

Indiana's members of Congress must support Recovering America's Wildlife Act

Can you imagine Indiana without bird songs? A major study in the journal *Science* has found widespread bird declines in North America. Cumulatively, 3 billion fewer birds fill the skies today than in 1970 — a loss of more than a quarter of our birds.

Meadowlarks, sparrows, juncos, finches, blackbirds, warblers and swallows are among the birds in decline. Their loss affects the services birds provide us all, from dispersing seeds to controlling insects. And it is not just birds — scientists are seeing similar declines in wildlife across North America and around the world.

A bright spot in the study: Waterfowl numbers increased significantly, likely thanks to the decades-long efforts to fund restoration and protect the wetlands they need to feed and breed.

Right now, there is a bill in the House of Representatives that would provide this kind of sustained funding to other birds and wildlife in trouble — the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act (HR 3742). If it passes, Indiana could receive over \$18 million dollars per year for proactive conservation funding that would benefit birds and other wildlife in our state.

We can pass on the gift of bird song to future generations. We urge Indiana's members of Congress to support the Recovering America's Wildlife Act.

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