

**NATURE CANADA'S MISSION:**

*Together we protect nature, its diversity, and the processes that sustain it.*

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Download this brochure and others like it at [www.naturecanada.ca](http://www.naturecanada.ca), or contact us for more information at [info@naturecanada.ca](mailto:info@naturecanada.ca).



# Your Hands-on Guide to Bird Conservation

Billions of birds call Canada home for at least part of the year. Even in the most urban settings, birds link us to the natural world every day. The truth is that healthy bird populations suggest healthy habitats for all species, including humans. Here are 10 easy things you can do to create a safe and friendly environment for the birds in your backyard.



**REIN IN YOUR PETS.** Leash dogs in natural areas, and keep beaches Fido-free in the breeding season. Keep cats indoors and belled throughout the year.

**TOSS YOUR TOAST ON THE COMPOST HEAP.**

Old baked goods are prone to mould, and fill a bird's belly without meeting its nutritional needs. Mould can kill waterfowl. Offer dry seed, grains or fruits instead.

**PUT WASTE IN ITS PLACE.**

Birds become entangled in plastic bags, fishing line and other garbage, resulting in injury, strangulation or easy predation.

**BREAK UP YOUR WINDOWS** with stickers, decals or strips of colour. Unbroken reflections baffle birds, causing them to fly into the glass.

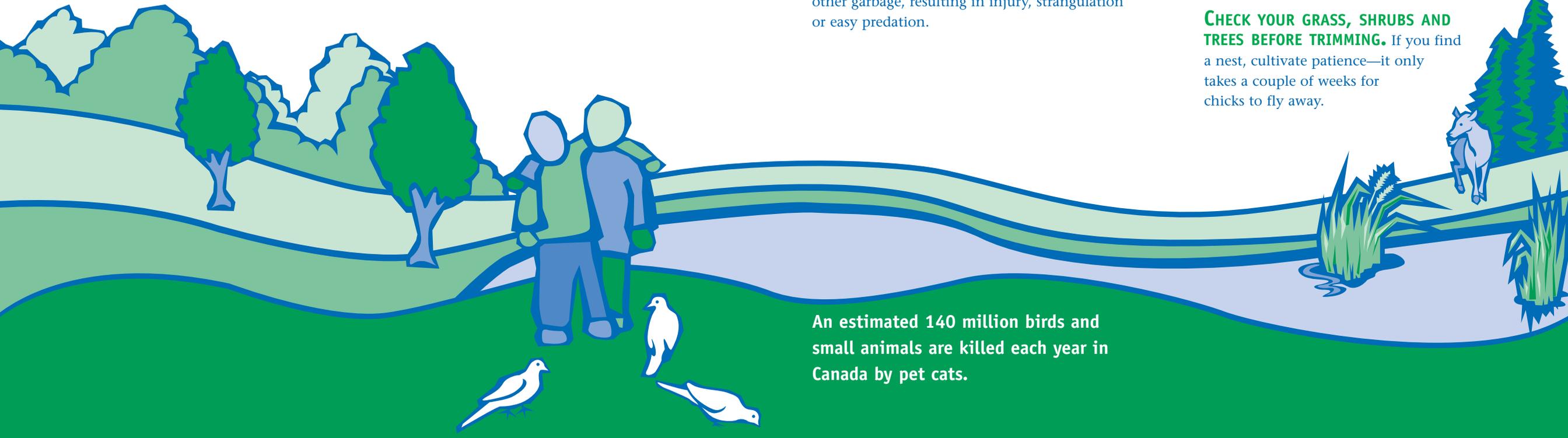


**DRIVE CAREFULLY, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREAS.** Roadside birds take flight at an angle—possibly straight into your vehicle's path—so slow down.

**CAP YOUR CHIMNEYS AND DRYER VENTS.**

Wire mesh will keep birds from roosting or roasting in your furnace or fireplace.

**CHECK YOUR GRASS, SHRUBS AND TREES BEFORE TRIMMING.** If you find a nest, cultivate patience—it only takes a couple of weeks for chicks to fly away.



An estimated 140 million birds and small animals are killed each year in Canada by pet cats.



### LEAVE BABES IN THE WOODS.

Replace a fledgling in its nest (your scent will not bother its family) or leave it on the ground, where its parents are probably caring for it. If you are certain a bird is orphaned, call a wildlife rehabilitation centre.

### DON'T USE HARMFUL CHEMICALS ON YOUR LAWN.

Not only is the resulting monoculture duller than birding at high noon, these poisons get ingested into the food chain and washed into the waterways. If it says "-cide" on your lawn care product, avoid it.

### GET THE LEAD OUT.

Lead shot and sinkers cause acute or chronic lead poisoning of thousands of birds in Canada each year. Use non-toxic alternatives.

**Some scientists estimate up to 100 million birds die in collisions with man-made structures, like office towers, each year in North America.**

*Visit [www.naturecanada.ca](http://www.naturecanada.ca) for more tips on bird-watching and bird conservation. Find out how you can play an active role in protecting birds and bird habitat in Canada!*

## On Guard For Nature

### *Help Establish Canada's First Marine Wildlife Area*

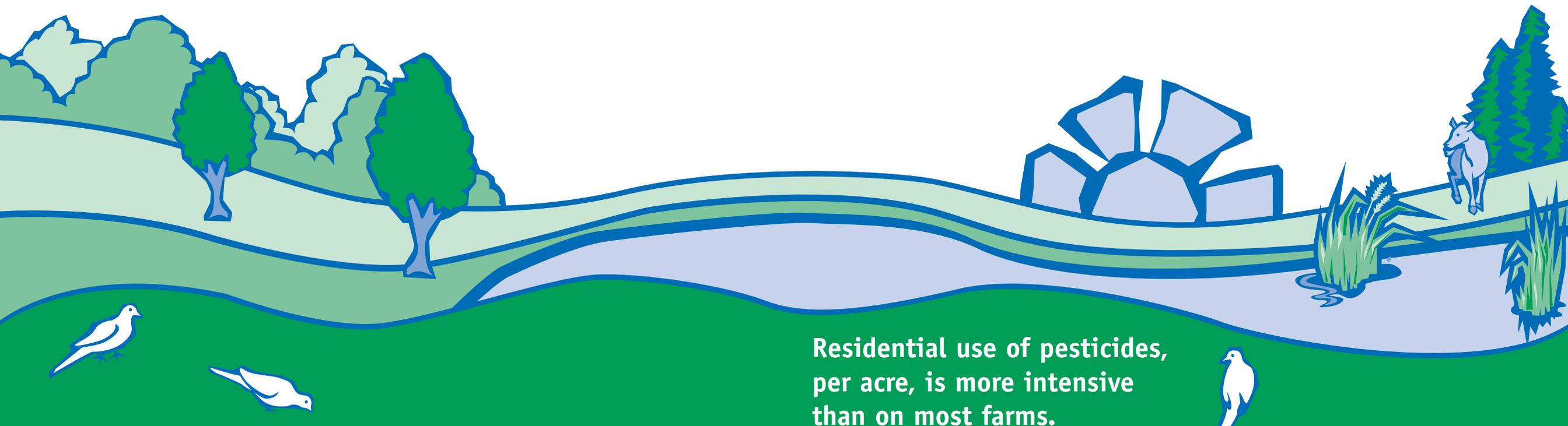
The Scott Islands, located off the northwest coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia, are home to over two million breeding birds, including more than half of the world's population of Cassin's auklets.

Some travel over 100 km from the islands in search of crustaceans and fish for themselves and their chicks.

But these waters remain unprotected and under constant threat from oil pollution, ship traffic

and human disturbance. It has been two years since Environment Canada held public information sessions on establishing a protected area here, yet today these marine waters remain unprotected.

Tell the Governments of Canada and British Columbia that it is time to establish this country's first marine wildlife area. Go to Nature Canada's Web site to download our sample letter, and raise your voice for nature!



**Residential use of pesticides, per acre, is more intensive than on most farms.**