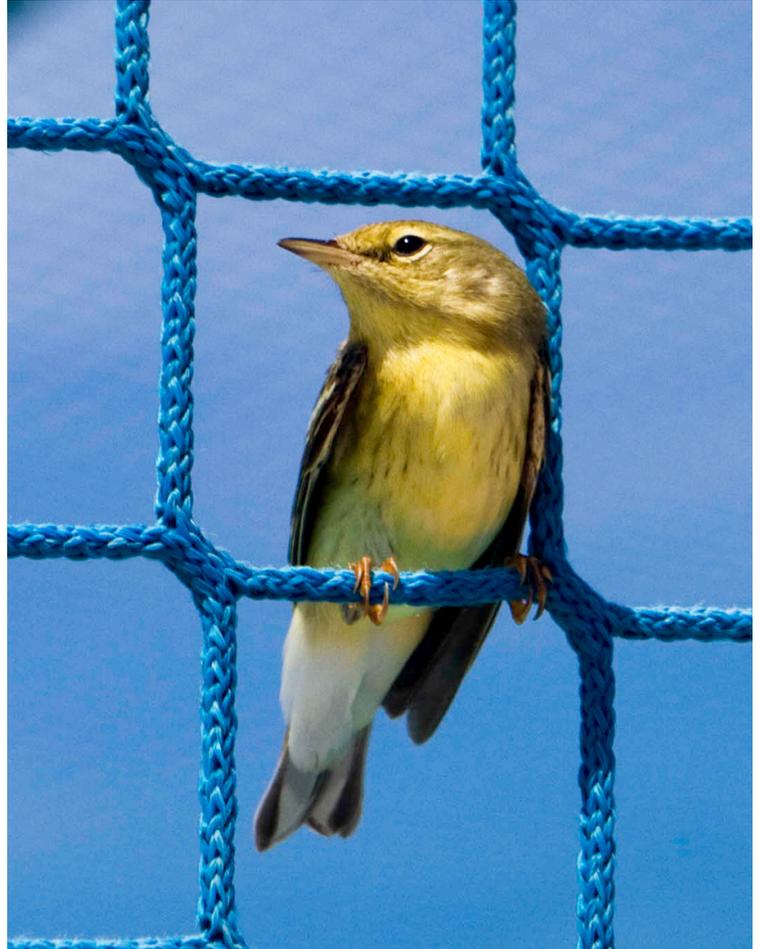


Make Communities Safer, Healthier for Birds and People

Local Communities & Bird Habitat Stewardship Act invests in the places we live

Each year, billions of birds seasonally migrate across the United States, traversing thousands of miles via an instinctual search for life sustaining resources such as food and breeding habitats. But in a rapidly changing world, such as from urbanization and land fragmentation, they need help to ensure their journeys are successful.

One way this can happen is through the Urban Bird Treaty program, which was established in 1999, but currently lacks consistent funding. That's why the bipartisan Local Communities & Bird Habitat Act (H.R. 3276) is so important. Introduced in the 119th Congress, it would provide \$1 million annually for a competitive grant program to conserve urban bird habitat, reduce hazards, and promote community engagement, funding that ultimately equips communities to invest in a range of projects, such as greenspace or habitat restoration, that will provide numerous benefits for both people and birds.



📷 Blackpoll Warbler. Photo: Debbie Salvesen/Audubon Photography Awards

Why This Matters Now

North America has lost 3 billion birds since 1970—a staggering 30% decline. The main driver? Habitat loss. Urban areas, once overlooked, now offer vital stopover, nesting, and wintering habitat for many species. With 83% of Americans living in urban areas—and 87% projected by 2050—cities must become part of the solution.

- Urban green spaces cool cities, clean the air, and support physical and mental health.
- Birds are indicators of ecosystem health and provide everyday connections to nature.
- Birdwatching alone contributes \$100 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

What the Bill Does

- \$1 million per year (2025–2031) in authorized funding
- Competitive grants to Tribal, state, and local governments, NGOs, community groups, and academic institutions
- Supports projects in communities with populations of 5,000 or more.

Project Types

Grants support locally led, community-focused conservation efforts that:

- Protect, restore, and enhance habitats for birds, including native plant restoration and invasive species control
- Reduce threats like building collisions (which kill up to 1 billion birds annually)
- Engage communities in bird science, monitoring, and environmental education

\$279 Billion

In total economic output generated by birding activities in 2022, making investments in bird health a financial win for communities.

Track Record of Success, But Underfunded

Since 1999, the Urban Bird Treaty program has supported local conservation in 32 cities across 20 states, but has only funded about 10% of project demand due to limited resources.

Urban Bird Treaty Federal Requests & Awards 2020-24

Year	Requested	Funding Received
2024	\$1,707,595	\$180,000
2023	\$1,466,347	\$180,000
2022	\$1,488,596	\$135,000
2021	\$1,578,052	\$135,000
2020	\$1,706,547	\$135,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$7,947,137</u>	<u>\$765,000</u>

With authorized funding, the program can reach more communities and make long-term investments in local bird conservation.

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Examples of 2023 Projects

Portland, OR: Youth habitat education & restoration (6 acres, 1,500 community members)



Ogden, UT: 15 acres of wetland creation and water quality improvement

DeKalb County, GA: 10 acres restored with native plants and 460 residents engaged

Resilience Through Green Space

- Planting urban trees can reduce projected increases in heat-related mortality by 40-99% by 2050.
- Green spaces yield \$4-\$11 return for every dollar invested, while promoting healthier, more resilient communities.
- Low-income urban areas have 15% less tree cover and face higher health risks from extreme heat.

