

## 119TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 3276

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Urban Bird Treaty Program.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 8, 2025

Mrs. Dingell (for herself and Mr. Cline) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Urban Bird Treaty Program.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- 2 tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
- 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
- 4 This Act may be cited as the "Local Communities
- 5 & Bird Habitat Stewardship Act of 2025".
- 6 SEC. 2. URBAN BIRD TREATY PROGRAM.
- 7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
- 8 (1) According to the 2025 State of Birds Re-
- 9 port, bird populations continue to decline and have
- resulted in a 50 percent loss of tipping point bird

- population species in the last 50 years. The report found that policies to reverse bird declines carry benefits such as healthier working lands, cleaner water, and more resilient landscapes that can withstand fires, floods, and drought.
  - (2) Nearly 96 million Americans—more than a third of United States adults—engage in bird-watching every year, generating \$279,000,000,000 in annual economic output from these birder expenditures—including spending \$108,000,000,000 annually on birding-related trips and equipment, directly supporting local businesses and 1.4 million American jobs.
  - (3) Maintaining an abundance of healthy, well-distributed green spaces and bird habitats in and near communities reduces the risk of cross-transmission between wild birds and domestic poultry by dispersing bird populations, minimizing overlap at concentrated feeding or resting areas, and enabling earlier disease detection and response through coordinated monitoring.
  - (4) Enhancing bird habitat and stewardship in populated areas serves not only to conserve bird populations and connect people to nature, but also to strengthen the ecological infrastructure necessary to

1	mitigate the spread of wildlife-borne diseases such as
2	Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza.
3	(b) Urban Bird Treaty Program.—
4	(1) In general.—The Director shall establish
5	a program for the voluntary conservation of birds
6	and the habitats of such birds in urban areas, to be
7	known as the "Urban Bird Treaty Program".
8	(2) Program duties.—In carrying out the
9	Program, the Director shall—
10	(A) work with and support covered entities
11	to—
12	(i) protect, restore, or enhance urban
13	habitats for birds, including through the
14	control of invasive species and restoration
15	of native plant species;
16	(ii) reduce urban hazards to birds;
17	(iii) engage communities in scientific
18	activities involving the monitoring of birds
19	and the habitats of such birds in urban
20	areas; and
21	(iv) educate and engage communities
22	in caring about and conserving birds and
23	the habitats of such birds in urban areas;
24	(B) provide technical and financial assist-
25	ance through partnerships with covered entities

to build capacity for, plan, and carry out projects related to activities described in sub-paragraph (A); and

(C) facilitate collaboration and information sharing among covered entities and the public with respect to best management practices for the conservation, restoration, and enhancement of urban bird habitats.

## (3) Grant Program.—

- (A) In General.—The Director shall establish a competitive grant program to award amounts to eligible entities for the purposes of conducting research, planning, assessments, management, building capacity, monitoring, collaboration and information sharing, workforce training, and accomplishing related activities as described in paragraph (2) with respect to the conservation, restoration, enhancement or management of urban birds and the habitats of urban birds.
- (B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a grant under this paragraph, an eligible entity shall submit to the Director an application in such form, at such time, and containing such

1	information as the Director determines appro-
2	priate.
3	(C) Administration.—
4	(i) AGREEMENT.—The Director shall
5	enter into an agreement with the Founda-
6	tion for the Foundation to administer the
7	grant program established under subpara-
8	graph (A) pursuant to the National Fish
9	and Wildlife Foundation Establishment
10	Act (16 U.S.C. 3701 et seq.).
11	(ii) Application of National Fish
12	AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION ESTABLISH-
13	MENT ACT.—Section 10(a) of the National
14	Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establish-
15	ment Act (16 U.S.C. 3709(a)) shall not
16	apply with respect to—
17	(I) an agreement entered into
18	under clause (i); or
19	(II) amounts made available to
20	carry out this section.
21	(c) Definitions.—In this section:
22	(1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term "covered en-
23	tity" means—
24	(A) a Federal, Tribal, State, or municipal
25	agency;

1	(B) a nongovernmental organization;
2	(C) a community group; and
3	(D) an academic institution.
4	(2) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means
5	the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
6	rector of the United States Fish and Wildlife Serv-
7	ice.
8	(3) Eligible entity.—The term "eligible enti-
9	ty'' means—
10	(A) a Tribal, State, or municipal agency;
11	(B) a nongovernmental organization;
12	(C) a community group; and
13	(D) an academic institution.
14	(4) FOUNDATION.—The term "Foundation"
15	means the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
16	established by section 2(a) of the National Fish and
17	Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act (16 U.S.C.
18	3701(a)).
19	(5) Program.—The term "Program" means
20	the Urban Bird Treaty Program established under
21	subsection $(b)(1)$ .
22	(6) Urban.—The term "urban" has the mean-
23	ing given the term "urban area" in section 101(a)
24	of title 23, United States Code.

- 1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 2 authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out
- 3 this section \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026

4 through 2032.

 $\bigcirc$