

## CVNS Town of Comox Bird Friendly Presentation

Town of Comox Bird Team

### **Bird Team Members**

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## CVNS Town of Comox Bird Friendly Presentation

*Nature Canada provides the criteria and scrutiny for the Bird Friendly Certification Designation*

In 2019, two major scientific reports were released detailing the continuous declines of bird populations.

Nearly 30% population decline in last 50 years due to:

- habitat loss
- cat predation
- artificial lighting left on at night in urban areas (ALAN)
- collisions with windows
- pesticide use; insect declines

MARS (local animal rescue center) reports the top 3 reasons for avian patient intakes are:

1. Injuries from cat attacks
2. Window strikes
3. Contact with vehicles

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### *Nature Canada criteria scoring for the Bird Friendly Certification Designation*

There are three levels of Certification.

Entry Level – 18/36 points (50%)

Intermediate Level – 24/36 points (67%)

Highest Level – 30/36 points (83%)

<https://naturecanada.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Bird-Friendly-City-Application-Small-Municipality-Standard-Final.pdf>

## CVNS Town of Comox Bird Friendly Presentation

*Bird-Friendly Community Certification is built on three main pillars*

- 1. Threat Reduction:** Injuries from cat attack, window strike, pesticide use etc.
- 2. Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resilience:** Planting native plants/ removing invasive plants, restoring habitat loss, forests, grasslands, shorelines
- 3. Community Outreach/Education:** which actions residents, municipal governments, and businesses can take to reverse the decline



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# 1.0 Threat Reduction

- 1.1 **Regulatory** and **educational** measures taken to help control and **reduce** populations of **cats roaming at large**
- 1.2 Demonstrate ... taking measures to **reduce window collisions**
- 1.3 Within the municipality, there is a **policy/ bylaw**, or **active plans** to **reduce light pollution ... evidence of compliance**
- 1.4 Policies/ bylaws to **reduce or eliminate pesticide use** that directly or indirectly **harms birds** on **public** and/or **private lands**
- 1.5 Actions to **remove plastic pollution** within the local ecosystems led within the community
- 1.6 Measures in place to **reduce bird collisions** or **disturbance** associated with **terrestrial** and **aquatic vehicles**
- 1.7 Municipality recognizes and **encourages** practices that **mitigate disturbance** to **birds** from **human activities**



## 2.0 Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resilience

- 2.1 Government **policies** and/ or **plans** to **protect nature** and/ or biodiversity and also to **address climate change** within the territory
- 2.2 Regional or local **habitat management strategies** exist based on **ecological** and **climate** considerations
- 2.3 There is an **Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA)** within or adjacent to the municipality
- 2.4 Municipality has a **demonstration garden/ habitat** to attract birds and insects, which is an **example** for residents for their own properties
- 2.5 Demonstrate widespread **community participation** (private property, **schools**, etc.) in initiatives to **encourage native plant habitat** that support native birds on **private property**
- 2.6 There are **projects** to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird conservation priority species from your **Bird Conservation Region Plan**

## 3.0 Community Outreach/Education

- 3.1 Hold a **World Migratory Bird Day event annually** to celebrate birds
- 3.2 **Education programs** to engage **children** and **youth** and help them learn about birds that are present in the municipality
- 3.3 **Municipality** (and/or Bird Friendly City **partners** if appropriate) **promotes** and has **information available** to its residents and visitors linked with Bird Friendly City Program
- 3.4 Municipality (and/or Bird Friendly City partners if appropriate) **install displays** (e.g. information panel) in **public areas** that include information on birds in the community
- 3.5 There is at least one **birding location** near your village or municipality that has infrastructure to **facilitate the observation** and appreciation of birds

## 3.0 Community Outreach/Education

- 3.6 There are **resources within your municipality** to **help** residents or visitors to appreciate, enjoy and observe birds in your community
- 3.7 For your municipality, there is one or more **businesses** that **promote** and **adopt** bird friendly practices
- 3.8 You have a “**City Bird**” species that was selected through a **public engagement process**
- 3.9 There are active community science programs to **monitor birds** in your municipality such as **Christmas Bird Count**, Project Feeder-watch, **Marsh Monitoring**, Bird day or Global Bird Rescue



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### *How will the Residents of Comox benefit from Bird Friendly Certification?*

- Bird Friendly Certification is a source of community pride. It tells the world that your community is leading on the efforts to reverse bird population declines
- Participation in the Nature Canada program provides rigorous standards that measures the impact and progress of our efforts, while offering advice and support
- Offers access to a network of other Bird Friendly Cities that are addressing similar issues
- Bird friendly status provides an opportunity to educate citizens about bird population declines and how they can take specific, measurable, affordable, and effective actions at home and in their workplaces



**TOWN OF COMOX**

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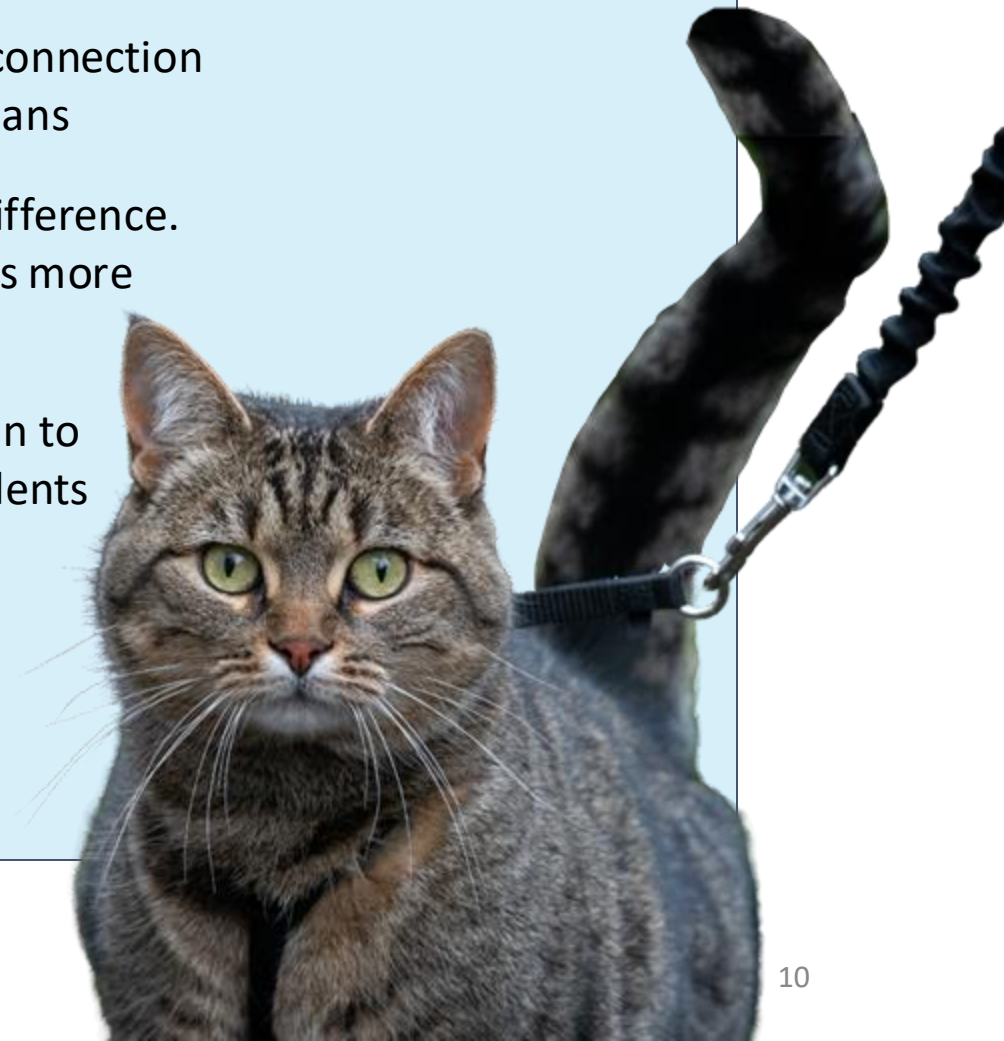
*How will residents of Comox benefit from living in a Bird Friendly community?*

**Health benefits** – research shows that access and meaningful re-connection to nature improves physical, mental and emotional health in humans

**Increase in awareness amongst youth** – how youth can make a difference. School pollinator gardens, beginner birding classes, making homes more bird friendly

**Education versus regulation** - encourage pet owners to take action to prevent unsupervised roaming. Pet owners and bird friendly residents can live in harmony.

<https://catsandbirds.ca/take-action/>



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### *Communities benefiting from having Bird Friendly Certification*

#### **Bird Friendly Communities:**

- Have access to a network of other cities and a community of people who believe in the same things that you do
- Ecotourism—people spend money on birds. Certified bird cities could use their status to attract visitors and promote bird-based ecotourism
- Bird Friendly communities get advantages—Feather friendly products and discounts, potential access to small grants, potential to infuse biodiversity considerations into green infrastructure projects, and tools to address key issues

“People are already coming... It is good for tourism and good for the local economy”

- Art Martell (Comox Valley Nature)



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*How the Town of Comox municipal departments can contribute*

### **Lead by example**

- Window strikes – apply decals to municipal offices/buildings
- Turn lights off at night in municipal offices/buildings
- Continue to plant native bird, insect, pollinator gardens on municipal green spaces
- Survey and identify trees and plants for nesting birds before proceeding with maintenance/trimming work. Encourage the public to do the same

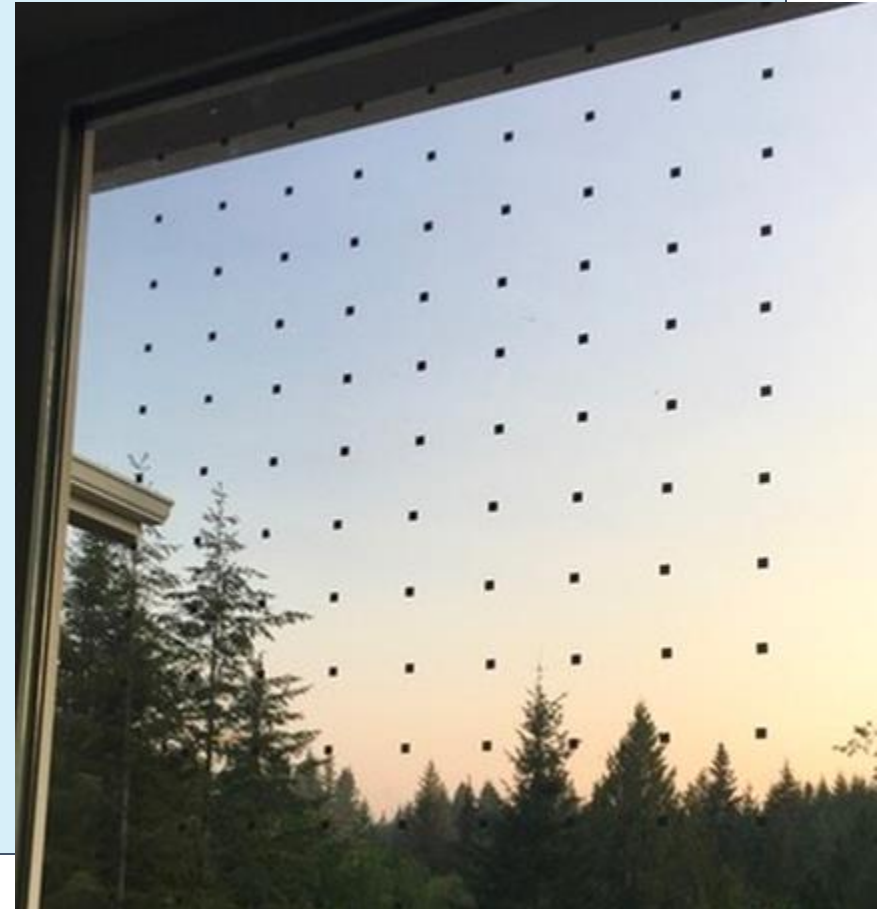


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### *What resources are needed from the Town of Comox?*

- Provide a link to the Town of Comox Bird Friendly Program webpage on the municipal website. **Complete**
- Establish a bird viewing location with signage and viewing platform **(Underway on Dyke Road)**
- Establish a demonstration garden for pollinators and wildlife **(Nordin Street Comox)**
- Assist with selecting a “Community Bird” through a public engagement survey

