

# Air-born: 2018 declared the Year of the Bird

*"If you take care of the birds, you take care of most of the big environmental problems in the world." – Thomas E. Lovejoy, Conservation Biologist*



**D. QUINCY WHITNEY**

Did you know that 2018 was declared the Year of the Bird? As I just learned this fact, I did not want the last quarter of 2018 to begin without rectifying my ignorance. Evidently, Audubon, National Geographic, BirdLife International and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology officially declared 2018 Year of the Bird in celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act passed by Congress in 1918.

But the story actually begins nearly two

decades earlier, in New Hampshire, with Ernest Harold Baynes, a disgruntled newspaper reporter frustrated with writing for the New York Times and The Boston Post. An impassioned naturalist, Baynes decided to write about what he loved, nature.



Canada geese head south for the winter.

Photo by ETHAN WEIL