

**Subject:** American Bird Conservancy supports HB 2679

3/6/2025

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy, we urge you to support HB 2679. Oregon's incredible bird diversity is under threat from toxic systemic insecticides which are overused in ornamental settings and as seed coatings.

Oregon is vital for migratory, residential, and breeding birds. American Bird Conservancy has several staff located in the state who primarily work on stewarding the forests and coastal waters of Oregon, making sure they are as effective a habitat as possible. We have key programs focusing on Old Growth forests which are important Marbled Murrelet breeding habitat.

North American birds are in trouble; nearly three billion birds have been lost since 1970 due to a wide variety of anthropogenic causes, though few are as serious, or as easily addressed, as threats posed by neonicotinoid insecticides.<sup>1</sup> Neonicotinoids are commonly, though unnecessarily, used in non-agricultural applications. Their neurotoxic nature makes them highly dangerous for birds and mammals alike, and a growing body of evidence questions their necessity.

HB 2679 would establish a program to better understand the need, use patterns, and regulation of neonicotinoids, thus providing additional use information and filling in regulatory loopholes created by federal law, while providing flexibility for growers, thus reducing the overall threat to birds.<sup>2</sup> SF 1915 would phase-out the use of nonagricultural neonicotinoids in the state, protecting birds and other wildlife from accidental misuses or overuses of neonicotinoids outside of agricultural settings.<sup>3</sup>

### **Loss of Insect Prey**

Non-agricultural applications are also problematic for birds in the way they deplete insect prey resources. Lack of adequate prey leads to generational loss of birds which are not able to have large enough egg clutches or brood sizes.<sup>4</sup> Oregon's state bird, the Western Meadowlark, relies on insects to feed their young.<sup>5</sup>

### **Sublethal Effects**

Though death is indeed a common effect on birds from neonicotinoids, a host of other sublethal effects are also felt. Bird exposed to neonicotinoids may also

experience life-threatening weight loss,<sup>6</sup> impaired reproduction,<sup>7</sup> loss of migratory ability,<sup>8</sup> convulsions,<sup>9</sup> and impaired motor control.<sup>10</sup>

### **A Need for Better Protection**

HB 2679 is both vital for protecting Oregon's birds. Wildlife viewing in the state alone brings in over **\$1.2 Billion** every year.<sup>11</sup> At-home and non-agricultural uses of neonicotinoids are not necessary. With neonicotinoid-coated seeds, wildlife is being harmed while the most widespread uses provide no economic benefit to growers. We strongly support HB 2679  
Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



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<sup>1</sup> Rosenberg, K. et al. (2019). Decline of the North American Avifauna. *Science*, 366(6461).  
<https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaw1313>

<sup>2</sup> MN SF 1718.  
[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1718&version=0&session=ls93&session\\_year=2023&session\\_number=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1718&version=0&session=ls93&session_year=2023&session_number=0)

<sup>3</sup> MN SF 1915.  
[https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1915&version=latest&session=ls93&session\\_year=2023&session\\_number=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/bills/text.php?number=SF1915&version=latest&session=ls93&session_year=2023&session_number=0)

<sup>4</sup> Hallmann, C.A., Foppen, R.P.B., van Turnhout, C.A.M., de Kroon, H., Jongejans, E., 2014. *Declines in insectivorous birds are associated with high neonicotinoid concentrations*. *Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1038/nature13531>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/birds/commonloon.html#:~:text=Food,salamanders%2C%20amphipods%2C%20and%20insects>.

<sup>6</sup> Eng, M.L., Stutchbury, B.J.M., Morrissey, C.A., 2019. A neonicotinoid insecticide reduces fueling and delays migration in songbirds. *Science* 365, 1177–1180. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.aaw9419>

<sup>7</sup> Humann-Guillemot, S., Tassin de Montaigu, C., Sire, J., Grünig, S., Gning, O., Glauser, G., Vallat, A., Helfenstein, F., 2019b. A sublethal dose of the neonicotinoid insecticide acetamiprid reduces sperm density in a songbird. *Environmental Research* 177, 108589. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envres.2019.108589>

<sup>8</sup> Eng, M.L., Stutchbury, B.J.M., Morrissey, C.A., 2017. Imidacloprid and chlorpyrifos insecticides impair migratory ability in a seed-eating songbird. *Scientific Reports* 7. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-017-15446-x>

<sup>9</sup> Sundall, Michael, "The Effect of Neonicotinoid Clothianidin on Ring-Necked Pheasant Survival and Reproduction" (2020). *Electronic Theses and Dissertations*. 4065. <https://openprairie.sdstate.edu/etd/4065>

<sup>10</sup> Bean, T.G., Gross, M.S., Karouna-Renier, N.K., Henry, P.F.P., Schultz, S.L., Hladik, M.L., Kuivila, K.M., Rattner, B.A., 2019. Toxicokinetics of Imidacloprid-Coated Wheat Seeds in Japanese Quail (*Coturnix japonica*) and an Evaluation of Hazard. *Environ. Sci. Technol.* 53, 3888–3897. <https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.est.8b07062>

<sup>11</sup> [https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic\\_impact.asp](https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/economic_impact.asp)