

December 2, 2022

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the more than 200,000 Audubon members in the Great Lakes region, we respectfully request that you prioritize and ensure passage of the bipartisan **Recovering America's Wildlife Act** before the end of the 117th Congress.

Audubon Great Lakes is a regional office of the National Audubon Society, with more than 50 chapter affiliates, whose mission is to protect birds, wildlife and their habitat. Wildlife across our nation is currently facing a crisis.

According to the preeminent journal, Science, we have lost 3 billion birds since 1970 and Audubon's science shows that two-thirds of North American bird species left are at risk of extinction due to climate change.

The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is an opportunity to reverse course by protecting the habitat that birds and other wildlife need before they become endangered. Species like the Black Tern are facing huge population losses in our region. Audubon Great Lakes and our many partners have been working to improve and restore the habitat that they will need to survive but more help is needed if we are to save this charismatic species.

Introduced with bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act will empower state agencies by providing consistent, reliable funding to dramatically scale up conservation projects in the Great Lakes region and beyond, while creating more than 30,000 jobs across the nation and over \$93 billion in total economic activity. It is also popular with the American public.

State and territorial wildlife action plans are essential to a comprehensive response to the biodiversity crisis, but they have been deeply underfunded for decades. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act would provide \$1.4 billion from existing federal funds to states and Tribal Nations to support their proactive wildlife conservation efforts that can make a significant difference in slowing and reversing the decline and extinction of species.

The Kirtland's Warbler was recently delisted from the Endangered Species Act after recovery efforts helped their population increase from only 150 pairs to more than 2,500 pairs. While many species like the Kirtland's Warbler and Bald Eagle have come back from the brink, thousands of species of birds and other wildlife are in dire need of conservation. The Recovering America's Wildlife Act presents a lifeline for wildlife and would expand opportunities for all of us to enjoy these species and healthy lands and waters here in our state and across the nation.

We recognize that Congress has many priorities to tackle before the end of the year, but hope this game-changing legislation will be among them.

Thank you,

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About Audubon Great Lakes

Audubon Great Lakes is a regional office of Audubon, learn more at gl.audubon.org and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow. Audubon works throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. State programs, nature centers, chapters, and partners give Audubon an unparalleled wingspan that reaches millions of people each year to inform, inspire, and unite diverse communities in conservation action. A nonprofit conservation organization since 1905, Audubon believes in a world in which people and wildlife thrive.