

TOP TIPS TO HELP BIRDS

Habitat loss, joined at the hip with climate change, with its floods and droughts; outdoor cats; glass windows; toxicity and poisoning; pesticides and herbicides – all of these are having an enormous impact on birds. Indeed, *one in three* North American bird species now need urgent conservation action.

Confronting the loss of wildlife generally, and birds in particular, can be very overwhelming. But all is not lost! There are simple actions you can take at home and at work to help birds survive.

MAKE YOUR YARD BIRD FRIENDLY!

- **Plant native flowers, trees and shrubs.**

They provide food, nest sites and cover. For information on what's native to your region, visit <http://nanps.org/>. The bonus is that native plants are easier to grow and need less watering.



- **Let fallen leaves stay on your garden** over winter – they not only enrich the soil, they also provide a habitat for bugs that birds eat, especially early in the spring when food is scarce.



- **Avoid using pesticides and herbicides** in your yard as they are harmful to birds (as well as you, your children and your pets).



- **Keep feeders clean and disease-free**, and place feeders either within 1 meter, or beyond 5 meters, from any large windows. For detailed info on feeder placement, food choices and planting to provide protection from predators, download Keeping Birds Safe at Your Feeder from www.naturecanada.ca



BE A BIRD-FRIENDLY CONSUMER

- **Purchase locally-grown organic food** as much as possible. Transportation of food over long distances contributes greenhouse gases. Organic foods are grown without pesticides which harm some bird populations.

- **Reuse over recycle, and recycle over discard**, to use less resources.

- **Buy Bird-Friendly Coffee**

Coffee grows naturally at the shady edges of forests, but many farms clear the forest for full sun to provide higher yields, leading to rapid deforestation and the destruction of bird habitats. Buy coffee that is shade-grown, preferably certified Bird-Friendly by the Smithsonian Institution.



- **Select wood & paper products that are certified sustainable** by the Sustainable Forest Initiative (SFI) or Forest Sustainability Certification (FSC). These certifications ensure that the companies are following management and harvesting practices that are beneficial to wildlife.



BE A BIRD-FRIENDLY PET OWNER



Ensure pets and wildlife don't interact.

Cats are the estimated to be the largest directly human-related cause of bird mortality – larger than window collisions by a factor of 10 – and outdoor cats are also exposed to increased risk from cars, extreme temperatures, fights, diseases, poisons, pests and parasites. Most Canadian cat owners keep their cats indoors or supervise any outdoor time, but there are still millions of pet owners who let their cats roam. Keep Cats Safe & Save Bird Lives! To learn more, visit catsandbirds.ca

PREVENT WINDOW COLLISIONS



Make your windows safe for birds.

Many are aware of the problem of birds hitting high-rise windows, but few know that 90% of collisions occur with homes. If this is a problem at your home, cottage or workplace, you can reduce the risks by making the window visible to birds, and moving attractants like bird feeders away from windows. For details on how to prevent window collisions, visit naturecanada.ca.

Be part of the solution!

Join the movement at naturecanada.ca/join-the-movement