

TENNESSEE ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY



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Senator Lamar Alexander  
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October 4, 2008

Dear Senator Alexander,

On behalf of the members of the Tennessee Ornithological Society, I respectfully ask you to become a cosponsor of S. 3490. This bill, introduced by Senator Benjamin Cardin, has bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and would strengthen the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act (NMBCA). The NMBCA is the only source of federal funding dedicated specifically to bird conservation throughout the Americas.

Some 500 species of birds make amazing migrations each spring and fall between their wintering grounds in Mexico, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean to their breeding grounds in North America. Unfortunately, many of these birds are experiencing population declines due to the loss of habitat that they need during the breeding and non-breeding season. Many have experienced declines of over 50% since the Breeding Bird Survey started recording population trends in the 1960's.

The NMBCA is an extremely effective matching grants program that coordinates and funds the conservation of Neotropical migratory birds and their habitats in the United States, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Between 2002 and 2007, the program supported 225 projects, and the \$21 million from NMBCA grants has leveraged over \$95 million in partner contributions! These partners reside in 44 different U.S. states (including Tennessee) and in 34 other countries!

The Tennessee Ornithological Society is a statewide 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization of over 1,000 members devoted to the enjoyment, scientific study and conservation of birds. Our members and thousands of other Tennesseans appreciate and enjoy our rich birdlife. Please become a cosponsor of S. 3490. I look forward to your written response.

Sincerely,

Richard Connors  
President

