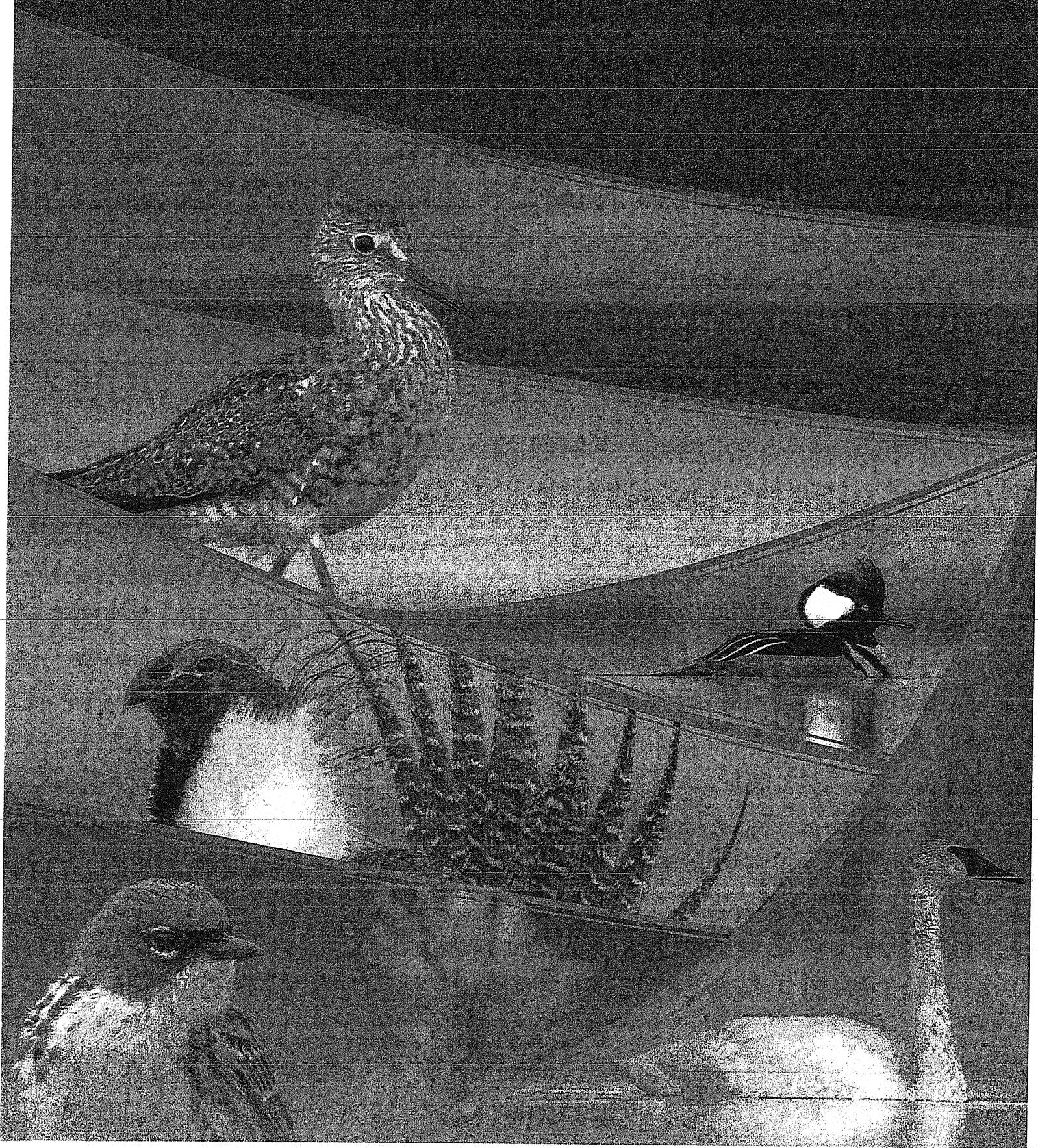


State of the Birds Report

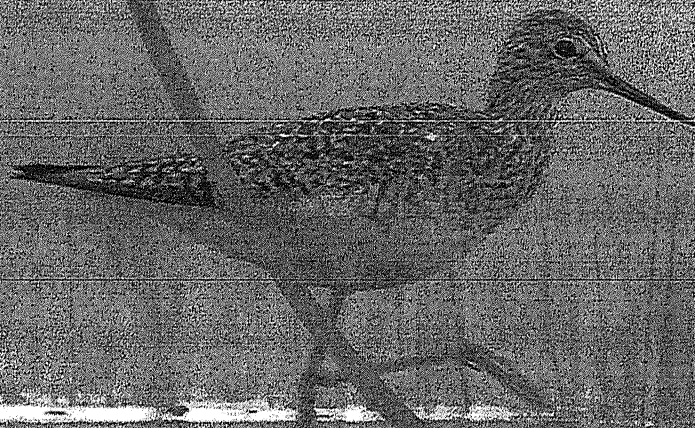
United States of America

2022



We Can Bend the Curve to Bring Birds Back

The United States and Canada have lost 3 billion breeding birds since 1970—a loss of 1 in 4 birds, according to research published in *Science* in 2019. This steep decline in abundance can be reversed with new scales of conservation actions that benefit not only birds but also wildlife and people.



Lesser Yellowlegs

When Birds Thrive, We All Win

State of the Birds at a Glance

The trends for our nation's birds reveal a vital message. Birds are declining overall in every habitat except in wetlands, where decades of investment have resulted in dramatic gains.

Conservation works when we give birds and nature a chance. Let's do more to save our nation's birds and benefit people in every state.

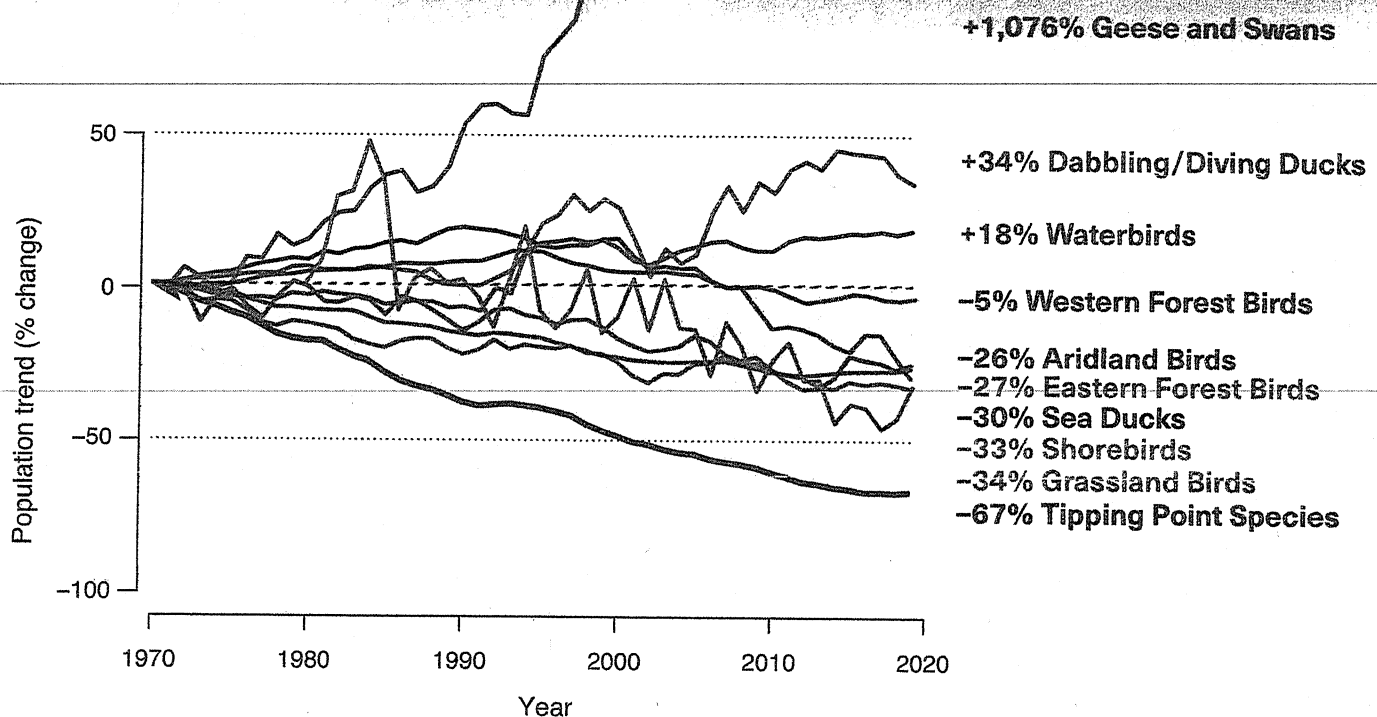
Three billion birds lost

1 in 4 breeding birds have been lost from the United States and Canada in the past 50 years.

70 Tipping Point bird species in the United States

These 70 species have lost two-thirds of their populations in the past 50 years, and are on track to lose another 50% in the next 50 years.

Birds across the U.S. show downward trends in every habitat except in wetlands, where comebacks of waterfowl show the power of funding and policy investments.



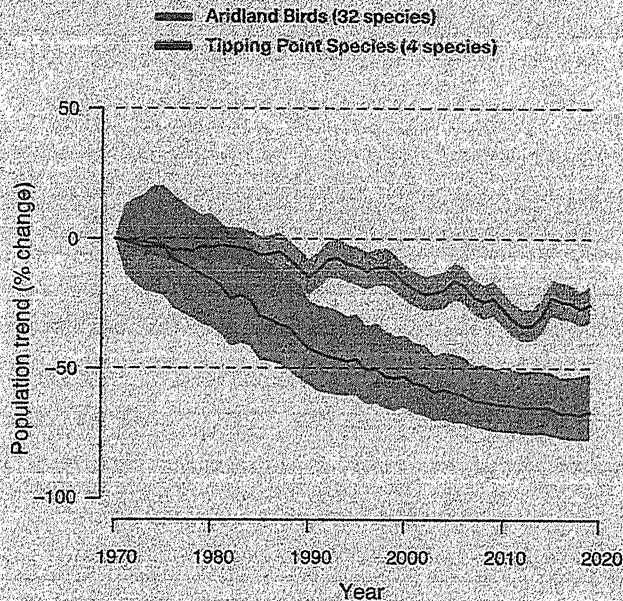
Trends for breeding bird species by group or by habitat during 1970–2019, except for the shorebirds trend, which begins in 1980. For details, see pages 6–13.

ARIDLAND BIRDS

A Key Role for Public Lands

Greater Sage-Grouse

Status: Long-term declines with unrelenting habitat threats

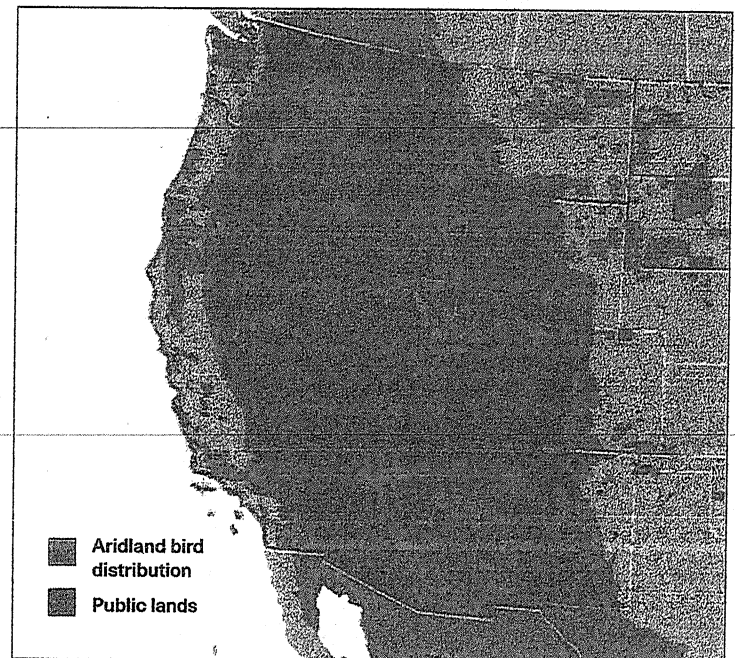


Aridland birds have been in a long-term decline, with a slight improvement since 2012. Fires, drought, invasive plants, development, unsustainable grazing, and energy extraction pressures on habitat are all driving aridland bird declines.

- Several aridland birds (such as Chihuahuan Raven, Sage Thrasher, and Pyrrhuloxia) exhibit accelerated rates of decline since 2010.
- Bendire's and LeConte's Thrasher have experienced long-term declines, but the Bendire's Thrasher population has stabilized in the past decade.
- Greater Sage-Grouse shows a continued steep decline that warrants increased voluntary habitat conservation incentives and renewed strong federal and state protections.

Public Lands Are Essential for Aridland Bird Conservation

The federal government and state agencies have a vital role to play in turning around bird declines in sagebrush and desert habitats. According to the 2011 State of the Birds report, public lands in the American West support more than half of the breeding distribution of aridland birds. Bureau of Land Management lands are particularly important, supporting almost a quarter of the distribution of all aridland birds and more than two-thirds of the U.S. distributions of Sage Thrasher and Sagebrush Sparrow, both species with declining populations. U.S. Forest Service lands in coastal chaparral habitats are important for the declining Wrentit. National Park Service lands are important for some desert bird species, such as the Bendire's Thrasher (a Tipping Point species). The 2011 State of the Birds Report found that about 80% of publicly owned aridlands were vulnerable to activities that could potentially degrade bird habitat—including energy development, off-road vehicle traffic, grazing, mining, and logging. Aridland bird habitat conservation can be compatible with multiple land uses, but management plans for these landscapes need to include measures to ensure long-term healthy populations of aridland birds.



WESTERN PUBLIC LANDS ARE HABITAT FOR ARIDLAND BIRDS

This map shows the cumulative range for 30 aridland bird species in North America, with the vast majority of that range falling within the boundaries of federal and state public lands. Source: Aridland bird data from Bird Conservation Regions, Bird Studies Canada and NABCI. Public lands map from GISGeography.com.



Bullock's Oriole

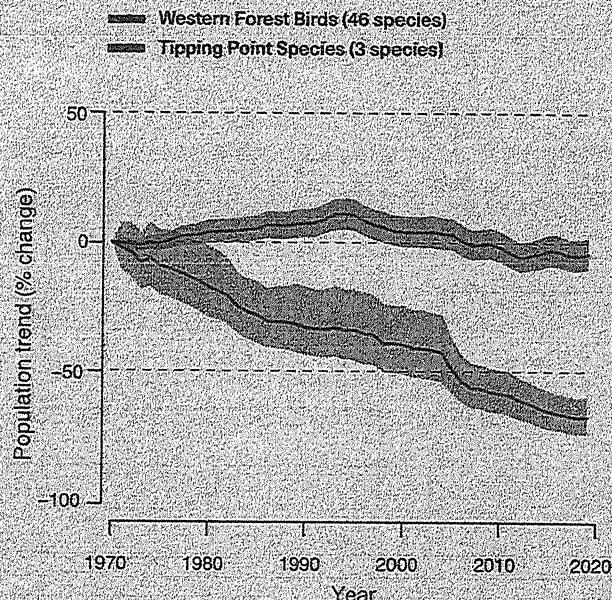
WESTERN FOREST BIRDS

Restoring Natural Cycles for Forest Health

STATUS: Stable overall, but with warning signs

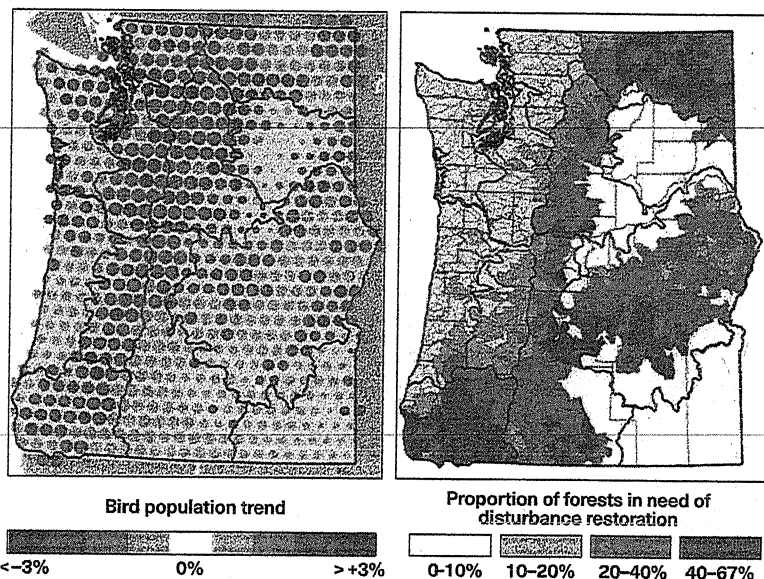
The overall population for the western forest birds group is much the same as it was 50 years ago, aided by protected habitats. But since reaching recent highs in the early 1990s, western forest birds have declined by nearly 20%.

- Almost half of this group (19 species) currently have declining population trends.
- Five species have lost more than half of their population since 1970, including Tipping Point species such as Pinyon Jay and Rufous Hummingbird with poorly understood life cycles. More science is needed to identify the drivers of their declines.
- Recent declining trends among Oak Titmouse, Williamson's Sapsucker, and other birds appear to be associated with the disruption of natural disturbance patterns such as fire cycles.



Birds Are Declining Where Western Forests Are Stressed

For most of the past 100 years, western forests have been managed to encourage conifer tree dominance and discourage fires. But for many centuries before the 1900s, fires were common on this landscape, both natural wildfires and intentional burns by Indigenous peoples. Today those historic disturbance patterns that created a mosaic of conifer and broadleaf forest cover and successional stages have been disrupted, and large swaths of western forest landscapes have departed from their natural range of tree species and structural diversity. These areas of forest departure from natural patterns are also hotspots for western forest bird declines. Furthermore, these compromised forests have very little resilience to the forces of wildfire and climate change, which puts greater forest landscape health and forest resources (such as water reservoirs) at risk of disaster. Investments in forest restoration can turn around this dim outlook for western forests and western forest birds.



BIRD DECLINES IN FORESTS THAT HAVE DEPARTED FROM HISTORIC CYCLES

According to population trends generated by eBird data, bird numbers tend to be declining in forests that have departed from historic conditions and are most in need of disturbance restoration. Sources: Cornell Lab | eBird data 2007–2019 (left map); DeMeo et al, "Expanding Our Understanding of Forest Structural Restoration Needs in the Pacific Northwest," *Northwest Science*, Winter 2018 (right map).

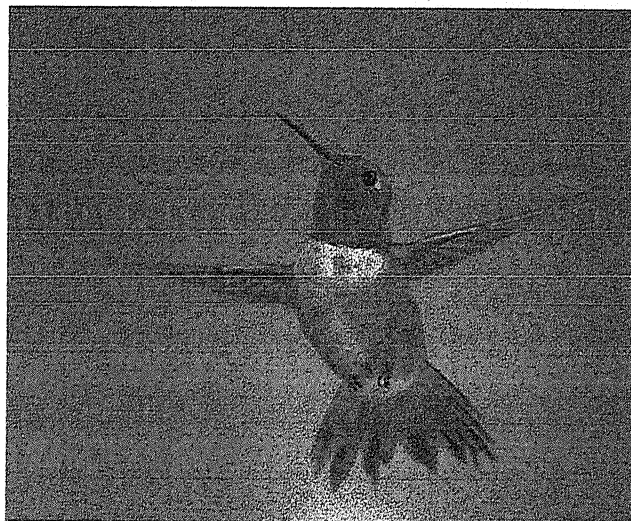
Bird Declines Are Reaching a Tipping Point

Sounding an Alarm About Steep Population Losses

In 2019, a study of 529 bird species with adequate long-term data for analysis (*Science*, Rosenberg et al.) found that 303 species in North America were declining—more than half of the bird species studied.

Now scientists with the Road to Recovery initiative have issued an alert for 90 declining bird species—birds that are not yet federally listed as threatened or endangered, but that have lost half or more of their breeding population since 1970. The scientists further identified a subset of 70 Tipping Point species that could lose another half or more of their populations in the next 50 years, based on recent trajectories and expert assessments.

These Tipping Point species are high priorities for science and conservation because of their high vulnerability to extinction, high urgency, and steep population declines where known. All are included on the Birds of Conservation Concern List of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or state lists of Species of Greatest Conservation Need.



Two-thirds of Rufous Hummingbirds have been lost in the past 50 years.

On Alert: All of these bird species have lost half of their populations in the past 50 years

Baird's Sparrow	Allen's Hummingbird	Buff-breasted Sandpiper	King Rail	Rufous Hummingbird ✓
Black-billed Cuckoo	American Golden-Plover	Cassia Crossbill*	Kittlitz's Murrelet*	Saltmarsh Sparrow*
Black Skimmer	Ashy Storm-Petrel*	Chestnut-collared Longspur	Laysan Albatross*	Scripps's Murrelet*
Black Swift	Audubon's Shearwater*	Chimney Swift	Least Tern	Seaside Sparrow*
Canada Warbler	Bachman's Sparrow	Craver's Murrelet*	LeConte's Sparrow	Semipalmated Sandpiper
Cerulean Warbler	Band-rumped Storm-Petrel*	Elegant Tern*	LeConte's Thrasher	Short-billed Dowitcher
Clark's Grebe	Bendire's Thrasher	Evening Grosbeak ✓	Lesser Prairie-Chicken*	Sprague's Pipit
Eastern Whip-poor-will	Bicknell's Thrush*	Fea's Petrel*	Lesser Yellowlegs	Stilt Sandpiper
Grace's Warbler	Black-capped Petrel*	Golden-winged Warbler	Mottled Duck	Townsend's Storm-Petrel*
Long-billed Dowitcher	Black-chinned Sparrow	Great Black-backed Gull	Mountain Plover	Tricolored Blackbird*
Mourning Warbler	Black-footed Albatross*	Greater Sage-Grouse ✓	Murphy's Petrel*	Wandering Tattler
Olive-sided Flycatcher ✓	Black-vented Shearwater*	Guadalupe Murrelet*	Parkinson's Petrel*	Whimbrel
Red-headed Woodpecker ✓	Black Rail*	Harris's Sparrow	Pectoral Sandpiper	Whiskered Auklet*
Rock Sandpiper	Black Rosy-Finch*	Heermann's Gull*	Pinyon Jay ✓	Yellow-billed Loon
Snowy Owl	Black Scoter	Henslow's Sparrow	Prairie Warbler	Yellow-billed Magpie
Surfbird	Bobolink	Hudsonian Godwit	Red-faced Cormorant	Yellow Rail*
Thick-billed Longspur	Bristle-thighed Curlew*	Ivory Gull*	Red-legged Kittiwake*	
Western Grebe	Brown-capped Rosy-Finch*	King Eider	Ruddy Turnstone	
Wilson's Plover				
Wood Thrush				

These Tipping Point species are on a trajectory to lose another 50% of their remnant populations in the next 50 years if nothing changes.

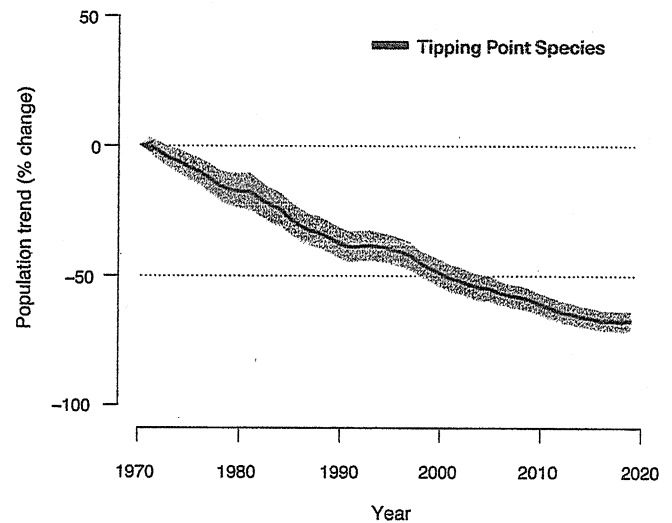
These 90 bird species lost 50% or more of their populations during 1970–2019. The Tipping Point species are on a trajectory to lose another 50% of their populations in the next 50 years (39 species), or already have perilously small populations and continue to face high threats, but lack sufficient monitoring data (31 species, indicated with an asterisk). For the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern list, visit [fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021.pdf](https://www.fws.gov/media/birds-conservation-concern-2021.pdf).

The Next Set of Species Plummeting Toward Endangered Status

Of the 1,093 bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, 89 birds have received additional protections as either threatened or endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act to prevent their extinction.

The Tipping Point species represent another 70 birds that could be next to face threatened or endangered status. Cumulatively, the Tipping Point species that have sufficient data for monitoring have lost more than two-thirds of their populations in the past 50 years.

Tipping Point species come from varied habitats, but they all have the same urgency—immediate science and conservation actions are needed to turn around declines.



70 Tipping Point Species

Urgent action is needed to help these birds before they become endangered.

GRASSLAND BIRDS

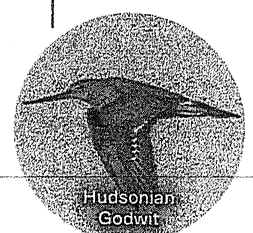
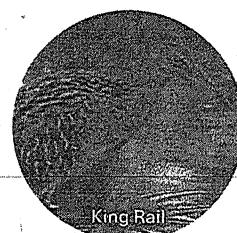
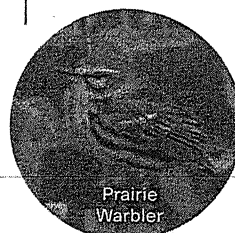
Prairie specialists such as Mountain Plover, Sprague's Pipit, and Chestnut-collared Longspur have lost more than 75% of their populations since 1970.

FOREST BIRDS

The steepest declines among forest birds include species that specialize on tree seeds (e.g., Pinyon Jay), long-distance migrants (e.g., Bicknell's Thrush), and aerial insect-eating specialists (e.g., Chimney Swift).

ARCTIC & ALPINE TUNDRA

Shrinking habitats due to changing climate and resource extraction threaten Arctic-breeding shorebirds (e.g., Hudsonian Godwit and Whimbrel) and alpine birds (e.g., Black Rosy-Finch).



COASTAL & OCEANIC

Nearly a quarter of seabirds found in U.S. waters are at risk of an Endangered listing, including murrelets, albatrosses, petrels, and shearwaters.

ARIDLAND BIRDS

Aridland birds are experiencing long-term declines, including Allen's Hummingbird, Bendire's Thrasher, and Greater Sage-Grouse.

WETLAND BIRDS

Though many waterbirds benefited from decades of wetland conservation, steep bird declines are still occurring in coastal saltmarshes (e.g., Saltmarsh Sparrow), freshwater marshes (e.g., Yellow Rail), and beaches (e.g., Least Tern).