



Make your city nature-friendly: City parks, ravines, and open spaces are natural places for migrant and resident birds and other beneficial wildlife. Work with your community to restore the habitat that once existed in your area and reduce risks to nature.

Help get kids into nature:

Help kids connect with nature by taking them for a walk in a park or sponsoring their membership to a young naturalist club. Help schools make school yards more interesting and more natural by supporting their efforts with donations of time and native plants.



Learn and respect Canada's wildlife laws:

The federal Migratory Bird Convention Act, protects birds, their nests and eggs from harm, capture and possession in Canada, and provincial wildlife laws protect other wildlife species in the same way. It is also illegal to purchase, keep or trade threatened species of wildlife from other countries without a permit.



Together we are the voice for nature!

Nature Canada's mission: to protect and conserve nature in Canada by engaging Canadians and by advocating on behalf of nature

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For good...forever Le bien...toujours



Canada

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Streetscape

Balcony

Every Patio Matters in the NatureHood

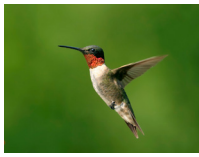
Backyard

Schoolyard

**15 Ways
to be a
Good Neighbour
in your
NatureHood**



Welcome wildlife: Your balcony, patio or backyard can be essential habitat for local wildlife. Habitat is especially important in towns and cities where there is little green space and what does exist is isolated in small pockets. Wildlife needs places to take shelter, to raise young, and to find food and water - just like us! Leave fallen leaves under trees and shrubs – they make excellent foraging sites for many species. Provide and maintain a source of clean water and keep bird feeders clean and disease-free by changing seed regularly.



Rein in your pets: Pet cats kill millions of birds (and other wildlife) across Canada each year, but you can help prevent this – keep your cat indoors. Unleashed dogs in natural habitat can harm birds and other species too, disturbing, chasing, and even killing them. Migrating birds and young birds just leaving the nest are especially vulnerable to pets.



Prevent window collisions: Birds will fly into windows because they see nature reflected in the glass. Make your home or cottage windows visible to birds by applying UV reflective window decals, or strips or blocks of tape on particularly deadly windows can be very effective. In the spring and fall, turn off exterior lights and draw curtains at night to prevent migratory birds from colliding with windows.

Put up a birdhouse – This is very helpful if your neighbourhood has few wooded areas or has recently lost Ash trees to the Emerald Ash Borer. Place the birdhouse in suitable habitat for the species you want to attract. Never paint or finish the inside of the box, and leave the exterior natural or paint/finish it in a light colour. Be sure to clean out the box in the fall.



TIP: If you build your own birdhouse, remember that different species require different hole and box dimensions. Free plans are available for many species online: tinyurl.com/NatureHood-nestbox

Feed the birds all year long. Put up an existing feeder or make one by cutting a large opening in a clean, plastic juice bottle and hang it by its handle. Try to place the feeder near perches or cover to give the birds some security. Sunflower seeds attract the widest variety of birds, and some like suet and seed mixes. Don't put out bread or baked goods – these are bad for birds. Many bird species stay in Canada all year and could use your help through the winter and during the spring and fall migrations.



Hang nesting material: Recycle mesh vegetable bags around your yard by putting wood shavings, short lengths of yarn, burlap threads, wool, and even short hedge-trimmings in them for nesting birds and other wildlife.

Create a healthy yard for wildlife: Avoid using pesticides and herbicides in your yard as they are harmful to birds and other wildlife – and the food they eat. These poisons get ingested into the food chain and washed into waterways, where they can have far-reaching impacts. Birds, for example, can be harmed by eating poisoned insects. If it says “-cide” on your weed treatment, avoid it.

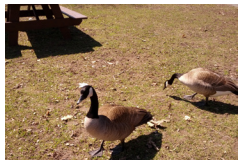


Plant (and save) native plants: They provide shelter, places to raise young, and food sources – as well as structure that makes your yard more attractive to wildlife. Good choices include native Aspen, Willow, Dogwood and Serviceberry, and evergreens like native Spruce, Juniper and Cedar species, Milkweed, Liatris, New England aster, Black-eyed Susan, Bee Balm, Columbine, Clematis, Yarrow, and even Goldenrod are great nectar-producing choices! If you have these already, don't pull them out! No yard? Try planters on your balcony or windowsill.



TIP: Plants native to Canada are the best choice because they are hardy require less watering and little maintenance, attract beneficial insects, and have evolved with local wildlife.

Put waste in its place: Birds and other wildlife become entangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other garbage, resulting in injury, strangulation or easy predation. Animals have died after eating plastic. Cut up plastic mesh bags and plastic rings from cans before disposal/recycling. Don't release helium balloons and dispose of all balloons properly so they are not eaten by wildlife.

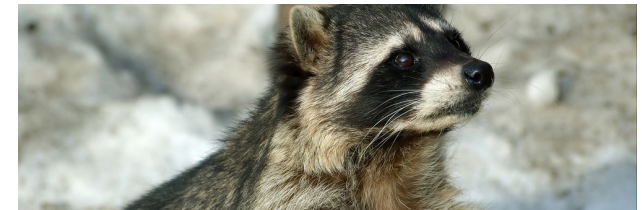


Slow down when driving: Cars kill millions of birds and other animals each year. Driving within speed limits gives you more time to respond to animals on the road and sounding your horn warns animals that you are coming and gives them time to get out of the way.

Buy bird-friendly products: Support bird conservation by purchasing shade-grown organic coffee and chocolate from Latin America. Shade coffee farms mimic native forests and support more bird species than sun coffee farms.



Leave fledglings where you find them: Fledglings may spend several days on the ground after they leave the nest. Help them by keeping people and pets away, so their parents can care for them. If you think a bird is truly an orphan, call a wildlife rehabilitation centre for advice.



Connect with nature at your nearby protected areas: Most communities have one or more public protected areas, like National Wildlife Areas, located nearby. These are great spaces to connect with nearby nature and celebrate Canada's natural heritage!