



## What's All the Buzz About Birds?

### Fast Facts about Bird Contributions to Biodiversity:

- Pollinate crops and flowers
- Help spread seeds of flowering plants, trees and berry producing plants
- By Spreading tree & shrub seeds, help protect banks of waterways
- Help control pest insects such as mosquitoes and crop pests
- Birds & their eggs are an important food source in ecosystems

***In 2019, scientists documented North America's staggering loss of nearly 3 billion breeding birds since 1970***

***Helping birds can be as simple as making changes to everyday habits***

**Birds are under threat from many sources, how can you help?**

- **Loss of Breeding Sites and Along Migration Routes**
  - ***Provide native plants for year-round food and habitat for birds.*** Many native plants also attract the insects birds need to raise their young. Even seed-eating birds feed their young insects.
- **Light Pollution**
  - During migration seasons in spring and fall, ***turn off outside lights or direct lights downward.*** Birds navigate by stars and need dark skies to see them.
- **Windows**
  - Millions of birds die every year by hitting glass. Birds perceive reflections in glass as habitat they can fly into. Trees and sky can be reflected in windows.
  - ***On the outside of a window, install screens or break up reflections—*** using film, paint, or other markers spaced uniformly
- **Pesticides**
  - Pesticides that are toxic to birds can harm them directly through contact, or if they eat contaminated seeds or prey. Pesticides can also harm birds indirectly by reducing the number of available insects, which birds need to survive.
  - ***Reduce pesticides around your home and garden.***
  - ***Consider purchasing organic food. Nearly 70% of produce sold in the U.S. contains pesticides.***

