



How Can You Help Migrating Birds at Home?



The Rocky Point Bird Observatory

Migration is Risky Business

Migration can be a very dangerous undertaking. The journey sends birds across great distances and into unfamiliar territories. They must overcome many obstacles including:

- lack of food
- increased exposure to predators
- physical exhaustion
- bad weather

These things are largely out of the birds' control. Much is left to chance.

Increasingly, Long Distant Migrants Are Facing A New Set of Threats

Much of their habitat has been destroyed by deforestation, pollution, and urban development. In what breeding area remains, competition for food, water and nesting area can be fierce. In cities, birds must contend with an entirely new set of threats and dangers that are completely unfamiliar to them, namely outdoor cats and glass and artificial lighting.

The problem with glass:

Reflective glass has a mirror effect. Depending on the location of the glass, birds might see more trees and greenery or clear skies in front of them. Transparent glass has a see-through effect. From the birds perspective, it seems as if there are no obstacles ahead.

Some birds—such as songbirds—are more prone to building collisions. Others, like pigeons, starlings, and commons sparrows are particularly good at avoiding them.

The most vulnerable species in CRD:



Savannah Sparrows



Common Yellowthroats



Lincoln's Sparrows



Pacific-slope flycatchers

Visit Us:
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"Some birds are not meant to be caged, that's all. Their feathers are too bright, their songs too sweet and wild. So you let them go, or when you open the cage to feed them they somehow fly out past you." (Stephen King)



Here are a few things you can do right now, and everyday, to help birds

- ❖ **LEARN** the names and needs of the common birds of your neighborhood, teach your neighbors, and get involved with your local birding community.
- ❖ **PUT UP** a species specific and properly built bird house on your property. Manage the house and adjacent habitat so the native birds have food, water and habitat.
- ❖ **PUT UP** seed feeders and nectar feeders on your property—either very close or several feet away from your windows.
- ❖ **PUT** infrared stickers or screens on windows and doors that cause window strikes.
- ❖ **LIMIT** the use of lawn chemicals and pesticides in your garden. They are harmful not only to birds, but also to you, and your pets.
- ❖ At night, **TURN OFF** the lights or close the blinds of your high-rise offices or apartment buildings. Spread the word to your co-workers. Thousands of migratory songbirds, which are attracted by lights, are killed each year by colliding with lighted buildings at night.

Support RPBO – many ways to play your role

You can support The Rocky Point Bird Observatory in many different ways.

Volunteer and take part in our education and conservation efforts. Help RPBO and be part of a fantastic team.

Donate today and help us continue our leadership role in education, research and conservation.

Become a member and enjoy great benefits while supporting RPBO.

Adopt a bird and help to support the many conservation, stewardship and research programs and projects of Rocky Point Bird Observatory including the Fall Migration Monitoring Project and the Northern Saw-whet Owl Fall Monitoring Program.

Take part in RPBO events, learn and connect with our dedicated and skilled staff and volunteers. Gain valuable insight and use your knowledge back in the community