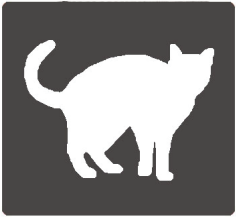


Threats to Birds

Birds face many threats during migration and while living on their breeding and wintering grounds. Many of these threats are caused by humans. We can work together to help birds so that they face fewer threats, and live longer lives. Here are some of the dangers birds face and what we can do to help.



House cats

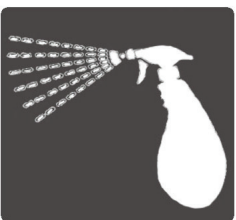
House cats kill billions of birds and other animals every year.

What you can do:



Keep your cat indoors. Not only are birds safer when cats stay indoors, but cats live longer, healthier lives, too! If your cat currently is an outdoor cat, your vet can give you advice on how to transition your cat to a happy indoor life.

◁ A cat shelf placed on a window like this one is a fun way to watch outdoor birds with your cat.



Pesticides

When pesticides are sprayed on plants, birds are in danger of ingesting these chemicals, which can make them very sick, or kill them.

What you can do: Avoid using pesticides.

Many birds eat insects. If you provide a good habitat for birds, they can work to control insect pests in your yard!

The American robin is just one bird that hunts for worms on lawns and is in danger of pesticide poisoning. ›





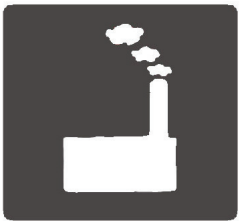
Window collisions

Birds can't see glass and will fly right into windows of houses and other buildings. Many birds die from collisions with glass windows.

What you can do:

You can make windows in your house more visible to birds. Stickers or tape can break up the reflection so that birds realize there is something there to avoid. You can also decorate windows, or use blinds.

A window made visible using blinds, and artwork. ›



Pollution

Pollution contaminates the air, water, and soil that birds and humans depend on to survive.

What you can do:



Car exhaust is one type of pollution. Consider ways that you can get from place to place without using a car, such as by riding a bike, walking, or using public transportation.

‹ Riding the bus can be a safe and environmentally friendly way for kids to get from place to place.

**Remember not to litter!
Think of ways that you can reduce waste, such as by recycling, composting, and using reusable water bottles and bags.**



Habitat loss

Birds are losing the habitats they need for food and shelter, and as places to raise their young.

What you can do:



Restore habitat in your community by planting native trees and other kinds of plants that will provide food, shelter, and nesting sites.

◀ Kids can help create habitat for birds!

As birds lose habitat, they may not be able to find safe places for nesting. For those bird species that build their nests in tree holes, we can help them by putting up nest boxes!



Collisions with tall, lighted buildings

Many birds migrate during the night, and rely on the stars to navigate. Lights on skyscrapers and other tall buildings can confuse birds, and cause them to collide with these lighted structures.

What you can do:

If you live in an apartment building, turn out unnecessary lights and close window blinds or curtains between 11 pm and 6 am during spring and fall migration.

Some other ways to help:

- Put out a bird bath, and keep it clean.
- Don't forget to reduce, reuse, and recycle!
- Tell any coffee drinkers you know to buy only "Bird friendly" shade-grown coffee.

Your city might have a lights out campaign! You can check your local Audubon chapter for more information. >

