

CAT PREDATION ON BIRDS

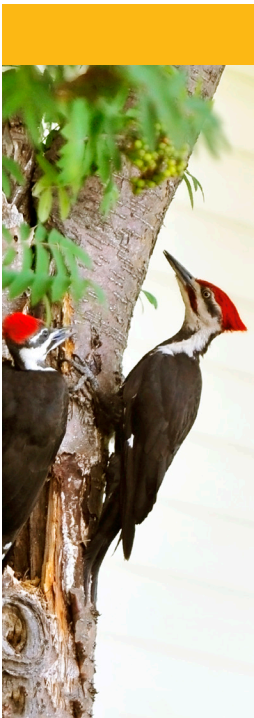
Edmonton: A Shared Community

Birds live in Edmonton with us. Unfortunately, our feathered neighbours frequently get caught by predators that we have introduced to the environment: our beloved pet cats. Together as a community we can stop many avoidable injuries and deaths caused by these unnatural predators. Awareness is the first step.

Educate yourself about cats preying on birds, how to prevent it and what to do when you see a bird get caught by a cat. WRSE's website and

the resources in this pamphlet are a great place to start!

Help conserve our beautiful and helpful neighbours:
Birds!



Wildlife Rehabilitation
Society of Edmonton

Compassionate Care of Injured and Orphaned Wildlife



Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton,
Box 66065, Heritage Postal Outlet,
Edmonton, AB, T6J 6T4
Hotline: 780 914 - 4118
Shelter: 780 433 - 0884
info@wildlife-edm.ca
www.wildlife-edm.ca

Wildlife Rehabilitation Society of Edmonton

Prevent Birds From Getting Caught By Cats

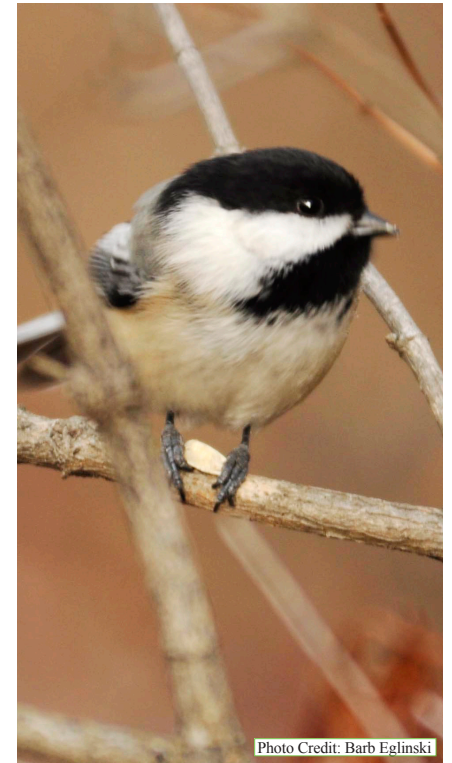


Photo Credit: Barb Eglinski

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Is cat predation on birds common?

Yes! Cats have a significant impact on bird populations. In Canada alone, cats prey on and kill an estimated 140 million birds and mammals annually¹.

Why is cat predation on birds a problem?

Domestic cats were introduced to North America only a few hundred years ago. Wild birds are not adapted to recognize and avoid predation by domestic cats.²

How can I reduce cat predation on birds in my yard?

Protect birds by placing your birdfeeders in open areas and out of reach from cats.

How can I prevent my cat from catching birds?

1. Keep your cats indoors! It is especially important to keep your cat indoors during bird migration and breeding season (May-August). Keeping your cat indoors can also extend the life of your pet. Outdoor cats face more stresses and dangers, and have an average life span of two to five years. By comparison, the average life span of an indoor cat is 12.5 years.³

2. Allow your cat outside safely. Let your cat enjoy the outdoors and protect wildlife at the same time by using outdoor enclosures (www.just4cats.com) or by training your cat to walk on a harness.⁴⁻⁶

3. Get your cat a bib! Consider getting a Cat Bib (www.catgoods.com), which will reduce the chance of your cat catching a bird by 81 percent.⁷

What should I do if my cat catches a bird?

If your cat catches a bird, carefully place the bird in a cardboard box that you have lined with paper towels, close the box, and put it in a warm, dark, quiet place. Call WRSE's hotline (780) 914-4118 and we will advise you how to get the bird to us for medical attention.

—Thank you to Diana Tirlea who put this information together to promote conservation through education about cat predation on birds!—



Photo Credit: Doris May

Robin fledglings, not yet able to fly, are an easy catch for a stealthy cat.



Resources

1. Nature Canada (www.naturecanada.ca)
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (<http://library.fws.gov/>)
3. Parsons, G., 1996. The Inside Story. Animals Magazine, Massachusetts, SPCA, 24-27.
4. The American Bird Conservancy (www.abcbirds.org)
5. The Audubon Society (www.audubon.org)
6. The Canadian Federation of Humane Societies (<http://cfhs.ca/>)
7. Calver, M., Thomas, S., Bradley, S., and McCutcheon, H., 2007. Reducing the rate of predation on wildlife by pet cats: The efficacy and practicability of collar-mounted pounce protectors. Biological Conservation 137: 341-348.

