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[Organization] Celebrates Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial, a Landmark Wildlife Conservation Agreement

On this date in 1916, the first Migratory Bird Treaty was signed between the United States and Canada, serving as the catalyst for a century of bird conservation actions.

With its mission of [briefly state organization mission/goals], [organization] has made important contributions to this century of bird conservation by [briefly state actions, accomplishments related to bird conservation].

[Add quote from your CEO or other official.]

Example: “Today, [organization] proudly joins in celebrating the centennial of one of the most significant bird conservation actions in our nation’s history,” said [name, title]. “The first Migratory Bird Treaty – which the United States signed with Canada – connects [organization] with many partners who share our long, successful history of conserving, protecting and managing migratory birds and their habitats.”

[Add messaging about about how your organization is celebrating the Centennial and/or any Centennial events or special activities you are planning.]

At the turn of the twentieth century, bird populations were in peril as a result of unregulated shooting for the food and fashion industries. Recognizing the need for collaboration to protect species that traverse their borders, partners in the United States and Canada drafted an agreement to cooperatively manage and protect birds that migrate internationally.

On August 16, 1916, the United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) signed the Migratory Bird Treaty (known in Canada as a Convention) to protect these shared natural resources. The treaty was the first international agreement forged to protect wild birds, and among the first to protect any wildlife species.

The Migratory Bird Treaty is the foundation for significant achievements in bird conservation that followed. In 1917, the Canadian Parliament passed the Migratory Bird Convention Act. In 1918, the U.S. Congress followed suit, passing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The United States signed similar bilateral treaties with Mexico (1936), Japan (1972) and Russia (1976).

Migratory birds connect people with nature by adding beauty, sound and color to our world. They provide countless opportunities for enjoyment by birders, hunters and outdoor enthusiasts, and have cultural and spiritual importance. Migratory birds also contribute important environmental benefits, including pollination, insect and rodent control, and seed dispersal, and are good indicators of environmental health because they are so visible and relatively easy to study. Birds also play a key role in the U.S. economy,

supporting recreational opportunities that create jobs and generate billions of dollars in revenue.

[Add more organization-specific information if desired.]

Centennial events and activities will continue throughout this year. To find an event near you, check our events calendar at <http://www.environmentamericas.org/upcoming-events/>.

Visit <https://www.fws.gov/birds/MBTreaty100/index.php> for more information about and resources for the Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial.