

22 Actions for Biodiversity

During the 2022 Biodiversity Day campaign, lists of 22 actions for biodiversity will be released gradually for various audiences to inspire action for nature. The actions are aligned with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework. The public is called to:

- · Adopt any of the 22 actions or propose their own actions or lists
- Share photos/videos of their action(s) on social media with the hashtag #BiodiversityDay (available in other languages)
- · In the run-up to 22 May, the campaign will showcase these actions taking place around the world.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Biodiversity Day 2022 is commemorated mainly through online campaigns to ensure safety of all participants. You are in the best position to know what awareness-raising campaigns and calls to action are feasible at your national level considering local conditions, the COVID context and related restrictions.

The lists of 22 actions for biodiversity are not exhaustive. Examples are given for online and in-person actions. We acknowledge that some actions may not be feasible in certain countries or communities. The actions suggested in the lists are meant to mobilize action for biodiversity and to create engagement and participation in the Biodiversity Day campaign. They are by no means exhaustive or fully representative of all the possible actions that can be taken around the globe. We apologize for any inconvenience or misunderstanding this could cause. We look forward to your feedback. Please contact us for any comments and suggestions to rectify any inconsistencies. More importantly, we invite you to create your own lists of 22 actions for biodiversity, which will be more representative of your work and adapted to your field of interest.

21 of the actions are aligned (but not identical) with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be adopted at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15). Through these actions, every person can play a role in achieving the targets set in the framework. The 22nd action is to celebrate Biodiversity Day.

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22 actions you can take to help birds thrive

Courtesy of Audubon

1. Plant native plants for birds

Bring birds to your home today by growing native plants. With Audubon's Native Plant Database, you can find the best plants for the birds in your area. Growing bird-friendly plants will attract and protect the birds you love while making your space beautiful, easy to care for, and better for the environment. Explore all of our native plant resources here, including our factsheets on creating a native plant garden and how it can save you money. And, if you're attracting birds using native plants, you will want to ensure that your space is bird-friendly in every way. Visit our Reducing Collisions page to learn more about protecting birds from collisions with glass... continue reading

2. Put up window decals to prevent bird collisions

- Migration poses an exciting time for birders, but for the birds, these journeys can be perilous. One of the most dangerous threats birds face are collisions with windows. You can help protect our feathered friends with this easy DIY!
- To make window decals or "clings", all you need is... continue reading

3. Build a brush pile for birds

- · This simple backyard project offers shelter for birds in all seasons.
- Collect and set aside fallen branches and logs to create a brush pile in the corner of your yard. Birds and other wildlife can use the brush to take cover during extreme temperatures and severe weather year-round... continue reading

4. Don't rake your yard

- · A manicured lawn might look nice, but messy is better for birds and bugs.
- There's a certain satisfaction in autumn chores. When the weather's right, cleaning gutters, touching up paint, or splitting some firewood can feel less like manual labor and more like a rite of the season... continue reading

5. Become a bird advocate & write to policy makers

Birds Need You! The only way we'll be successful in our conservation efforts is with your help. As a constituent, you have a unique ability to convey your concerns about issues affecting birds, wildlife and their habitats — and be heard like no lobbyist. Join Our Action Network.

6. Support Indigenous-led conservation in places like the Boreal Forest of Canada

The boreal forest—North America's bird nursery—is one of the largest intact forests left on Earth. Stretching from Alaska to Labrador, it provides nesting grounds and migratory stopovers for nearly half of the common bird species found in North America. Every fall, up to 5 billion birds pour out of the forest and fly south to backyards, parks and wildlands throughout the Western Hemisphere. Caribou, bears, wolves, lynxes and wolverines and countless other species thrive in the boreal in numbers rarely seen elsewhere... continue reading

7. Write an op-ed or LTE in your local newspaper

Let others in your community know why you support bird conservation.

8. Use the "rule of 3 or 30" when it comes to bird feeders

- Feeder activity can be very highly associated with collisions. It is important to take steps to protect the birds we attract to our yards with our plantings, feeding and watering stations and nesting opportunities.
 It's such a shame to harm the very creatures we work so hard to attract.
- It may surprise you but one of the simplest things you can do at a picture window is to place a feeder directly on the glass. This brings birds delightfully close generally too close to cause harm if they are startled... continue reading

9. Clean bird feeders and baths

- · Keep your backyard hobby helpful, not harmful, with these simple steps.
- Feeding birds is a wonderful way to help your yard's avian visitors fuel up for migration and make it through a tough winter. It can also provide great opportunities for wildlife photography and observation. But it's not enough to set your feeder and forget it. You need to clean it out, or you risk inadvertently causing the birds that visit to get sick. The same goes for birdbaths... continue reading

10. Keep your cat(s) indoors

Outdoor cats can be a menace to migrating birds.

11. Give your home a "climate overhaul"

- · Having a low-carbon house isn't just better for the world—it will also save you serious money.
- Our homes, especially if they are older, can be wildly inefficient. And even though new homes are often made with energy efficiency in mind, there are still ways you can decrease your house's carbon footprint. We spoke with the folks at Focus on Energy, which helps Wisconsin residents save energy, to find out where to get started with home-efficiency improvements. Updating your abode will take more than a weekend, so keep these steps in mind for when the time is right... continue reading

12. Help make your town more climate-friendly

- · From the workplace to city hall, here are some ways to make your community more climate-friendly.
- While personal actions at home and your around your neighborhood can cut carbon and change social norms, actively encouraging others to adopt more climate-friendly practices is the next step. But where to start? Your daily life and around your own community. Think about the places you visit and the people you interact with every day, and consider how you might be able to change behaviors and ideas. Many places—say your kid's school or your own work—are rife with opportunities to be more energy efficient or be more climate-friendly. Then, when you get comfortable in these spaces, consider ratcheting your advocacy up a notch by taking your case to your city council.

 Here are some tips and advice, big and small, for how you can get started... continue reading

13. Turn off bright outside lights during migration seasons

- Every year, billions of birds migrate north in the spring and south in the fall, the majority of them flying at night, navigating with the night sky. However, as they pass over big cities on their way, they can become disoriented by bright artificial lights and skyglow, often causing them to collide with buildings or windows.
- While lights can throw birds off their migration paths, bird fatalities are more directly caused by the amount of energy the birds waste flying around and calling out in confusion. The exhaustion can then leave them vulnerable to other urban threats... continue reading

14. Buy bird-friendly coffee

- When it comes to caffeinating responsibly, selecting the right brew can be confusing. This guide should help.
- In the age of artisanal toast and asparagus water, choosing even the most basic products can be overwhelming. Coffee is no exception—especially if you care about wildlife. Distinctions like "organic" and "shade-grown" are important for those who want to caffeinate responsibly, but it's difficult to know whether to choose one over the other, and why it might be worth the price premium. Yet the impacts of these choices can be significant. Last year, for example, the world consumed nearly 21 billion pounds of coffee, grown across 27 million acres in the tropical forest belt, a mecca for birds and other wildlife... continue reading

15. Purchase beef from Audubon-certified, bird-friendly farms and ranches

- Find beef and bison products that carry the Audubon Certified bird friendly seal.
- Use the map to find retailers—ranches, butcher shops, grocers, and online shops—then go from consumer to conservationist when you purchase beef and bison raised on Audubon Certified bird-friendly land.
- Put your address into the search bar and find the retailer nearest to you.

16. Volunteer with bird conservation programs

- Twenty-three state programs, 41 centers, 450+ local chapters, and countless events.
- Explore the Audubon network.

17. Participate in community science projects

- Sign up for the latest on Audubon's community science programs and find out how you can help. You will receive our quarterly American Birds newsletter by email and hear about opportunities to participate in Audubon projects across the Hemisphere that help birds, as well as get news and updates from Audubon.
- Join us to learn how tens of thousands of volunteers in Audubon's Christmas Bird Count, Climate Watch and The Great Backyard Bird Count are making a difference for birds! Sign up

18. Keep you group, vehicle, and pets a respectful distance from coastal bird colonies

- · You can help make beaches safer for birds.
- · Iconic coastal birds like terns, plovers, and pelicans rely on our beaches and barrier islands around the country to rest and nest, but they're vulnerable to disturbances like human development and sea-level rise.
- Boaters and beachgoers, unaware that birds are nesting at these sites, may get too close, flushing parents from their eggs and chicks. Without the protection of their parents, well-camouflaged chicks and eggs can be crushed underfoot, overheat in the sun without shade from their parents, or succumb to opportunistic predators like crows and gulls... continue reading

19. Dispose of fishing lines properly

- · With summertime comes fishing—for fishermen and hungry birds alike. Usually, birds and people fishing get along just fine (they're going after different species of fish, after all) but when fishing line and birds intersect, dangerous complications can arise.
- Becoming entangled in fishing line can lead to injuries and even death if the line is wrapped around a bird's legs, bill or wings. Even if the entanglement is not tight enough to be fatal, it is still a serious and

permanent impediment that can hinder a bird's ability to hunt, forage and fly... continue reading

20. Pick up your trash when outdoors

Garbage can attract predators; plus plastics can be dangerous for birds.

21. Support NGOs like Audubon

- · Be Someone Birds Can Count on with Your Monthly Gift.
- In a changing world, birds need unwavering protection. Your dependable gift is the best way to help. Donate

22. Celebrate #BiodiversityDay

23. Celebrate #BiodiversityDay and share what you know with others

22 May is Biodiversity Day! Participate in celebrations that are happening in your country or organize an activity to get others involved. Find out more at www.cbd.int/biodiversity-day. Anyone can organize activities!

Propose your own list of 22 actions for biodiversity (guidelines) >

#BiodiversityDay #COP15 #ForNature