

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
10 resulted in a 50 percent loss of tipping point bird

1 population species in the last 50 years. The report
2 found that policies to reverse bird declines carry
3 benefits such as healthier working lands, cleaner
4 water, and more resilient landscapes that can with-
5 stand fires, floods, and drought.

6 (2) Nearly 96 million Americans—more than a
7 third of United States adults—engage in bird-
8 watching every year, generating \$279,000,000,000
9 in annual economic output from these birder expend-
10 itures—including spending \$108,000,000,000 annu-
11 ally on birding-related trips and equipment, directly
12 supporting local businesses and 1.4 million American
13 jobs.

14 (3) Maintaining an abundance of healthy, well-
15 distributed green spaces and bird habitats in and
16 near communities reduces the risk of cross-trans-
17 mission between wild birds and domestic poultry by
18 dispersing bird populations, minimizing overlap at
19 concentrated feeding or resting areas, and enabling
20 earlier disease detection and response through co-
21 ordinated monitoring.

22 (4) Enhancing bird habitat and stewardship in
23 populated areas serves not only to conserve bird pop-
24 ulations and connect people to nature, but also to
25 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

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

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

9 (3) GRANT PROGRAM.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall es-
11 tablish a competitive grant program to award
12 amounts to eligible entities for the purposes of
13 conducting research, planning, assessments,
14 management, building capacity, monitoring, col-
15 laboration and information sharing, workforce
16 training, and accomplishing related activities as
17 described in paragraph (2) with respect to the
18 conservation, restoration, enhancement or man-
19 agement of urban birds and the habitats of
20 urban birds.

21 (B) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for a
22 grant under this paragraph, an eligible entity
23 shall submit to the Director an application in
24 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.

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