



The State of Birds

- 1600 to Present
 - At least 131 extinctions
- International Union for the Conservation of Nature
 - 2006: 532 endangered, 674 vulnerable
- United States
 - As many as half declining
 - Some at 10 to 15% per year
 - Grassland species of most concern



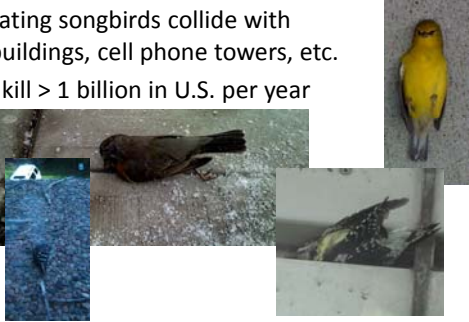
Threats

- Primary: Habitat Loss
- Additional
 - Hunting, overfishing, pet trade, introduced species
- Cats
 - Outside cats' average lifespan is 10 years shorter than indoor cats
 - Cats kill many millions of birds (and small mammals, lizards, snakes, etc.) each year
 - KEEP CATS INDOORS




Collisions

- Migrating songbirds collide with tall buildings, cell phone towers, etc.
- May kill > 1 billion in U.S. per year



Island Species

- Especially Vulnerable
 - High Endemism
 - No Resistance to Disease
 - Many Introduced Species
 - Flightlessness



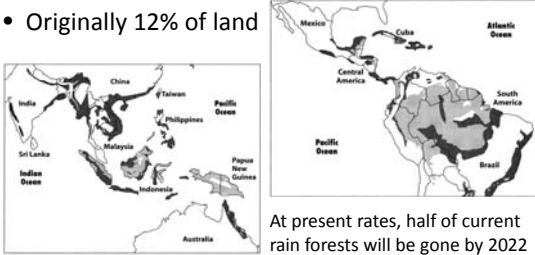
Island Species

- Hawaii's Songbirds
 - Many endemics
 - Introductions
 - Avian Malaria
 - Non-native Songbirds
 - Extinctions
 - Limited to Upper Elevations



Tropical Rain Forests

- 7% of land, 66% of bird species
- Originally 12% of land



At present rates, half of current rain forests will be gone by 2022



"Ecophobia"

- Urbanized societies out of touch with nature



Extinctions



- Passenger Pigeon
 - Population estimated at 3 to 5 billion
 - Audubon: "The air was literally filled with Pigeons; the light of noon-day was obscured as by an eclipse ...The Pigeons were still passing in undiminished numbers, and continued to do so for three days in succession."

Went from billions in 1800 to extinct in 1900

Extinctions

- Carolina Parakeet
 - Habitat Loss
 - Shooting
 - Sport
 - Farmers killed them because they ate grain and fruit

Last confirmed sighting: 1904

Extinctions?

- Ivory-billed Woodpecker
 - Habitat Loss
 - Rediscovery?
 - No conclusive photograph






Conservation Successes.

- Peregrine Falcon
 - Extirpated from nearly all of Eastern U.S.; reintroduction brought them back
- Hérons and Egrets
 - Killed for hats; protection has allowed their rebound
- Whooping Crane
 - Estimate 400 left; coming back, but slow reproductive rate





Citizen Science

- Christmas Bird Counts
- Great Backyard Bird Count
- eBird