

# About Bird Conservation



Bird Friendly Gardening

# Bird Awareness

In 2013, Environment Canada determined that human activities directly or indirectly cause about 269 million bird deaths in Canada each year.

Our coordinated brochure and PowerPoint series addresses common bird conservation issues and suggests ways that you can help. There are simple changes that you can make to help save birds.

# Topics Covered

Garden Features

Garden Maintenance

Pesticides & Fertilizers



# Plant Native Species

Planting native species of trees, shrubs, and groundcover supports native birds and insect pollinators.

These plants are also adapted to the local climate.



# Native Species



**Trees:** Garry oak, arbutus, and Douglas-fir

**Shrubs:** sitka mountain ash, Saskatoon berry, Oregon grape, indian plum, and oceanspray

**Groundcover:** fringe cup, salal, coastal strawberry, sedum, and kinnikinnick

# Attracting Hummingbirds!

Hummingbirds are important pollinators. These native plant species attract them:

- Flowering red currant
- Oregon grape
- Orange trumpet honeysuckle



# Hummingbird Feeders

**The recipe is on your hand!**

**1 part white sugar**

**4 parts water**



# Hummingbird Feeders

## The DON'T USE List:

- Brown sugar (iron poisoning)
- Honey
- Icing sugar
- Juice
- Red dye
- Commercial mixes



# Plants Instead of Lawns

Lawns are not natural.  
They are lots of work to  
maintain and don't  
sustain wildlife.



# Create Vegetation Layers

Plant species of different heights to provide diverse foraging and nesting areas.



# Install Bird Baths

Water features are a place for birds to bathe and drink.

Be sure to keep them clean and elevated!



# Nest Boxes

- These can be a great way to attract some nesting birds.
- Research style first to attract the desired species.



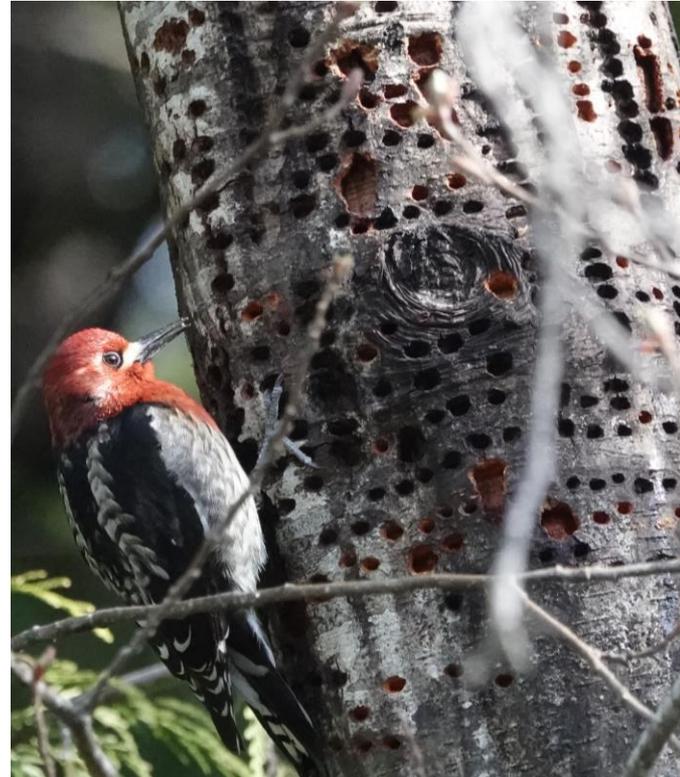
# Bird-Friendly Maintenance

There are simple measures to improve food availability and enrich habitat.



# Leave Dead Plant Materials

- Let plants go to seed.
- Keep wildlife trees as
  - These provide food for woodpeckers.
  - Tree cavities are vital for many nesting birds.



# Leave Leaves!

- Leaf mulch helps retain moisture. holds moisture
- Soil invertebrates break down leaves, naturally fertilizing the soil.
- These invertebrates are an important food source.

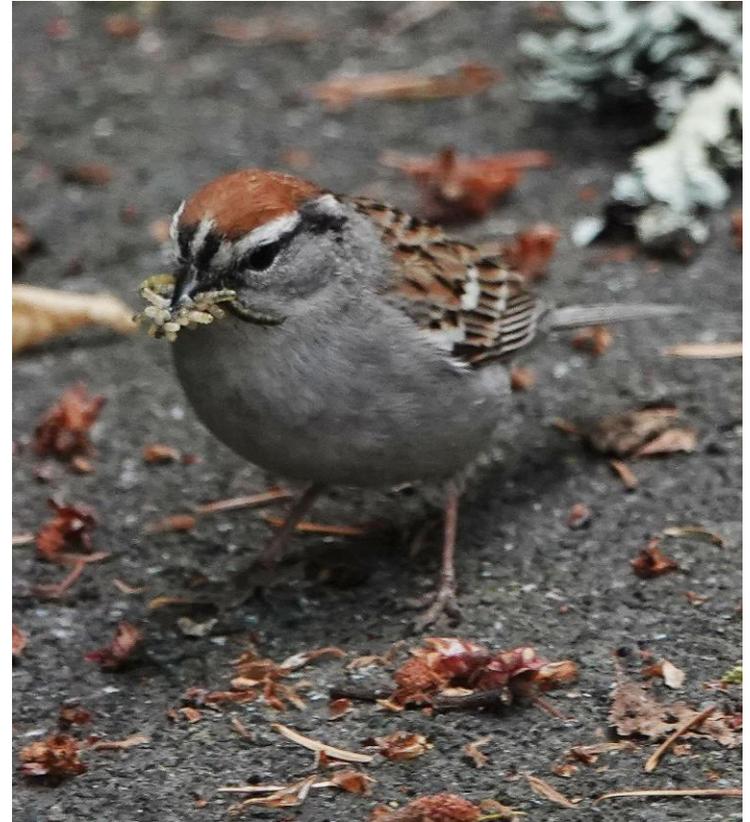


# Garden Treatments

- Pesticides and herbicides reduce the food available and can be lethal to birds.
- Fertilizers destabilize aquatic systems.



- Some pesticides kill invertebrates like insects and slugs.
- These are often important sources of protein and fat for nestlings.
- Reduced pesticide use will make your garden desirable for nesting.



Invertebrates are also important for the aquatic food chain and returning nutrients to the soil.

These are important food for birds too.



- Rodenticides target mammals like mice and rats.
- Poisoned rodents are easy to catch.
- Eating them poisons birds of prey.



- Glue traps are also dangerous for non-target animals, including birds.
- Properly placed snap traps are a bird-friendly and more humane way of dealing with pest issues.



# Alternatives to Herbicides

- Mulch
- No-till gardening
- Landscape fabric
- Ground cover plants
- Hand weeding



# Natural Fertilizers

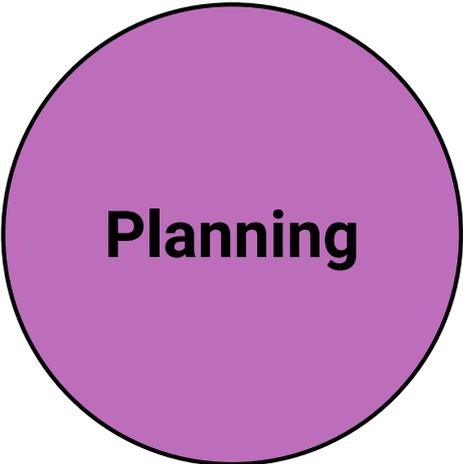
- Use organic or natural fertilizers.
- Apply in targeted areas only.
- Compost.



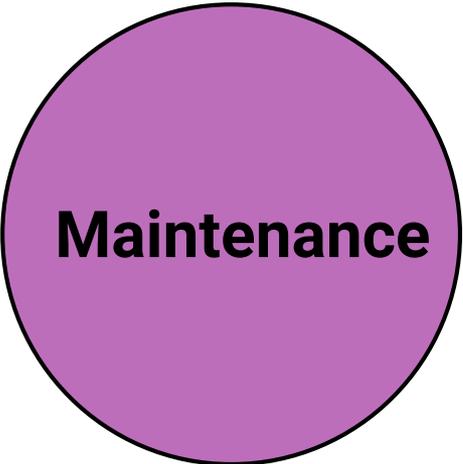
# Conclusion: Bird Friendly Gardening



**Pesticides  
&  
Fertilizers**



**Planning**



**Maintenance**

## Other PowerPointPoints in this series



**How Pets  
Affect  
Birds**

**Outdoor  
Recreation  
with Birds**

**Ethical  
Consumerism  
& Birds**

**Creating a  
Bird-  
friendly  
Home**

# About Rocky Point Bird Observatory



Rocky Point Bird Observatory has been monitoring bird populations on southern Vancouver Island since 1994. A member of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network, RPBO relies on support from volunteers, members, and donors to fill its mandate of conservation through monitoring, research, and public education.

To support or join Rocky Point Bird Observatory, or to arrange a visit or educational program, please visit our website at [rpbo.org](http://rpbo.org).

# Resources and References

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