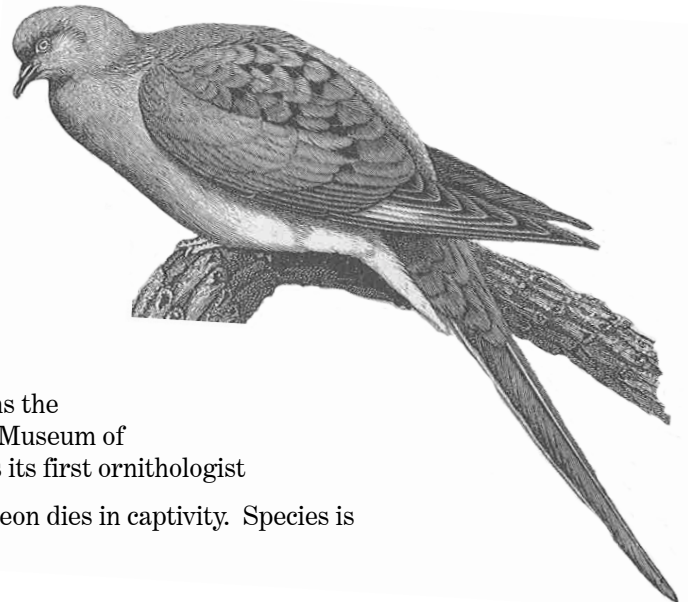
phone - 1-866/334-3330

January 2003

# Bird Conservation Timeline

Listed below are some of the most notable conservation actions associated with birds. This chronology focuses on North America, though many of the listed events had global consequences and many important conservation developments have taken place in other parts of the world. The timeline begins with the Passenger Pigeon, a symbol of the need for wildlife protection and the price of failing to conserve.

- 1869 Passenger Pigeon first protected (Michigan law passed prohibiting firearm discharge within 1 mile of roosts)
- 1883 The American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) formed
- 1884 AOU Bird Protection Committee drafts a "model law" for protection of nongame birds
- 1885 Bureau of Biological Survey, now U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, established
- 1886 National Audubon Society formed
- 1887 North America's first waterfowl refuge established at Last Mountain Lake in Saskatchewan, Canada
- 1898 Alfonso Herrera, a Mexican biologist and later the first Director of Mexico's Bureau of Biological Studies, publishes a proposal for the protection of useful birds
- 1900 Last known wild Passenger Pigeon killed in Ohio, U.S.  
First federal law protecting birds passed in the U.S. (Lacey Act prohibits interstate transport of birds killed in violation of state laws)
- 1902 The International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies founded to coordinate the protection and management of North America's fish and wildlife resources
- 1903 U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt designates Pelican Island, Florida a federal refuge, marking the beginning of the National Wildlife Refuge System
- 1911 Percy Taverner joins the Canadian National Museum of Natural Sciences as its first ornithologist
- 1914 Last Passenger Pigeon dies in captivity. Species is now extinct



- 1916** Great Britain (acting on the behalf of Canada) and the U.S. sign the Migratory Bird Convention, a treaty that obliges both countries to protect and preserve migratory birds
- 1917** Canada passes the Migratory Birds Convention Act enacting the Migratory Bird Convention
- 1918** U.S. passes the Migratory Bird Treaty Act enacting the Migratory Bird Convention
- 1922** Mexican President Alvaro Obregón designates Isla Guadalupe as Mexico's first wildlife refuge
- 1929** U.S. passes Migratory Bird Conservation Act allowing federal government to acquire refuges
- 1931** Mexican Committee for the Protection of Wild Birds formed
- 1934** U.S. passes Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act (Duck Stamp Act) providing funds for refuges
- 1936** Mexico signs Treaty for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Animals with the U.S. (amended 1972)
- 1937** U.S. passes the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (aka Pittman-Robertson Act) funding habitat conservation via taxes on firearms and ammunition.  
Ducks Unlimited founded
- 1940** Western Hemisphere Convention adopted to protect migratory birds throughout the Americas
- 1947** Canada's Dominion Wildlife Service created with responsibility for conservation of birds and terrestrial mammals
- 1955** Waterfowl Breeding Pairs Survey initiated
- 1962** Rachel Carson publishes Silent Spring
- 1966** Breeding Bird Survey initiated
- 1971** Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitats signed in Ramsar, Iraq, increasing international awareness and conservation of wetlands (now includes 133 nations)
- 1972** The pesticide DDT banned in the U.S. (Canada soon to follow)
- 1973** Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) signed (now includes 158 nations).  
Canada passes the Wildlife Act, authorizing federal wildlife research, conservation and interpretation activities and establishment of National Wildlife Areas.
- 1986** The North American Waterfowl Management Plan is published to strategically and cooperatively conserve waterfowl habitats
- 1989** U.S. passes North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) authorizing grants for bird habitat conservation
- 1990** Partners in Flight created, dedicated to "keeping common birds common."
- 1992** U.S. passes Wild Bird Conservation Act for protection of parrots and other exotic birds
- 2000** U.S. passes Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act

