

in the RECORD, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE

Foreign Service nomination of Richard Lewis Baltimore III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 19, 1999

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will return to legislative session.

CONGRESSIONAL AWARD ACT
AMENDMENTS

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 81, S. 380.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 380) to reauthorize the Congressional Award Act.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed at the appropriate place in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 380) was considered read a third time and passed, as follows:

S. 380

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL AWARD ACT
AMENDMENTS OF 1999.

(a) CHANGE OF ANNUAL REPORTING DATE.—Section 3(e) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 802(e)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "April 1" and inserting "June 1".

(b) MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS.—Section 4(a)(1) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 803(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraphs (A) and (D), by striking "member of the Congressional Award Association" and inserting "recipient of the Congressional Award"; and

(2) in subparagraphs (B) and (C), by striking "representative of a local Congressional Award Council" and inserting "a local Congressional Award program volunteer".

(c) EXTENSION OF REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FINANCIAL OPERATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL AWARD PROGRAM; NONCOMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS.—Section 5(c)(2)(A) of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 804(c)(2)(A)) is amended by striking "and 1998" and inserting "1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, and 2004".

(d) TERMINATION.—Section 9 of the Congressional Award Act (2 U.S.C. 808) is amend-

ed by striking "October 1, 1999" and inserting "October 1, 2004".

NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION ACT

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 79, S. 148.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 148) to require the Secretary of the Interior to establish a program to provide assistance in the conservation of neotropical migratory birds.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate is considering S. 148, the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act of 1999, introduced by Senator ABRAHAM. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this legislation. The bill would establish a program to provide financial assistance for projects to promote the conservation of neotropical migratory birds in the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Each autumn, some 5 billion birds from 500 species migrate between their breeding grounds in North America and tropical habitats in the Caribbean, Central and South America. These neotropical migrants—or New World tropical migrants—are birds that migrate between the biogeographic region stretching across Mexico, Central America, much of the Caribbean, and the northern part of South America.

The natural challenges facing these migratory birds are profound. These challenges have been exacerbated by human-induced impacts, particularly the continuing loss of habitat in the Caribbean and Latin America. As a result, populations of migratory birds have declined generally in recent years.

While there are numerous efforts underway to protect these species and their habitat, they generally focus on specific groups of migratory birds or specific regions in the Americas. One program that stands out for its success is Partners in Flight, administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Started in 1990, this program has raised more than \$41 million for 480 projects for migratory bird conservation in the United States and Latin America.

The program established by S. 148 is intended to support and bolster these existing efforts. It does so by creating a comprehensive program to address the varied threats facing the numerous species of migratory birds across their range. Frequently there is little, if any, coordination among existing programs, nor is there any one program that serves as a link among them. A broader, more holistic approach would

strengthen existing efforts, fill the gaps between these programs, and promote new initiatives.

I do not intend that this program would supplant or supersede existing efforts, nor do I expect that Federal funds for implementing S. 148 be diverted from funds going to these existing efforts. New money should go to this new program to assist neotropical migratory birds in new ways.

S. 148 is identical to a bill that was approved by the Senate last year, S. 1970, but was never passed by the House. The bill is based on bipartisan negotiations with the sponsors of the bill, the House Resources Committee, the administration, and the EPW Committee. Numerous groups, including conservation groups and the forest products industry, have supported this bill.

The bill allows for the Secretary to establish an advisory group, and I urge that the Secretary do so. The success of this initiative will depend on close collaboration with public and private organizations involved in the conservation of migratory birds.

I am very pleased with the legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and urge its speedy enactment. Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, today the Senate again will pass legislation to protect the habitat of the broad range of migratory birds which spend the spring and summer months in the United States. This legislation, which I introduced with my distinguished colleagues, Senator DASCHLE and Senator CHAFEE, is designed to protect over 90 endangered species of bird spending certain seasons in the United States and other seasons in other nations of the West Hemisphere. This is actually the second time this legislation has passed the Senate. Last year, after receiving considerable support from the environmental and conservation communities, this legislation passed the Senate by Unanimous consent. Unfortunately, time ran out for equal consideration in the House. Nevertheless, this year we returned with renewed determination and were able to again move this bill.

Every year, Mr. President, approximately 25 million Americans travel to observe birds, and 60 million American adults watch and feed birds at home. Bird-watching is a source of great pleasure to many Americans, as well as a source of important revenue to states, like my own state of Michigan, which attract tourists to their scenes of natural beauty. Bird watching and feeding generates fully \$20 billion every Year in revenue across America.

Birdwatching is a popular activity in Michigan, and its increased popularity is reflected by an increase in tourist dollars being spent in small, rural communities. Healthy bird populations