

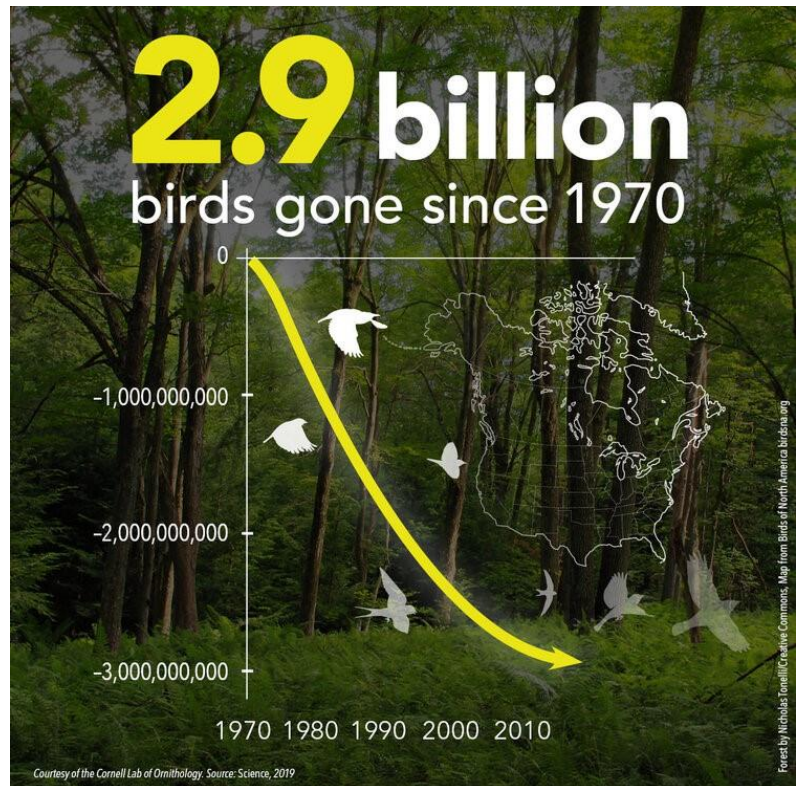
Migration Monday 5-22-2023

By Dylan Osterhaus

Why do we need to make every effort to protect birds?

Migratory birds are one of the most imperiled animal groups and populations in North America have experienced widespread declines in the last half-century with some **3 billion** birds being **lost** since 1970 ([Follow this link for more information](#))

During migration birds are exposed to a wide array of stressors. As birds migrate, they expend huge amounts of energy, are exposed to unfamiliar predators and diseases, are often confronted with habitats that vary drastically year to year and are exposed to a large variety of anthropogenic alterations and barriers to migration (more below).



Recent research has found that in the United States alone, outdoor cats are responsible for the **deaths of 2.4 billion birds annually**. Feral cats are followed by buildings/windows (**599 million deaths**), automobiles (**200 million deaths**), and power-lines (**28.6 million deaths**) as the leading human-made causes of bird deaths in the US ([Read the paper by Loss et al. \(2015\) here](#)).

Here are five things you can do to protect these global travelers-

1. Keep all cats indoors and encourage your neighbors to do the same.
2. Make sure your home (and workplace) is bird-friendly. This includes placing decals on windows to prevent collisions ([some Cornell Lab recommendations can be found here](#)), and ensuring that all night lighting is implemented in bird-safe ways ([more info here](#)).
3. Submit data to [eBird](#) so that researchers can continue to monitor populations of our migratory birds.
4. Create bird habitat right in your own backyard. There is an abundance of information on how to begin to do this, here is a [helpful article](#) to get you started.
5. Support bird conservation by joining your local Audubon Society chapter! You can find your nearest chapter [using this helpful map](#).