

Proposed Resolution #C
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Abraham Downer, Individual Member

Proposed: August 16, 2025 CPB Meeting

Title: Resolution to direct MUCC staff to lobby against the defunding of the United States Geological Survey Bird Banding Laboratory

1. **WHEREAS:** the 2026 proposed federal budget includes cuts that would eliminate the
2. Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL), which is administered under the Department of the
3. Interior's United States Geological Survey (USGS), and;
4. **WHEREAS:** the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 prohibits the killing, capturing,
5. selling, and trading of migratory birds and, and;
6. **WHEREAS:** the BBL issues permits that allow individuals and state agencies to
7. capture and band migratory bird species and, and;
8. **WHEREAS:** eliminating the BBL would result in no new banding permits to be issued to
9. the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and;
10. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR, Wildlife Division, requires a permit from the USGS BBL to
11. band migratory bird species in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and;
12. **WHEREAS:** The MDNR relies on information from the USGS BBL to facilitate effective
13. bird management and conservation, set bag limits for hunting seasons, understand
14. population dynamics, understand species distribution and migration corridors, and;
15. **WHEREAS:** the MDNR and BBL incur little cost for these programs based on the high
16. number of volunteers that are sub-permitted either under a MDNR biologist that holds
17. the master permit or the BBL directly, and;
18. **WHEREAS:** the USGS BBL is staffed by only about 15 employees, but have thousands
19. of volunteer banders, and;
20. **WHEREAS:** many migratory bird species, including game bird species, have been
21. facing population declines and habitat loss, and;
22. **WHEREAS:** residents and visitors of Michigan participate in a wide range of
23. recreational activities that revolve around migratory birds such as hunting, birding, and
24. research, and;
25. **WHEREAS:** there are many non-profits and groups operating in the State of Michigan
26. with direct interest in maintaining stable and sustainable populations of migratory bird
27. species, and;

28. **WHEREAS:** MUCC supports the utilizing “principles of sound scientific management” in
29. making decisions regarding the taking of game and to accomplish this supports the
30. gathering of the best available data for biologists to use. (i.e. Surveys, banding,
31. experiments, etc.), NOW;
32. **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC)
33. support and advocate that the Department of the Interior cease any action that would
34. defund the USGS BBL.