

Protect birds from window collisions

More birds are killed each year from striking windows than from any other direct cause of death, and the problem is growing as window sizes increase and houses get larger. Use window decals / stickers or cover your windows with blinds, awnings or shutters to minimize the reflection of the sky. If you feed birds in your yard, move the feeders and bird baths to within three feet of your window. The birds cannot gain enough momentum at this close range and you greatly decrease the chance that they will get hurt. If this is not possible, move them at least thirty feet away. Move inside plants away from windows so that birds do not mistake them for outdoor habitat. If you are landscaping your yard, try to place trees and shrubs away from your windows in order to prevent reflections in the glass that look like a continuation of your yard.



Create a bird friendly yard

Whether you have a tiny backyard or a big one, you can landscape for birds and other wildlife. Plant native bushes, trees and other plants that provide food, protection from predators, and resting spots during migration; provide nesting spots in cavities and dense shrubbery, leave leaf litter and brushy corners where birds can feed and hide. In addition, bird feeders and baths can provide hours of delight for you and some extra assistance for your feathered friends! Why plant natives? Native plants provide 7.5% more insect food for breeding birds (birds need insects to feed their babies!) and also act as host and nectar plants for butterflies and other insects. And your garden will be easier to care for!



Volunteer!

Help out a local organization by volunteering your time! Taking the time to invest in nature helps nurture a passion for it. Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon currently has several habitat restoration projects in progress and can always use more assistance. Join the Habitat Heroes!



Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon works to protect birds and other wildlife, and the habitats upon which they depend through education, public advocacy and conservation action.

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HUNTINGTON-OYSTER BAY AUDUBON SOCIETY



Bird Friendly Communities How You Can Help



Drink shade grown coffee

Unlike sun grown coffee which is produced in sterile monoculture environments devoid of most wildlife species, shade grown coffee is grown beneath an intact tree canopy which provides habitat to hundreds of birds, mammals and other wildlife species. While you are at it, help local people out too, and try to make sure the coffee you purchase is fair trade.



Buy a duck stamp

Officially known as the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, the “duck stamp” is one of the most successful conservation initiatives ever conceived and the most conservation bang you can get for your buck.



Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sale of these stamps go directly towards the protection of habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge system. To date, over \$800 million has been used to purchase or lease over 6 million acres of wildlife habitat. There are over 550 refuges in the USA.

Keep your cat(s) indoors

The approximately 100 million feral and free-roaming cats in the country kill tens to hundreds of millions of birds and small mammals each year. While there is little you can do to prevent feral cat predation, you can play a role in reducing free-roaming cat predation - by keeping your pet cat(s) indoors. Please.



Become involved in the political process

It's a simple but under-appreciated fact that elected officials, especially local ones, react to public opinion. If they get letters, phone calls, or comments advocating for a certain conservation action they often will respond. If you are willing to speak out, your voice can be a powerful tool for conservation.

Check us out at www.hobaudubon.org and Facebook!

Conduct citizen science

Participating in the Christmas Bird Count, the Breeding Bird Census, Project Feeder Watch or one of several other data gathering programs is an important way to contribute to science. These programs have been instrumental in broadening our understanding of bird populations such as population trends and changes in distribution.



Limit your use or don't use pesticides

Pesticides are designed to kill things and even when used according to label can harm or kill unintended targets such as birds and butterflies, the very critters you are often trying to attract to your yard. Use alternatives to pesticides and make changes to the conditions in your lawn and garden to eliminate the need for pesticides.



If you are a hunter, use lead-free ammunition

The benefits of switching to lead free bullets and slugs are significant: more high quality meat with less damage while eliminating the risk that scavenging wildlife, particularly iconic birds such as golden and bald eagles, as well as many mammals, will get sick and die from eating the fragments in the gut piles and carcasses left behind.

Discard fishing line and hooks responsibly

Birds and other wildlife can become ensnared in discarded fishing line, which leads to injuries and death. Hooks can become embedded in animals mouths and bodies.

Avoid plastic bags and other items

Many seabirds consume floating plastic and may feed it to their chicks. Forty percent of Laysan Albatross chicks do not make it to fledgling age. Necropsies demonstrate that almost 100% of the dead birds have plastic in their stomachs. Plastic bags are also deadly to marine animals such as whales and turtles. The plastic bag you toss away miles from a shorelines can and will find its way to our waters.

Support conservation organizations

Local, regional, and national conservation organizations, which play such a vital role in achieving conservation success, simply would not exist without the financial support of individuals who care about conservation.

Buy recycled paper products

The fluffy toilet tissue purchased by most Americans, and stocked in virtually all of our supermarkets, requires pulp containing long wood fibers found only in virgin timber (from live trees). When you use premium tissue, you flush down the toilet part of a tree that may have been felled solely for that purpose. And that tree may have been harvested from Canada's boreal forest, where 57 percent of Blackburnian Warblers breed, along with a third of all North American songbirds.



Make other lifestyle changes

In living our lives we all have an impact on the environment up which birds depend. There are many things you can do each day to reduce your environmental impact including recycling, composting, and using energy efficient light bulbs and appliances. Drive a gas efficient car, take public transportation or carpool. Buy locally grown produce and products.

Take a child on a hike or birding

We underestimate our ability to influence others, and fail to realize how impressionable children can be. Get kids excited about birds, talk about how cool they are - their fascinating migratory feats, complex songs and calls, and well developed senses and coordination - and watch how your behavior piques an interest. Remember, today's children will grow up to be tomorrow's conservationists! You don't have to focus just on kids, talk up birds and nature to anyone you meet. Let them feel your enthusiasm! Remember to always observe wildlife in an ethical and responsible manner.

