

BIRD FRIENDLY

APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

CITY REPRESENTED:

DATE OF SUBMISSION:



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mandatory Criteria	1
Section 1: Threat Reduction	8
Section 2: Habitat Protection, Restoration, and Climate Resiliency	24
Section 3: Community Outreach/Education	37
Bird Friendly Team Contact Information	49

MANDATORY CRITERIA

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-1 – ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD TEAM

DESCRIPTION

Establish a Bird City Team (standing committee) to drive the project forward. Try to ensure that your team represents different perspectives and has a liaison with the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide a list of the bird team members, affiliations and contact information.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-2: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LAND AND INCLUSION

DESCRIPTION

Provide evidence you have determined in which indigenous traditional territory(ies) your municipality occurs and that you are encouraging the participation and perspective of the local Indigenous community in the initiative.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide the name of the relevant Indigenous Nation(s) and report on the outcome of an invitation to participate in the initiative.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-3: FORMAL MUNICIPAL SUPPORT

DESCRIPTION

Pass a council resolution nominating/ supporting your municipality's efforts to be a Bird Friendly City OR a letter of support from a high ranking city official

SCORING INDICATORS

Willingness to pass council resolution within the first year of certification OR a letter of support for the certification program from a high ranking city official (mayor, CEO, etc).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-4: ANNUAL REPORT

DESCRIPTION

Once your municipality has been accorded Bird City Status, the Bird Team must provide an annual report card on activities related to your Bird City status.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide Annual Report card (calendar year) by February 1.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-5: CITY WEBSITE

DESCRIPTION

Include information about Bird Friendly City on the City website somewhere it can be easily found.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide link and proof of posting.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

MANDATORY CRITERIA

M-6: RENEWAL

DESCRIPTION

Complete a renewal application as required every 2 years to keep your status as "active."

SCORING INDICATORS

Renewals are up to date.
There will be a one-year grace period for a renewal to occur.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Criteria Complete or Undertaken to Complete?	
Confirmed by Scoring Committee as having met Standard?	

SECTION 1: THREAT REDUCTION

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (A) OWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

Regulatory and educational measures taken to help control and reduce populations of cats roaming at large:

(A) Coordinated efforts directed at cat owners to reduce the number of owned cats outside such as educational campaigns, licensing and no-roam bylaws.

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of each action required. Two points per action. Generally if you can demonstrate some level of progress for each action, you will be awarded one point. Two points will be limited to comprehensive efforts to address that one issue. For example, for (A) to get 2 points, you need to have a no-roam bylaw AND demonstrate both enforcement of the bylaw and an educational campaign to make cat owners aware of the bylaw.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (B) UNOWNED CATS

DESCRIPTION

(B) Within the municipality there is an active strategy to reduce populations of unowned (feral) cats and mitigate their threat to birds (e.g. removing feral colonies from areas of high bird importance).

SCORING INDICATORS

Evidence of an active program to humanely reduce the number of unowned outdoor cats. 2 points will be awarded for broad, municipal-wide strategies and actions that can demonstrate progress on the goal.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.1 (C) MONITORING OF ROAMING CATS

DESCRIPTION

(C) The bird team and/ municipality either has, or is a partner in programs/ projects to estimate the number and/or distribution of cats outdoors so that progress on reducing the populations of outdoor cats can be tracked over time.

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of implementation of a cat counting/estimating protocol to establish baseline numbers or to compare with baseline numbers will be awarded 2 points. Proof of intent to implement such a protocol gets one point.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (A) WINDOW COLLISIONS – NEW CONSTRUCTION

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate that your municipality is taking measures to reduce window collisions by:
(A) Developing and implementing bird friendly design standards/CSA Bird Friendly Building Design standard for new construction

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of each action required.

(A) refers to the municipality developing or adopting bird friendly or bird safe standards for new construction. One point is awarded if the standard is a guideline, two points if the standard is a requirement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (B) WINDOW COLLISIONS – EXISTING AND PROPOSED MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS

DESCRIPTION

(B) Assessing and mitigating risk to birds from existing and proposed municipal buildings

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if individuals or a group monitors window collisions, and/or assess risk by using BirdSafe or a similar program.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (C) WINDOW COLLISIONS - EDUCATION OF PROPERTY OWNERS

DESCRIPTION

(C) Informing and educating property owners and tenants of existing buildings (including home owners) of measures they can take to mitigate bird collision risk

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is awarded with evidence of educational campaigns focused on the broad public or specific neighbourhoods.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET



Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.2 (D) TREATED WINDOWS - BASELINE DATA

DESCRIPTION

(D) Establishing a baseline and maintaining a database of the number of residences or buildings with treated windows in the city to demonstrate progress over time

SCORING INDICATORS

Evidence of the database is provided.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (A) LIGHT POLLUTION – REDUCTION STRATEGY (MIGRATION)

DESCRIPTION

(A) Municipality has a light pollution reduction strategy and supports actions to reduce light pollution, particularly during migratory seasons.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is given upon evidence of a strategy to reduce light pollution

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (B) LIGHT POLLUTION – NEW DEVELOPMENTS / RETROFIT

DESCRIPTION

(B) Light pollution mitigation standards for all new developments and/or retrofit program to replace street lamps with energy-efficient shielded fixtures

SCORING INDICATORS

One point given for either proof of mitigation standards (e.g., bylaw or guidance), and/or proof of a retrofit program (e.g., retrofitting standard street lights with downward directional street lighting). To attain "high level" certification, there must be evidence of both standards for new development and a retrofit program

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.3 (C) LIGHT POLLUTION - OUTREACH CAMPAIGN

DESCRIPTION

(C) Outreach campaign for residents and businesses to promote responsible light control practices within the municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for educational and outreach campaigns to reduce light attraction during migration periods such as the "lights out Toronto" campaigns of the past.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.4 PESTICIDE USE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a policy to reduce or eliminate non-essential pesticide use that directly or indirectly harms birds, on public and private land that is implemented through local bylaws. This policy should include restrictions on pesticides used to control nuisance insects such as mosquitoes (such as BTI) unless there is a demonstrated health risk (such as proof of West Nile in larvae).

SCORING INDICATORS

Proof of the policy is provided. Examples of such policies would include a ban on cosmetic use of pesticides. The use of BTI to control mosquitoes and blackflies is controversial, in that it is increasingly used by municipalities to kill mosquito and fly larva in wetlands in response to neighbourhood pressure. There is strong evidence that this reduces the available food for aerial insectivores like swallows and has a negative impact on their populations.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.5 PLASTICS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality takes regulatory measures and encourages voluntary measures to reduce the amount of plastic waste generated (e.g. banning of single use plastics).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of regulatory (e.g. a municipal bylaw) and voluntary measures (e.g. a local business) such as a ban on single use plastics, shopping bags, plastic straws, etc.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.6 VEHICLES

DESCRIPTION

Measures in place to reduce bird collisions with vehicles such as lower speed limits when passing through important bird habitat, and measures to reduce the number of vehicles on the roads (such as a good public transit system and cycling infrastructure).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of measures to protect birds from vehicle collisions. For example, at locations where a busy road cuts through a wildlife corridor, evidence of mitigation would include lower speed limits, signage about wildlife crossing, or proof of engineered solutions such as wildlife underpasses or overpasses.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

1.7 HABITAT DISTURBANCE

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has policy and practices to prohibit or mitigate disturbance of birds from humans or their pets at natural areas or important bird habitat (e.g., leash bylaw, no-go zones certain times of year).

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of policy and examples of implementation such as signage at important bird habitat (e.g. a natural area, wetland or known migratory stop-over site) or evidence of a bylaw in place. Provide evidence that important bird habitats/ biodiversity hotspots are recognized within an official policy document.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

THREAT REDUCTION

SCORING

ENTRY

9 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

12 points from at least 5 categories including at least 1 category worth 2 or more.

HIGH

14 points or more. Must include at least 2 points in categories 1 and 2.

Points Awarded

(for completion by Nature Canada)

SECTION 2: HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.1 NATURAL AREAS

DESCRIPTION

Natural areas within the municipal boundaries are protected within the Municipal Plan and there is a commitment to increase this area. Plan distinguishes between natural areas and other types of municipal space such as recreational parks.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the policy. To maintain this criterion, the city must document the size of the area protected, and demonstrate a commitment to increase in this area over time. Any municipal plan that includes protection of natural area spaces will receive one point. Additional points are based on the evidence of implementation and whether there are ambitious targets to increase the number and size of the protected areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.2 BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an official strategy to protect the biological diversity in its parks and natural areas. The strategy includes measures such as promoting connectivity between natural areas, buffering core biodiversity hotspots from harmful human activities, increasing the number of protected areas, and periodically monitoring birds on some city parks to assess the success of the strategy.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. The strategy to protect biological diversity can be part of the protected areas plan, or vice versa, but must specifically identify protection of biological diversity as a goal. One point is awarded for having an official strategy (adopted by Council). Two points if the strategy has targets and metrics for success and there is evidence of implementation. Three points for cities that meet the previous two tests as well as using monitoring to track changes to biodiversity and use results for adaptive management (e.g. bird monitoring in city owned natural areas).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.3 CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a climate change adaptation strategy that includes specific measures including nature-based climate solutions. Examples of this include wetland creation to absorb and retain flood water, or planting trees to create shade and lower the surface air temperature

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of the strategy and its implementation. One point if the City has an official strategy. Additional points are awarded based on evidence of ongoing measures and actions.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (A) HABITAT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has a habitat management strategy based on ecological and climate considerations. These include: (A) increasing the number of trees and area of the urban forest canopy;

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide proof of implementation of the strategy and each action. One point per action. Evidence for a. includes inventories of trees and plans for increasing the numbers.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.4 (B) SNAG PROTECTION

DESCRIPTION

(B) leaving snags standing in cases where public safety is not jeopardized;

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is based on evidence such as a policy statements or evidence within management plans for natural areas.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.4 (C) PROTECTION OF TREES

DESCRIPTION

(C) protecting trees on private and public lands;

SCORING INDICATORS

Refers to a tree bylaws that protects trees as a public value from private land owners cutting them down without permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.4 (D) RESPONSIBLE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT

DESCRIPTION

(D) Prohibiting active vegetation management during breeding season on municipal lands, including forests, storm-water management facilities, and easements.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is accorded if a city can demonstrate that its employees involved in active habitat management do not harm breeding birds or their habitat.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.5 IMPORTANT BIRD AND BIODIVERSITY AREA (IBA)

DESCRIPTION

Municipality has an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) within or adjacent to its boundaries. A local partnership promotes the protection and stewardship of this area.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if there is one or more nearby IBAs and the Bird Team can provide the names of the IBAs and at least one IBA caretaker group or individual.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.6 NATIVE FLORA - MUNICIPAL LANDS

DESCRIPTION

Municipality promotes the importance of planting native local flora on municipal lands, especially where new development is occurring through development and landscaping guidelines and standards in areas near natural features. Subdivision permits should include conditions protecting existing natural habitat and promote use of native vegetation and include measures to discourage illegal disposal of yard waste (a source of invasive exotic plants) in natural areas.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point for evidence that the municipality promotes the use of site-appropriate native flora in landscaping for its own properties and for development landscaping standards for subdivision permits.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

HABITAT PROTECTION, RESTORATION, AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY

2.7 NATIVE FLORA – PRIVATE PROPERTY

DESCRIPTION

Demonstrate widespread community participation in initiatives to encourage native plant habitat that supports native birds and pollinators on private property, to increase the urban tree canopy on private land, and to support other “green infrastructure” initiatives to address climate change.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you provide evidence supporting “widespread community participation” in at least one national or international initiatives or local program that encourages increasing wildlife habitat on private land. This could include membership in a program like Bee City for example.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

2.8 STOPOVER & NESTING HABITAT

DESCRIPTION

Bird City partner groups implement stewardship to increase or improve breeding or stopover habitat for bird conservation priority species from your Bird Conservation Region Plan. Example species include Species at Risk (e.g. Chimney Swift) and other aerial insectivores, Eastern Meadowlark and other grassland birds and shorebirds. Example actions including providing housing (e.g., maintained Purple Martin condos), and maintaining bird-friendly hay production.

SCORING INDICATORS

A point is awarded to cities in which there are active stewardship recovery projects such as those suggested in the criterion description.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

SCORING

ENTRY

8 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

11 points from at least 4 categories.

HIGH

14 points from at least 6 categories including at least 1 point from categories 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.4.

Points Awarded

(for completion by Nature Canada)

SECTION 3: COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.1 WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

DESCRIPTION

Hold (and officially proclaim) a World Migratory Bird Day event annually to celebrate birds in your municipality.

SCORING INDICATORS

This is a mandatory action for this program. Cities must hold a Bird Day event to apply. To receive all 4 points, you must provide proof of the event and Mayor's or Council proclamation in support of Bird Day.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET



Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.2 SCHOOLS, GROUPS & COMMUNITIES

DESCRIPTION

A significant percentage of local schools and other educational organizations (e.g. Scouts Canada, Earth Rangers, 4-H) provide students with opportunities to connect with nature, enjoy birds and learn how to help them. Local school boards, conservation authority, or municipality, has facilities/staffing to support outdoor/environmental education, including opportunities to observe birds. At least one school does a specific bird-related program such as Christmas bird count for kids or curriculum from Keep cats safe and save bird lives. Educational program must include specific elements designed to engage members of the public who could be considered underprivileged families and groups, racialized youth and recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

Provide evidence in support of this level of outreach and engagement of children, youth and other target audiences. One point is awarded if there are local education facilities and institutions that include activities for children to observe and appreciate birds both in school and outside through an educational organization that offers nature programming to the public. Two points if there are specific bird-related nature programs for recent arrivals to Canada, underprivileged or racialized families. Three points if there is at least one school or organization that offers programming from the Keep cats safe and save bird lives curriculum.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.3 COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES

DESCRIPTION

College and University campuses have adopted practices that actively reduce threats to birds or establish habitat that benefits birds. Implementation of practices should include or be driven by student committees or groups.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point is awarded based on evidence that institutions that have policies and practices to benefit birds including names of institutions, the programs that they participate in (e.g BirdSafe, Bee City), as well as an example of a recent action and evidence of student involvement.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.4 PUBLIC ACCESS TO RESOURCES

DESCRIPTION

Bird Team partners (including Municipality) provide public access to resources (web links, brochures etc.) that encourage and inform the public of the benefit to birds from native plant gardening or establishment of natural habitat patches on their property in support of birds and/or pollinators (e.g. backyard habitat program).

SCORING INDICATORS

One point if you can provide evidence of the digital or paper resources, as well as evidence of public interest and knowledge of them (e.g. social media activity).

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.5 PUBLIC INSTALLATIONS FOR EDUCATION

DESCRIPTION

Municipality and Bird City partners install demonstrations or displays in public areas that educate citizens on the benefits of bird friendly actions and encourage engagement (benefits of dark sky lighting, window modifications etc.)

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on proof of installations (e.g. photographic evidence, or news stories.)

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.6 ACCESSIBLE BIRD-WATCHING LOCATION(S)

DESCRIPTION

There is at least one birding location within your city or town that has infrastructure to facilitate the observation and appreciation of birds (e.g. signs, panels, observation tower, and trails). This facility is publicly accessible for people without a car (serviced by public transit and/or bicycle and pedestrian trails). Digital information on birding areas should be easily available.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on evidence of a local birding area that is publicly accessible, a brief description of the infrastructures (e.g. trails, observation tower), and how the area can be accessed by someone without a car.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.7 LOCAL SPECIES REFERENCE LIST

DESCRIPTION

A Bird Team partner periodically publishes a "Bird checklist" for your city or town. This checklist should be easily available in digital form on the Internet. Alternatively, there are eBird hotspots in your City.

SCORING INDICATORS

One point based on proof that a local bird checklist exists in a published form or there are eBird hotspots in your city.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.8 LOCAL BIRD FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

DESCRIPTION

Businesses in your area promote bird friendly practices (e.g. sell or offer bird friendly coffee, no single use plastics, treat their windows with feather-friendly markers, etc.). These businesses should be recognized on partner websites.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point, you must provide proof that at least two businesses in your area have bird friendly practices. You must name the businesses and describe what bird-friendly practices they have.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.9 CITY BIRD

DESCRIPTION

You have a "City Bird" species that was selected through a public engagement process.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive a point for this criterion, you must provide the name of the "City Bird" species, proof of its status, and evidence of the process to select it.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET



Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

3.10 INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAMS

DESCRIPTION

There are active citizen science programs to monitor birds in your municipality including Christmas Bird Count, Swift Night Out, and Marsh Monitoring, and Global Bird Rescue, which monitor birds on areas that include public land. Public participation in these programs is promoted on local media. Demonstrate efforts to engage members of the public could be considered underprivileged, racialized or recent arrivals to Canada.

SCORING INDICATORS

To receive one point, provide a list of bird-related citizen science programs in your city and describe the level of public interest and engagement of target audiences.

HOW CRITERIA IS MET

Points Awarded
(for completion by Nature Canada)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/ EDUCATION

SCORING

ALL LEVELS MUST DO 3.1

ENTRY

7 points from at least 3 categories.

INTERMEDIATE

9 points from at least 5 categories.

HIGH

12 points from at least 7 categories.

Points Awarded

(for completion by Nature Canada)

BIRD FRIENDLY TEAM
LIST OF MEMBERS, AFFILIATION AND
CONTACT INFORMATION (M-1)

CURRENT AS OF:



BIRD FRIENDLY
CITY