

Bird Town Pennsylvania

Creating Livable
Communities
Through the Lives
of Birds



BIRD TOWN
PENNSYLVANIA[®]



Mission

Bird Town Pennsylvania works in partnership with local municipalities and like-minded organizations to promote community-based conservation actions to create a healthier, more sustainable environment for birds, wildlife and people.



Bird Town Pennsylvania has been actively engaging municipalities in the state for more than 12 years with 53 programs across 10 counties.

Owned by the **Pennsylvania Audubon Council** and collaborating with various conservation groups, including **WeConservePA, Audubon Chapters, and the Bird City Network.**

53 Bird
Towns in 10
Counties and
Growing!

County/Municipalities	
Allegheny	Swissvale Borough
Berks	Longswamp Township
Bucks	Chalfont Borough, Doylestown Borough, Doylestown Township, Falls Township, Lower Makefield Township, Morrisville Borough, New Britain Borough, Newtown Township, Richland Township, Solebury Township, Springfield Township
Chester	Charlestown Township, Easttown Township, Kennett Township, Malvern Borough, Schuylkill Township, Tredyffrin Township, Westtown Township, West Vincent Township
Delaware	Bethel Township, Concord Township, Lansdowne Borough, Media Borough, Nether Providence Township, Newtown Township, Radnor Township, Springfield Township, Swarthmore Borough
Lancaster	Manheim Township
Lehigh	Allentown, Lower Macungie Township, Salisbury Township, Whitehall Township
Montgomery	Abington Township, Jenkintown Borough, Cheltenham Township, Hatfield Township, Horsham Township, Lower Frederick Township, Lower Gwynedd Township, Lower Providence Township, Marlborough Township, Perkiomen Township , Red Hill Borough, Springfield Township, Upper Dublin Township, Upper Moreland Township, Upper Salford Township, West Norriton Township
Northampton	Bethlehem City
Tioga	Wellsboro Borough

Pennsylvania Audubon Council (PAAC)

- PAAC members are the 20 Audubon chapters in Pennsylvania
- Purpose: to serve the chapters and advocate for the conservation and preservation of birds, other wildlife and the environment on which they depend; through the sharing of resources and ideas among and between the chapters and in collaboration with other conservation partners.
- Bird Town Pennsylvania, LLC is under corporate umbrella of PAAC
- PAAC is an IRS 501 (c) 3, a state registered charitable organization, and exempt from paying state sales tax
- PAAC with the Audubon chapter network is helping establish Bird Towns across Pennsylvania



Why focus on Birds?

- **Birds keep our ecosystems running smoothly**
 - Birds eat 400-500 tons of insects per year
 - Birds like crows and vultures scavenge carcasses reducing diseases such as rabies, distemper and plague
 - Birds disperse seeds and provide pollination services
 - Birds like hawks and owls help keep mice and rat populations in check
- **Birds bring us joy and beauty!**
- **Birds help us know if the environment is healthy**
 - Birds are sensitive to toxins and pollutants and can serve as an early warning system that something is wrong in the environment.
- **Birds are everywhere**
 - 45 million birdwatchers in US, spending \$41 Billion
- **Birds need our help!**
 - Breeding bird surveys show population declines ranging from 30 to 77 percent since 1970 — and the numbers are still falling!



1 in 4 Birds Gone Since 1970



© Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Source: Science, 2019

Graphic by Jillian Ditmer/Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Grassland Birds

MAJOR DECLINES SINCE 1970

There are very few remaining native grasslands in North America. Grassy livestock pastures can help fill the void if managed properly, but crop agriculture and development continue to eat away at grasslands.

720
MILLION
GRASSLAND BIRDS
LOST SINCE 1970

POPULATION LOSS



Eastern Meadowlark
Sturnella magna

GRASSLAND BIRDS
HAVE SUFFERED A
-53%
POPULATION LOSS
SINCE 1970

3 IN 4
EASTERN MEADOWLARCS GONE



Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Source: Science, 2019

Eastern Meadowlark by S. Queen Macaulay Library/Prairie Grasslands by Joshua May Creative Commons

Migratory Birds

MAJOR DECLINES SINCE 1970

Many of these species are birds of two worlds. They may visit your backyard one day, then show up at a shade-coffee farm in Colombia just a few weeks later. Habitat loss plagues them in both hemispheres.

2.5
BILLION
MIGRATORY BIRDS
LOST SINCE 1970

POPULATION LOSS



Baltimore Oriole
Icterus galbula

2 IN 5
BALTIMORE ORIOLES GONE



MIGRATORY BIRDS
HAVE SUFFERED A
-28%
POPULATION LOSS
SINCE 1970

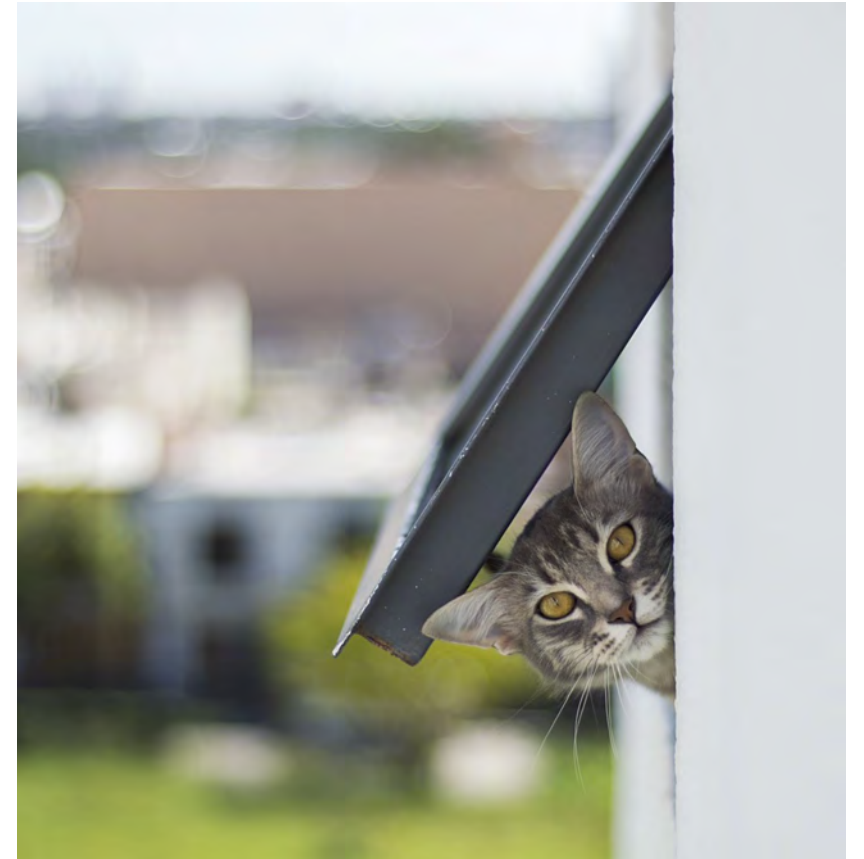


Courtesy of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Source: Science, 2019

Baltimore Oriole by Gary Mueller-Master Library, Forest by Nicholas Jonsell Creative Commons

Major Threats to Bird Populations

- **Loss of Habitat**
 - > 40 million acres of lawns in US with 2 million in PA
- **Cats** (feral and outdoor)
 - > 2.4 billion birds killed per year
- **Window Collisions**
 - > 1 billion birds die per year
- **Pesticides**
 - >1 billion pounds applied in US
- **Climate Change**
 - > Migration out of sync with food sources
- **Invasive Species**
 - > replace native plantings needed for food, shelter and nesting
- **Plastics**
 - > 4,900 million metric tons in our environment worldwide;
400 years to degrade; 91% not recycled

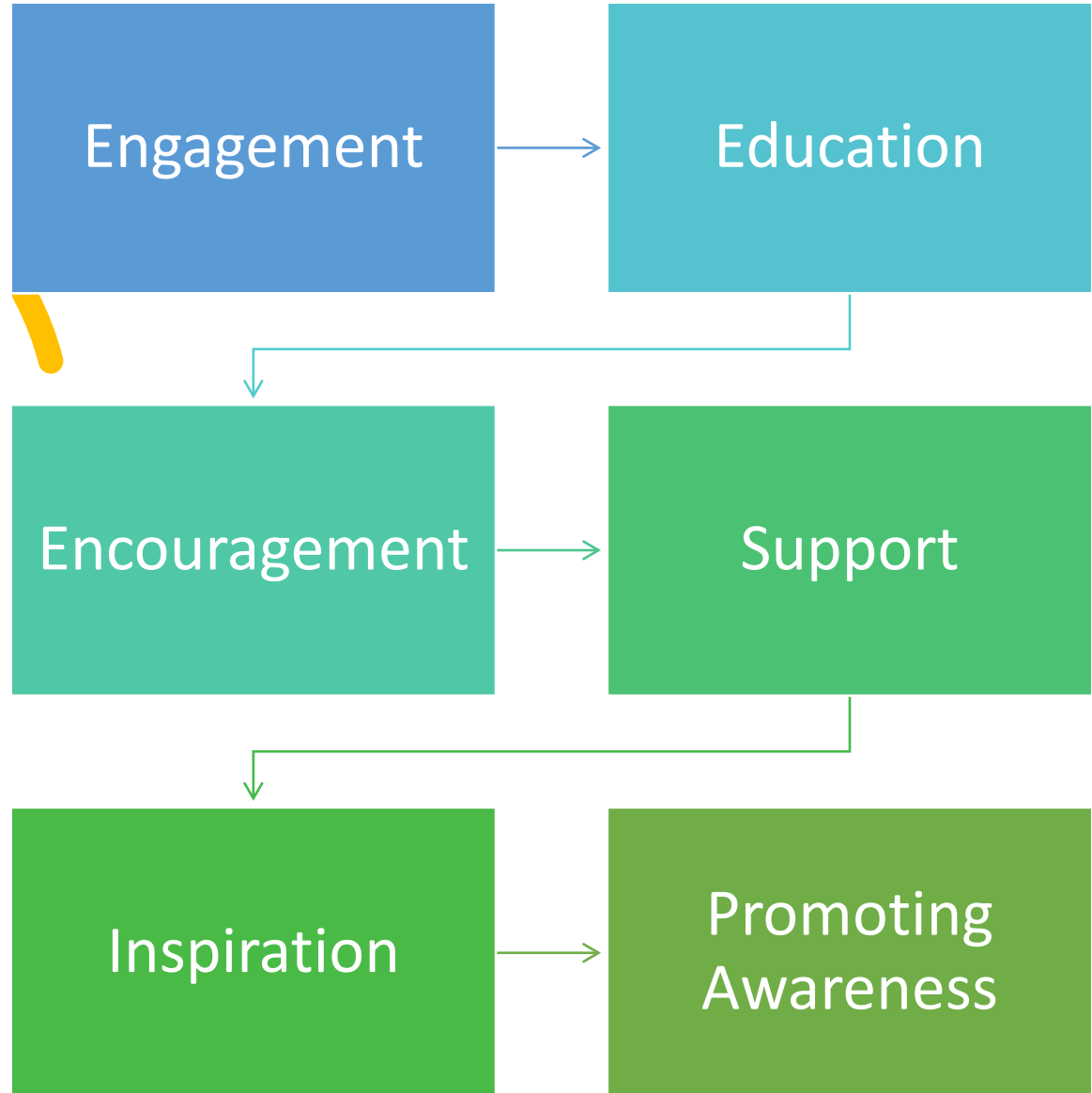


Bird Town Pennsylvania provides for your municipality:

- a state-wide structured program with congruous goals
- concrete resources and achievable actions
- a framework for community networking with other Bird Towns and Conservation Partners that includes avenues of communication, events, volunteer opportunities, citizen science projects and more
- training and workshops for your Bird Town leaders and
- more opportunities and success in obtaining funding.

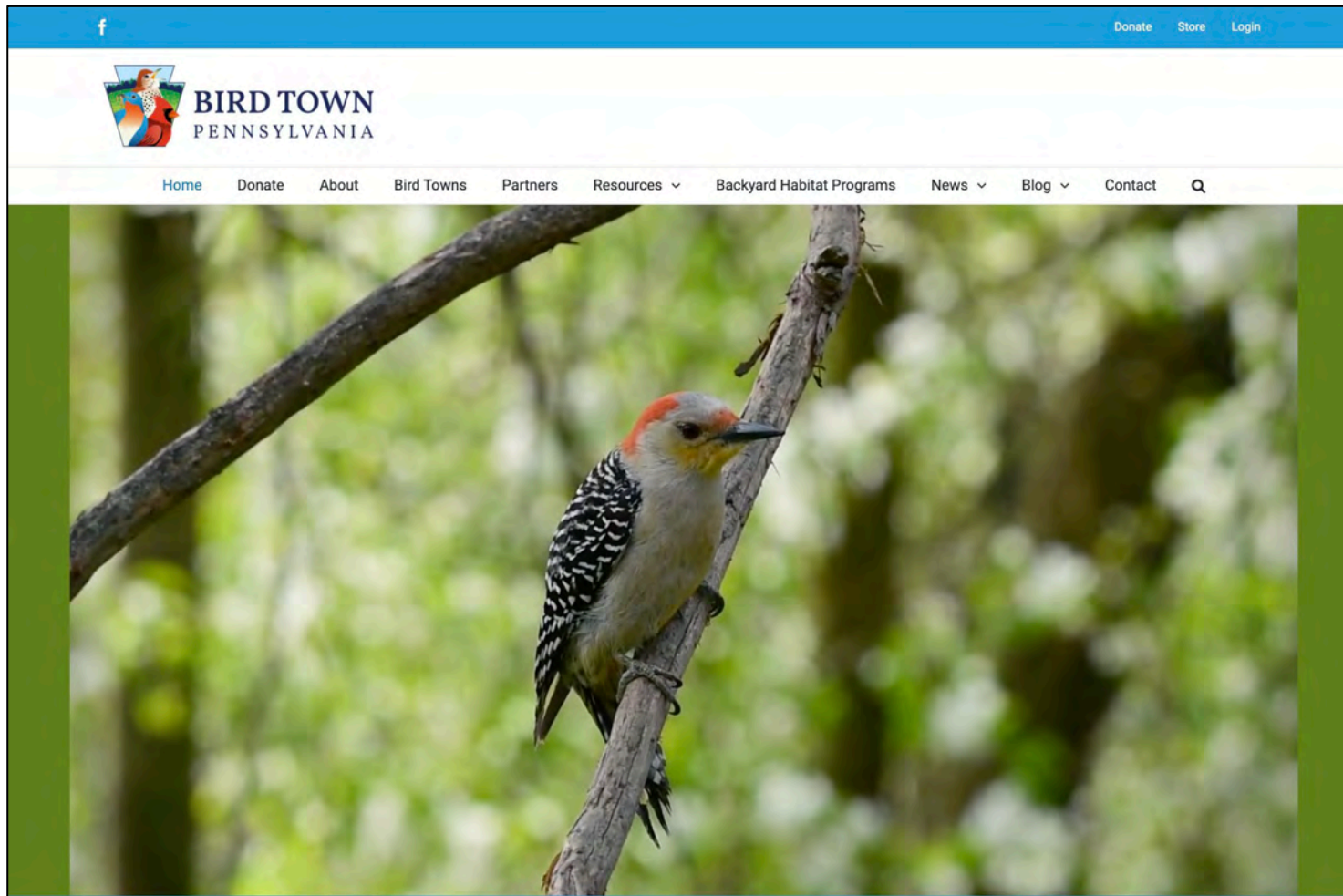


Bird Town
Pennsylvania
Addresses
these Issues





- holding native plant pop-up gardens, sales and swaps
- installing demonstration native plant, pollinator and rain gardens
- developing proclamations, resolutions and ordinances to address invasives, native plants, pesticides, clean water, etc. to support healthier ecosystems
- supporting and running citizen science programs
- educating about invasive plants and running workshops for their removal
- reducing bird window strikes and pesticide use
- planting trees and shrubs to create green corridors and reduce runoff and build up riparian buffer zones
- working with schools to engage and educate about these issues
- educating about storm water management with rain barrel workshops and native planting giveaways



- Includes a rich array of resources
- List of Conservation Partners and Bird Town Programs
- A special Backpage for Bird Town PA Leaders Only which includes:
 - Contact Lists for the program and other programs
 - Workshop and Meeting Recordings and Supplementary documents
 - Sample PROs and other

Please visit and use our website: birdtownpa.org