

U.S. Bird Populations Continue Alarming Decline, New Report Finds

2025 State of the Birds Report Calls for Urgent Conservation Action

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ITHACA, NY.—The release of the [2025 U.S. State of the Birds](#) report was announced today at the 90th annual North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The report, produced by a coalition of leading science and conservation organizations, reveals continued widespread declines in American bird populations across all mainland and marine habitats, with 229 species requiring urgent conservation action. The report comes five years after the landmark 2019 study that documented the loss of [3 billion birds](#) in North America over 50 years.

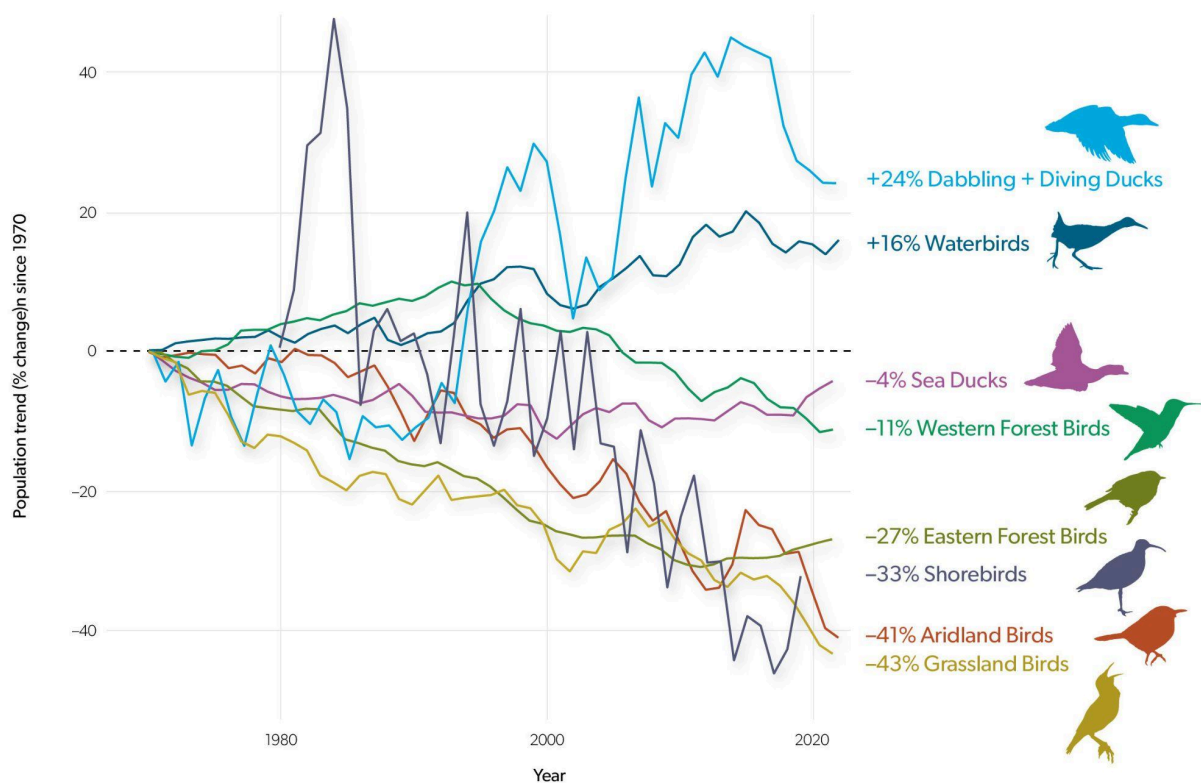
Key findings from the new report show that more than one-third of U.S. bird species are of high or moderate conservation concern, including 112 Tipping Point species that have lost more than 50% of their populations in the last 50 years. That includes 42 red-alert species facing perilously low populations, such as Allen's Hummingbird, Tricolored Blackbird, and Saltmarsh Sparrow—birds that are at risk without immediate intervention.

Proactively working to protect America's birds is not just about the birds. According to the report, supporting bird conservation can boost the U.S. economy. With nearly 100 million Americans engaged in birding activities, their contributions to local and state economies are substantial. The report highlights findings from the 2022 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, noting that the total economic output related to bird watching activities is \$279 billion, and birding related activities support 1.4 million jobs.

"Birds tell us that we have a full-on emergency across all habitats," said Marshall Johnson, chief conservation officer at the National Audubon Society.

According to the report, bird populations in almost every habitat are declining. Most notably, duck populations, which have been a bright spot in past State of the Birds reports, have trended downward in recent years.

Long-term Population Trends for America's Birds



"The rapid declines in birds signal the intensifying stressors that wildlife and people alike are experiencing around the world because of habitat loss, environmental degradation, and extreme weather events," said Dr. Amanda Rodewald, faculty director of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Center for Avian Population Studies. "When we see declines like those outlined in the report, we need to remember that if conditions are not healthy for birds, they're unlikely to be healthy for us."

"There is no doubt that the 2025 State of the Birds report is cause for alarm," said Jeff Walters, the conservation committee co-chair at the American Ornithological Society, "but it is also cause for hope. Public interest in birds and the economic benefits from birding are at unprecedented levels, as is the information available about the status of each and every one of our bird species."

The report highlights the economic significance and well-being benefits of bird watching as additional reasons to support conservation efforts. It notes that birds and nature are vital for Americans' mental health, citing research indicating that encounters with birds

have proven beneficial for human well-being, including reducing stress, anxiety, and depressive symptoms.

Despite the concerning trends, the report emphasizes that conservation efforts can succeed when adequately supported. "Many bird populations are struggling. But a proven blueprint for success is science-based planning and collaborative investment in habitat conservation," said Dr. Steve Adair, Ducks Unlimited chief scientist.

Private lands programs and conservation partnerships such as conservation ranching, coastal restoration, forest renewal, and seabird translocation show how concerted efforts and strategic investments can recover bird populations. "Decades of strategic and aggressive wetland habitat conservation from hunters, landowners, state and federal agencies, and corporations has boosted numerous waterfowl and waterbird species when weather conditions are favorable. We've shown it works. And we must do more," said Adair.

"Fortunately, many of the actions that are good for birds are good for us. When we protect the habitats that birds rely upon, we also protect the ecosystem services that sustain us," said Rodewald.

"We have clear evidence that conservation works in halting declines," said Michael J. Parr, President of American Bird Conservancy. "What we now need more than ever are policies and funding that match the scale of the greatest challenges birds face today. The science is solid on how to reverse the damage done, but to succeed, these issues need to be taken seriously."

"Birds unite us across the hemisphere and across the political spectrum—there should be no hesitation as we move to protect them today and in the future," said Johnson.

Download the complete report at stateofthebirds.org

The 2025 U.S. State of the Birds report was produced by a consortium of scientific and conservation organizations and entities led by North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI).

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Media Kit

Media kit includes the 2025 State of the Birds Report (PDF) and multimedia. Use of provided graphics, bird photos, sounds, and videos is protected by copyright and

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Additional quotes from organizations releasing the 2025 State of the Birds Report

“The State of the Birds Report highlights the critical role that state wildlife agencies can play in not only protecting our current bird populations but in enhancing these populations,” said Judy Camuso, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies. “The Report also details current population trends, conservation successes, and the important role healthy bird populations play in strengthening communities, spurring local economies, and connecting people to the outdoors. It is imperative that we continue to invest in bird conservation strategies and policies.” —**Judy Camuso, Commissioner of the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and President of the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies**

“The downward trends in the 2025 State of the Birds report are screaming for all sectors to act with resolve to invest in recovering this important American resource. The 2019 Science Paper ‘3 Billion Birds Lost’ was the clarion call that gave rise to the Road to Recovery and a process that we know can be successful. It is critical that the federal sector lead in the investment to recover these declining populations BEFORE they reach the point of listing as threatened or endangered and thereby costing much more to affect recovery. With ample federal leadership in capacity, the non-governmental sector will be coordinated collaborators in the recovery effort and see this economically valuable resource return to sustainable levels.”—**Paul Schmidt, Road to Recovery executive director**

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