



## EARTH CARE @LEWINSVILLE

### **“...LET BIRDS MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH”**

*(NSRV, Genesis 1:22)*

As stewards of God’s creation, we should be concerned by reports of significant reductions in bird populations in North America (net loss since 1970 of 29% of breeding adults) and worldwide (decline of 40% of the world’s bird species). Multiple interacting human-influenced causes are believed responsible for the declines, including habitat loss and degradation, climate change, invasive species (including domestic cats), collisions with glass and other structures, and pesticides/other contaminants.

We can help by supporting policies and voting for lawmakers that promote ecological sustainability. Conservation efforts and political action have led to increased numbers of some bird groups, including waterfowl (wetland restoration) and raptors (ban on DDT) and can potentially save many more.

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology suggests taking these seven simple actions:

1. Make windows safer. Birds see nature reflected in a window or mistake houseplants inside for outdoor plants, and fly into the glass. Collisions lead to an estimated 600 million deaths annually. Even birds that appear merely stunned will likely die later from internal injuries or predation. Install products to prevent collisions; keep screens installed year-round; close shades or curtains when not in the room and at night; move house plants back from windows.
2. Keep cats indoors. Cats roaming freely outdoors kill approximately 2.6 billion birds every year in the U.S.
3. Reduce lawns and plant native plants to offer food and shelter for birds.
4. Avoid pesticides in your home, yard and food.
5. Choose certified Bird-Friendly, shade-grown coffee grown on farms that preserve bird habitat.
6. Reduce use of plastics and recycle as much as possible. Most plastic ends up in landfills and waterways, harming wildlife that ingest or become entangled in it.
7. Observe birds and report your findings through projects such as eBird, Christmas Bird Count, and Project FeederWatch.

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