

COMMON BIRDS IN DECLINE

*A State of the Birds Report
Summer 2007*

Many of our most common and beloved birds are experiencing precipitous population declines. Analyzing forty years of bird population data collected by citizen scientists for Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, combined, for the first time, with Breeding Bird Survey data from the U.S. Geological Survey, Audubon has identified our nation's most vulnerable common birds. Additional analyses focused on state level trends. Some mirror the national picture, while others reveal local and regional differences. The birds below are suffering the most serious population declines in Pennsylvania. Along with their national *Common Birds in Decline* list mates, they showcase the need for vigilance in protecting local habitats and the health of our environment. Working together, we can make a difference. Visit <http://stateofthebirds.audubon.org/CBID> for the national findings.

PENNSYLVANIA'S VULNERABLE COMMON BIRDS

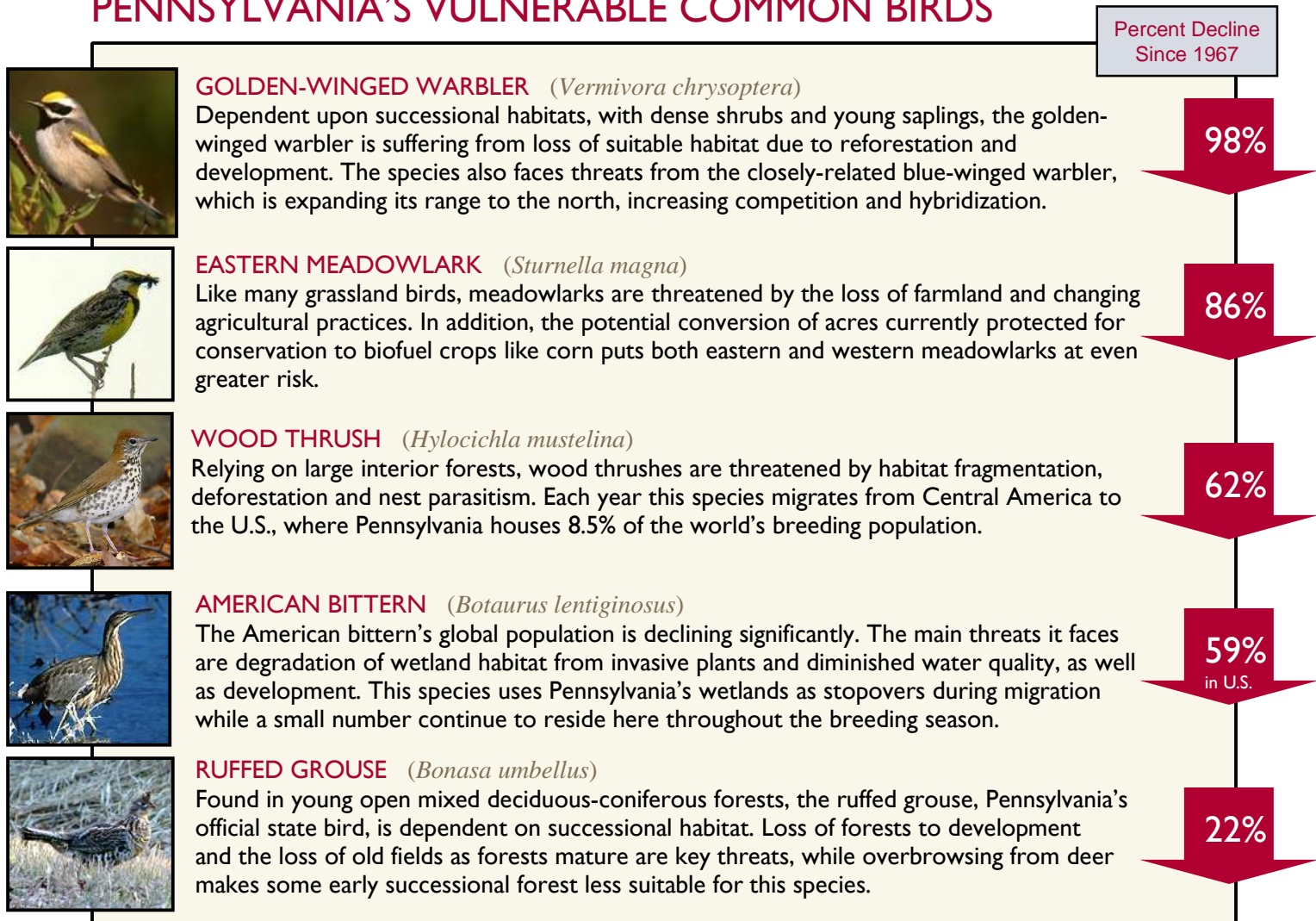


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PENNSYLVANIA HABITATS AT RISK

From the banks of the Delaware River to the shores of Lake Erie, Pennsylvania contains diverse habitats: long forested ridges, varied wetlands, agricultural fields, natural grasslands, shrubby successional woodlands, and, of course, the state's namesake—Penn's Woods. Healthy bird populations depend on healthy habitats, but our bird habitats face an array of threats. Forests are being degraded by fragmentation and non-native pests and diseases, making them unsuitable for wood thrushes. Forest regeneration is hindered by deer overbrowsing, resulting in a skewed mix of tree species and poor understory cover for ground- and understory-nesting birds. This lack of early successional woodland affects ruffed grouse and golden-winged warblers. Meanwhile, grassland birds like eastern meadowlarks are declining due to suburban development of farmland and changes in agricultural practices. Finally, while Audubon supports well-sited wind power, we are unsure of the potential impact that wind turbine sites along our prominent forested ridge will have on the millions of migratory birds that use those ridges as flyways.



WHAT AUDUBON PENNSYLVANIA IS DOING

Pennsylvanians care deeply about birds and their habitat. Audubon Pennsylvania is working with individuals and organizations across the state to monitor bird populations and promote sound

stewardship on the ground. With the majority of Pennsylvania's land held in private ownership, Audubon Pennsylvania is hard at work providing landowners with advice and assistance on how to manage their lands in bird-friendly ways. Our Audubon At Home program is offering private citizens, educational facilities, and business campuses the tools to better manage their land as bird habitat. Pennsylvania was the first state in the nation to designate Important Bird Areas (IBAs). Today, Pennsylvania boasts 84 Important Bird Areas, and our staff—with the help of local Audubon chapters, private landowners, and partnering organizations—is implementing conservation plans that will help protect and restore critical bird habitats within these IBAs.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Pennsylvanians can help keep common birds common in a variety of ways. Landowners of all sizes can enroll in the Audubon At Home program, which promotes bird habitat and healthy backyards. Forest landowners can control the effects of white-tailed deer browsing and assist in forest regeneration. Landowners with open fields can delay mowing fields until after July 15th each year. Where possible, landowners should maintain old fields and forest edges as early-successional habitat.

*For more information on IBAs or
Audubon At Home please contact:*

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