

Press Release

# Haligonians Celebrate World Migratory Bird Day and Bird Week in May

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Bird Friendly Halifax Coalition

May 12th, 2026





## K'jipuktuk, unceded territory and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq

In the last 50 years, North American bird populations have dropped by more than 25%, with particularly sharp declines in shorebirds, aerial insectivores, and forest birds. Three billion of our birds, including common species that live in our towns and cities, are simply gone. But in that same time period, there has also been a massive increase in efforts to help birds, with researchers, governments, bird watchers and more honing in on the problems and contributing to solutions.

The Bird Friendly Halifax Coalition is a group of like-minded environmental organizations, researchers, citizen scientists, Halifax Regional Municipality, and other bird lovers trying to make HRM a friendlier place for our avian neighbours. The Coalition has worked to get HRM declared a certified Entry-level Bird Friendly City, first in 2022, following an in-depth review of the city's strengths and weaknesses in bird conservation through Nature Canada's standardized certification program, Bird Friendly Cities. The program recognizes the efforts taken to make a city more bird-friendly, and encourages participating municipalities to continue their efforts. In the years since, the Coalition has actively engaged the public in bird conservation efforts and taken steps to address threats to birds in our largest city. In 2023, we piloted a residential stewardship program "Operation Window Strike", distributing anti-window-strike solutions to residents in HRM and tracking their success, and continue the program today. In 2024, the coalition reapplied for Bird-Friendly certification, receiving increased points in outreach and habitat protection. In 2025, the Coalition succeeded in getting the municipality to commit to a staff report and jurisdictional scan of bird-friendly design guidelines, with the hope that such a resource might be created for HRM. In 2026, we are expanding Operation Window Strike to include public demonstration sites.

The Bird Friendly Halifax Coalition hosts two annual celebrations at the start of breeding season to engage Haligonians in bird conservation topics; Bird Day, on spring Migratory Bird Day in early May, and Bird Week, a series of guided bird walks in each municipal district. For Bird Day this year, we hosted a screening of the documentary "Bird Country" where attendees had the opportunity to chat with environmental groups and learn from expert speakers during a panel discussion following the film screening. We are now inviting Haligonians to join us for Bird Week.

Bird Week is an opportunity for residents to learn about local species and connect with their district councillors. Bird Week 2026 begins on May 24th and goes to May 31st, with walks happening throughout the week in all municipal districts.

Interested Bird Week participants may register to attend these events here:

<https://naturens.ca/events/2026halifaxbirdweek/>

Beginning now, until June, Haligonians also have the chance to vote for their favourite avian resident, serving as Bird Friendly Halifax's Bird of the Year. The Bird of the Year can be voted for through a public poll here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdPvmy4sbsm2Ea8zuielhprb-DinQLGMJWxPpXTdv04JMmHlg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=114698778185545902336>

For more about Bird Friendly Halifax, see: <https://naturens.ca/actions/birdfriendlyhalifax/>

Contacts for Bird Friendly Halifax:

Jess Lewis, Conservation Programs Coordinator,  
Outreach Coordinator  
Nature Nova Scotia  
[jess.lewis@naturens.ca](mailto:jess.lewis@naturens.ca)

Karen McKendry, Wilderness

Ecology Action Centre  
[karenmckendry@ecologyaction.ca](mailto:karenmckendry@ecologyaction.ca)

Rebecca Parker, Executive Director,  
Nature Nova Scotia  
[becky.parker@naturens.ca](mailto:becky.parker@naturens.ca)

Marina McBride, Provincial Coordinator,  
Young Naturalists Club  
[ynccoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:ynccoordinator@gmail.com)