

**The Hon. Judy Aron**  
Chairman

**The Hon. Liz Barbour**  
Vice Chairman

The Hon. Barbara Comtois  
The Hon. Catherine Kenny  
The Hon. Kelly Potenza  
The Hon. Kevin Scully  
The Hon. Laurence Miner

The Hon. Peter Bixby  
The Hon. Catherin Sofikitis  
The Hon. Nicholas Germana  
The Hon. Linda Haskins  
The Hon. Molly Howard  
The Hon. Jonah Wheeler  
The Hon. James Gruber

Environment and Agriculture Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
GP Room 152  
107 N. Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

**Subject:** American Bird Conservancy SUPPORTS HB 1431

9 January, 2026

Dear Members of the Environment and Agriculture Committee,

American Bird Conservancy and our 240 members in Connecticut **write in strong support of HB 1431**, an act restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

### **Bird Declines due to Pesticide Overuse**

North American Birds are in decline; they have experienced a 30% loss since 1970,<sup>i</sup> and the use of synthetic chemical pesticides like neonicotinoids has been repeatedly identified as a major driver. In New Hampshire, major contributors of chemical pollution stem from their use as a seed coating.

The greatest threat to birds from pesticides is not from direct exposure but the loss of insect prey. Neonicotinoids are highly water soluble by design and travel easily through water and indiscriminately kill invertebrates. Neonicotinoids remain in soil and water for years after their use. Their continued presence in soil can adversely impact beneficial species.<sup>ii</sup>

Studies have found that bird declines in areas where neonicotinoid use is high are driven by lack of prey,<sup>iii</sup> not by direct exposure. Neonicotinoids have been linked to declines in non-target lepidopterans (moths and butterflies), important food sources for birds rearing chicks.<sup>iv</sup>

Furthermore, neonicotinoids specifically have been found to drive bird declines in the United States, particularly for insectivorous and grassland birds.<sup>v</sup> Recent evidence from

---

#### **Contact**

**abcbirds.org**  
**info@abcbirds.org**  
tel. **540.253.5780**  
fax **540.253.5782**

#### **Address**

regular, registered, or certified mail:  
**P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198**  
physical address for deliveries:  
**8255 E. Main Street, Suites D & E,  
Marshall, VA 20115**

the European Union also points to removal of neonicotinoids in the environment as a way to begin recovering bird populations.<sup>vi</sup>

### **Existing Alternatives for Outdoor Non-Agricultural Uses**

Many alternatives to neonicotinoids exist for turf, ornamentals, and other outdoor uses. Sublethal effects on birds from neonicotinoids includes: decreased spermatogenesis, ataxia, loss of navigation, organ failure, and loss of primary senses<sup>vii</sup> In New Hampshire, neonicotinoids as turf grass/lawn treatments account for a major use of application cases.

By reclassifying neonicotinoids as restricted use, trained and licensed certified applicators would retain the ability to use them. They would also remain in active use for emergency pest control situations, and as tools for invasive species management.

This bill takes a targeted approach and does not prohibit all uses of neonicotinoid pesticides. It does not affect indoor uses, veterinary applications, or structural pest control, and it does not restrict outdoor agricultural uses. Importantly, the bill also preserves the ability to use neonicotinoids where they are necessary to protect public health or to respond to invasive species threats.

### **We urge the committee to favorably report the bill.**

Sincerely,



E. Hardy Kern III  
Director of Government Relations  
American Bird Conservancy  
202-750-1412  
[ehardykern@abcbirds.org](mailto:ehardykern@abcbirds.org)

---

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

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S030147972031255X>

<sup>iii</sup> Hallmann, C. et al. (2014). Declines in insectivorous birds are associated with high neonicotinoid concentrations. *Nature*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304319>

<sup>iv</sup> Van Deynze, B. et al. (2024). Insecticides, more than herbicides, land use, and climate, are associated with declines in butterfly species richness and abundance in the American Midwest. *PLoS One*. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0304319>

<sup>v</sup> Li, Y., Miao, R., & Khanna, M. (2020). Neonicotinoids and decline in bird biodiversity in the United States. *Nature Sustainability*, 3. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-020-0582-x>

<sup>vi</sup> Perrot, T. et al. (2025). Weak recovery of insectivorous bird populations after ban of neonicotinoids in France, hinting at lasting impacts. *Environmental Pollution*, 385. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.envpol.2025.127132>



---

vii <https://abcbirds.org/2023neonicreport>

