

Bird Population in Canada

Travelling hundreds or even thousands of kilometres in search of food, shelter and safe passage, the route to their destinations, is risky for birds. The State of Canada's Birds ((2012). State of Canada's Birds 2012. Retrieved November 4, 2016, from <http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org/>) lists the greatest threats to migrating birds travelling outside of Canada as follows:

- **Habitat loss** – Growing development pressures and demand for products in many countries in the Caribbean, Central and South America are destroying natural habitats. Agriculture is replacing both natural forests and grasslands. Logging has significantly reduced the forest habitats of Central America and the Caribbean. Beach tourism and shrimp aquaculture are replacing coastal habitats, including mangroves and salt marshes.
- **Pollution** – Oil spills, pesticides, industrial chemicals and heavy metals degrade the quality of air, water and terrestrial habitats, and may sicken or kill birds. Many toxic pesticides now banned in Canada and the U.S.A are still in widespread use elsewhere.
- **Incidental** - Take such as collisions with towers, windows, vehicles and power-lines kill millions of birds each year as they migrate between breeding and wintering areas. In addition, millions of birds are killed by domestic and feral cats.
- **Uncontrolled hunting** and trapping remains a concern for birds in some countries. Many shorebirds are hunted in the Caribbean, while songbirds are trapped for the caged bird trade in many areas.

Other resources:

Bird species declining in Canada, report says

Expert panel finds 12 per cent drop in bird populations since 1970

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/bird-species-declining-in-canada-report-says-1.1149294>

9 leading causes of bird deaths in Canada

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/politics/9-leading-causes-of-bird-deaths-in-canada-1.1873654>

The State of Canada's Birds 2012

http://www.stateofcanadasbirds.org/State_of_Canada's_birds_2012.pdf