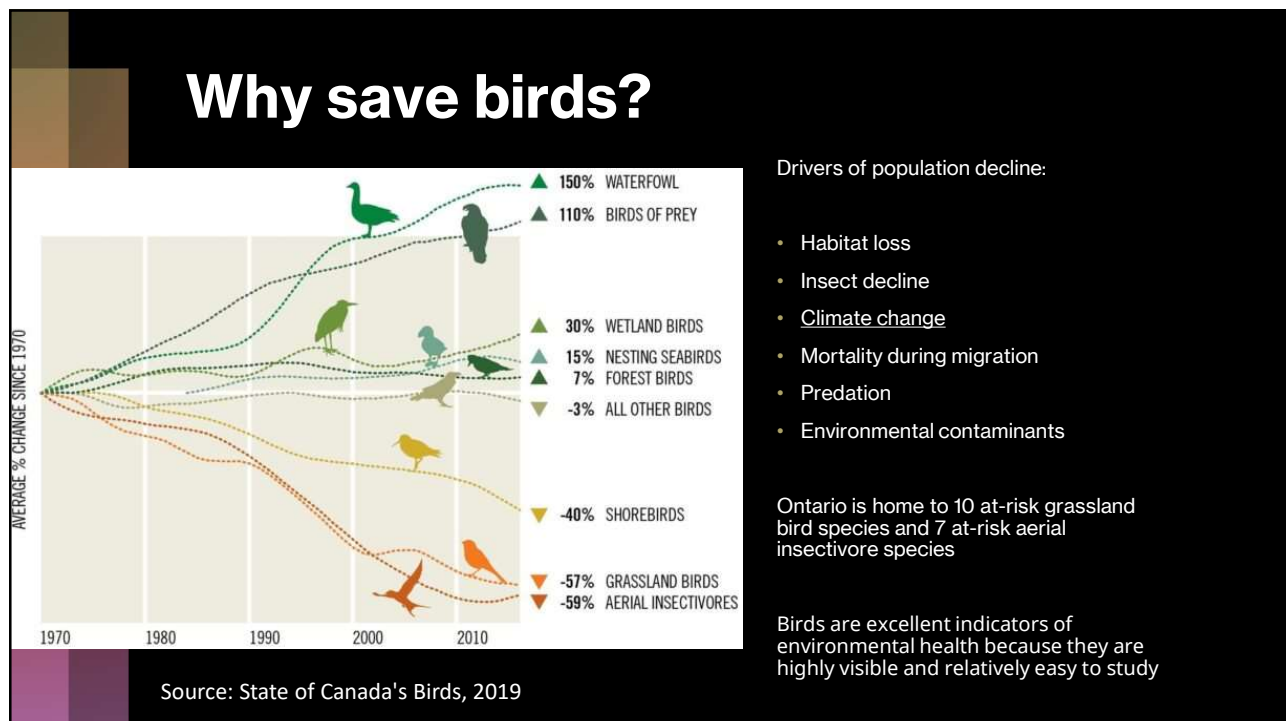


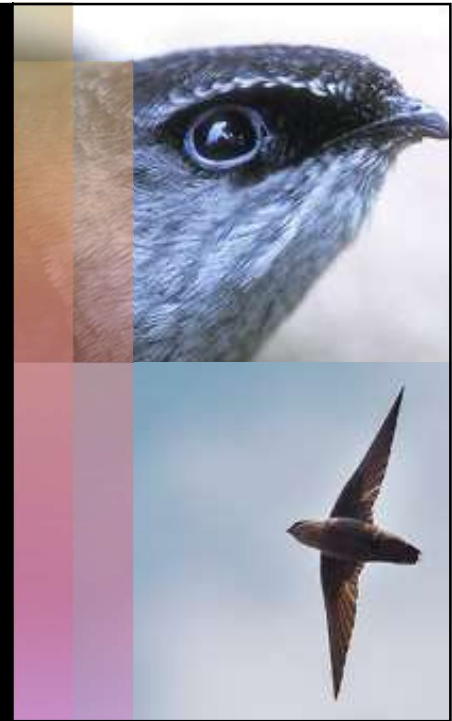
1



2

In particular, the city of Kitchener

- Is home to breeding populations of chimney swifts (catch a look as they swirl around downtown chimneys on summer evenings). The Canadian population of Chimney Swifts has declined by 95% since 1968.



3

What is a Bird- Friendly City?

A Bird Friendly City is a community where:

- Key threats to birds are effectively mitigated;
- Nature is restored so native bird populations can thrive;
- Residents are actively engaged in admiring and monitoring local bird populations;
- Organizations are creating events to protect birds;
- Progressive municipal policies are created to protect urban bird populations; and
- A Bird Team has been created to oversee and lead these initiatives.

<https://naturecanada.ca/defend-nature/how-you-help-us-take-action/bfc/#aboutprogram>

4

Total number of Bird-Friendly Cities in Canada: 24

- In Ontario: Barrie, Burlington, Guelph, London, Toronto, Windsor, Halton Hills, Hamilton, Peterborough
- Goal : to encourage Council to pass a resolution supporting Kitchener to become a bird-friendly city and to support the formation of a Bird City Team

5

What does it take to become a bird-friendly city (entry level)?

1. Establish a Bird City Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward
2. Inclusion of Indigenous Peoples
3. Formal Municipal Support
4. Annual Report
5. World Migratory Bird Day
6. Program Visibility
7. Renewal (certification expires in 2 years)

6

1, 2, 4, 5, 7: Accomplished by creation of a Bird City Team

- I am happy to steward this committee into existence
- Because of my research, I have bird-friendly and ornithological contacts at
 - Waterloo Region Nature
 - University of Waterloo
 - Ontario Swiftwatch
 - *rare* charitable reserve
 - Birds Canada
 - Sprucehaven

7

3, 6: Accomplished by council resolution or letter of support “by a high-ranking city official)

Council resolution preferred, as it paves the way from “entry” level status to “intermediate” and “high” levels, thereby providing longevity in the program

Once the initiative was launched, it would require visibility as per a city webpage (#6)

8

Points awarded for certification based on:

- Roaming cat bylaws (currently 28.0 Schedule "D" to bylaw No. 09-047 but could be more strongly worded)
- Bird-friendly window design in new construction (No)
- Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings, and collecting data over time to show progress over time with treated windows (No)
- Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including home owners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk. (No)
- Light pollution strategy development for existing and planned neighbourhoods, and a consideration of new developments in wildlife-friendly lighting (No)
- Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to reduce external lighting that attracts nocturnal migrants such as "Lights out Toronto." (No)
- Bylaws to reduce or eliminate pesticides known to directly or indirectly harm birds on public and private lands, as well as those to control insects or rodents that are important food sources for birds (e.g. neonicotinoids, Bti for mosquito or midge control, rodenticides). (No, but a bylaw was considered in 2005 with a recommendation to pursue a bylaw in the future, and pesticide ban did happen via bylaw for 2 months in 2007. See Report #DTS-05-174, "Possible Regional Pesticide reduction Bylaw." That is, Kitchener has thought about this!)
- regulatory or nonregulatory measures that result in a reduction of plastic waste generated and the elimination of plastic pollution in local ecosystems such as shorelines and riversides. (No)
- Measures in place to reduce bird collisions with vehicles (No)
- Policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans or their pets at natural areas or important bird habitat (e.g., leash bylaw, no-go zones certain times of year). (Leash Bylaw 29.0 Schedule "E" to bylaw No. 09-047)

9

Scoring

- ENTRY
10 points from at least 3 categories.
- INTERMEDIATE
13 points from at least 5 categories including at least 2 categories worth 3 or more.
- HIGH
16 points or more. Must include at least 3 points in categories 1 and 2.
Must have no roam bylaw (cats), and bird friendly building guidelines for high level.

10

The Truth?

- Kitchener doesn't qualify for even the entry level of a bird-friendly city.
- However, with a supportive Council and the creation of a Bird City Team, it is possible to up the potential score for the creation of Kitchener as a Bird-Friendly city; i.e.: through outreach and education, and assessing bird collisions on municipal buildings.
- Finally, remember the goal : to encourage Council to pass a resolution supporting Kitchener to become a bird-friendly city, and to support the formation of a Bird City Team