

Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (PA CREP)

Wildlife Habitat Fact Sheet



Native warm-season grass planting (CP2)



Streamside buffer planting (CP22)

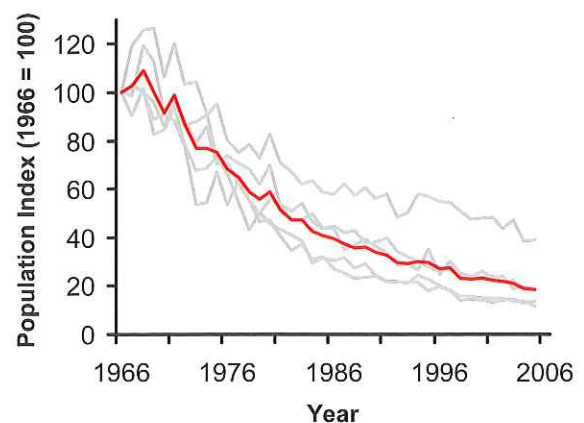
PA CREP

The Pennsylvania Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (PA CREP) is a partnership of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania that started in 2000. In addition to the standard objective of reducing soil erosion on cropland, the PA CREP has two other primary objectives: improving water quality and improving wildlife habitat. The wildlife habitat objective is targeted specifically to grassland habitats for declining grassland dependent wildlife. This fact sheet addresses this wildlife habitat objective.

Targeted Wildlife Habitat

Grassland wildlife targeted by PA CREP has been in steep decline over the past forty years. This is a group of wildlife traditionally associated with agriculture. One group of wildlife representing traditional "farm wildlife" is grassland birds, such as the Eastern meadowlark, ring-necked pheasant, and several "ground sparrows," such as grasshopper sparrow, savannah sparrow & vesper sparrow (lighter lines in graph).

PA GRASSLAND BIRD POPULATION INDICATOR



Source: Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Surveys, 1996-2006. USGS, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD

This group of wildlife is dependent on grassland habitat for nesting and rearing their young. The nesting and brood-rearing season for these birds ranges from the beginning of April through July across Pennsylvania. Nest destruction by haying and mowing during these months is the primary reason for the drastic decline of grassland bird populations in Pennsylvania.