



Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society

“The mission of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society is to foster excellence in wildlife stewardship through science and education among wildlife professionals in Canada”

Jonathon Wilkinson
Minister of Environment and Climate Change
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

04/12/2021

RE: Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society feedback on proposed changes to the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act to allow ‘incidental take’

Dear Minister Wilkinson,

On behalf of the Canadian Section of The Wildlife Society (CSTWS), I am pleased to ask for your continued support of Canada’s Migratory Birds Convention Act. The CSTWS is a charitable professional and scientific organization with more than 300 members in six Provincial Chapters and nine Student Chapters at colleges and universities across Canada and is affiliated with more than 10,000 wildlife professionals and students across North America.

In your December 18, 2020 statement, “Minister Wilkinson expresses concern over proposed regulatory changes to the United States’ Migratory Bird Treaty Act” you identify the importance of scientific findings which indicate that migratory bird populations are declining and the shared responsibility Canada and the United States have for species that migrate or reside in both countries for portions of their life cycle. Unfortunately, the previous Trump administration did not heed your message of concern and on January 4, 2021 issued an Executive Order allowing the incidental take of migratory birds. As a result, Canada’s migratory bird species face an increased mortality risk which could exacerbate already identified population declines.

The CSTWS is asking you to reaffirm your earlier position taken on changes to the US Migratory Bird Treaty Act and to identify the importance of shared management responsibilities over migratory birds as enshrined in the 1916 Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in the United States and Canada. The CSTWS is pleased that the Canadian Government has taken a leadership role on this issue and may have played a role in the US Fish and Wildlife Service delaying any changes to incidental

take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Recent news articles have indicated the Biden administration will attempt to restore those previous protections for migratory birds but the CSTWS recognizes the need for continued efforts on the part of the Canadian Government to ensure this occurs.

Thank you again Minister Wilkinson for your support of migratory bird populations as a shared management responsibility between Canada and the United States. We hope the CSTWS will see you continue to identify scientifically based decisions as fundamental to wildlife policy; both for those species occurring domestically and those occurring across international borders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Spratt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Adam Spratt

President
CSTWS