



Dodgers star ready for an emotional return to Canada

SPORTS, 2B

DAILY TRIBUNE

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Once-rare species make surprising recovery

Birds bounce back

The merlin is a falcon, a little smaller than a pigeon, that eats other birds. Their population plummeted due to exposure to the pesticide DDT, until the United States and Canada began restricting DDT in the early 1970s. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tom Langen Clarkson University | THE CONVERSATION

When I started bird-watching as a teenager, a few years after the first Earth Day in 1970, several species that once thrived in my region were nowhere to be found. Some, like the passenger pigeon, were extinct. Others had retreated to more remote, wild areas of North America. In many cases, humans had destroyed their habitat by cutting down forests, draining wetlands and converting grasslands to agriculture. Pesticides such as DDT, air and water pollution, and the shooting of birds added to the drop in numbers.

Birds are still declining across the continent. A recent study of 529 species found their numbers fell nearly 30% from 1970 to 2017. In 2025, nearly one-third of all North American bird species are declining; 112 bird species have lost more than half their population in the past 50 years. Yet, half a century after I started birding, I am starting to see a few long-missing species reappear as I ride my bike from my home through the village and surrounding farmland in rural New York. What has brought these species back while others are disappearing?

In some cases, like the bald eagle, state wildlife officials have reintroduced the birds. But others have returned on their own as habitat protection and restoration, the elimination of certain pesticides, and a shift away from shooting raptors and other large birds made the region less threatening for them. As a wildlife biologist, I believe their return is a testament to conservation and the positive effect of reversing harms to the natural environment. Here are three examples.

See BIRDS, Page 7A



The return of the pileated woodpecker is good for other species, too, as several birds and mammals benefit from the large tree cavities that the woodpeckers excavate. GETTY IMAGES

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Shutdown messaging may violate Hatch Act

Complaints filed against 9 federal departments

Allie Feinberg Knoxville News Sentinel USA TODAY NETWORK – TENNESSEE

Federal authorities are using various means to share their shutdown messaging. If you check the United States Department of Agriculture or United States Department of Health and Human Services websites, you'll find messaging describing the "Democrat-led" and "Radical Left Democrat" government shutdown. Banners and videos posted across federal agencies are turning everyday interactions into political campaigns, a group of Democratic lawmakers and advocacy groups say. "Spirited public debate has its

See HATCH ACT, Page 2A

Theft expert: Paris heist was 'smash and grab'

N'dea Yancey-Bragg USA TODAY

The robbers came about half an hour after the museum opened. Since a brazen heist on the morning of Oct. 19, French officials have described a dramatic scene that unfolded at the world's most-visited museum: As visitors poured into the Louvre, a group of robbers found another way in. The suspects drove a truck up to the museum, part of which was originally built as a castle. They stopped on a road near the Seine River on the south side.

See HEIST, Page 6A

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