

Calgary is a certified Bird Friendly City, through Nature Canada.

There is a commitment to ongoing efforts to benefit birds and wildlife through strengthening urban habitat through ongoing stewardship of natural spaces to support local birds.

Protection of habitat and reduction of harms to wildlife are key in this commitment.



April 11, 2023

This letter is confirming The City of Calgary's (The City) support of continuation of certification under the Bird Friendly Cities in Canada, part of Nature Canada's Program.

It is a tremendous opportunity for The City to be recognized for its ongoing programming efforts to benefit birds and wildlife through strengthening the urban habitat. We appreciate that this recognition is one that requires ongoing stewardship, and The City is committed to a continued partnership with the community to update The City's policies and programming to further support our Bird Friendly Certification status.

In 2022, the City selected its official bird through a captivating city-wide engagement. The competition garnered media attention across the country and saw local residents championing their preference over social media. With over 25 thousand votes (the most by more than double in recent years), the Black Capped Chickadee prevailed as winner over the Black-Billed Magpie. The competition included resources for school children to learn about local birds through projects and a drawing competition. Recently, both the chickadee and magpie were part of the new Calgary Flames' pride jerseys.

Through the support of the BiodiverCity Advisory Committee which advises Administration and reports to Council, Bird Friendly Calgary initiatives are seeing progress in the City of Calgary. This work will continue to elevate the importance of diverse habitats that support wildlife, honour Indigenous ways of knowing, and result in a more sustainable city.

Council is committed to supporting initiatives such as International Migratory Bird Day and evolving our stewardship of natural spaces to support local birds.

Jyoti Gondek
Mayor, City of Calgary

Kourtney Penner
Councillor, Ward 11

Submission by:
Kathleen Johnson
Executive Director, Calgary Urban Species
Response Team
Founding Member, Bird Friendly Calgary



The RioCan Complex is very concerning for wildlife, particularly birds, due to:

- its height & number of buildings flights animals will need to navigate
- its proximity to a body of water / natural habitat
- its introduction of significant glass at bird habitat
- light intrusion onto surrounding habitat
- introduction of many more pets and people directly into a park area
- loss of trees and greenspace /corridor surrounding the project
- potential increase of wildlife/vehicle conflict due to loss of greenspace



Calgary Urban Species Response Team conducts surveys for window strike birds downtown Calgary. For comparison at a similar building:

- A similar building complex downtown Calgary (which has fewer buildings to navigate and is not situated next to a major water habitat):
 - Represents 38% of CUSRT's 673 finds for Window Strikes and Urban hazards
 - 228 window strike birds (or their remains) were found here.
 - Only ten (10) (4.4%) were found alive.

23 different species of injured and dead window strike birds identified at that one building:

- 10 Yellow-rumped Warbler
- 6 Dark-eyed Junco
- 6 Sparrow, White-throated
- 5 Sparrow, Lincoln's
- 4 Nuthatch, Red-breasted
- 3 American Robin
- 3 Sparrow, Chipping
- 2 House Sparrow
- 2 Ovenbird
- 2 Red-breasted Nuthatch
- 2 Warbler, Tennessee
- 1 American Crow
- 1 Bat, Silver-haired
- 1 Brown Creeper
- 1 Hermit Thrush
- 1 Lincoln's Sparrow
- 1 Northern Flicker
- 1 Pheobe spp.
- 1 Phoebe, Eastern
- 1 Rock Pigeon
- 1 Pine Siskin
- 1 Townsend Solitaire
- 1 Warbler, Nashville
- 1 White-breasted Nuthatch

*Not all findings are identified by species, such as the partial remains of a bird.

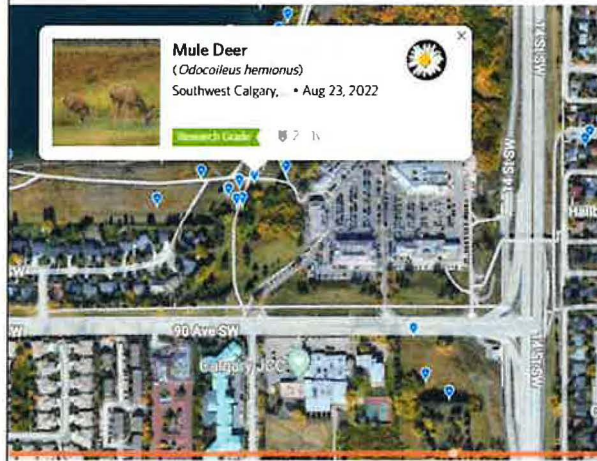
At the Glenmore Reservoir, 267 species of living birds have been observed, supporting the concern that the flight path and migration may be in conflict with tall glass buildings so close to the water, and that wildlife may be impacted by the greatly increased light, noise and pets created by such a large complex:

The screenshot shows the eBird website interface for the location 'Calgary--Glenmore Reservoir (general)'. At the top, there are navigation links: Submit, Explore, My eBird, Science, About, News, Help. Below the navigation, there are filters for 'Change location' and 'Year-round, All years'. The main header displays the location name and 'Calgary'. Below the header, there are statistics: '267 Species observed' and '2371 Complete checklists'. The 'Sightings' section is active, showing a table of species and their counts. The table has columns for 'SPECIES NAME' and 'COUNT'. The top 13 species are listed as follows:

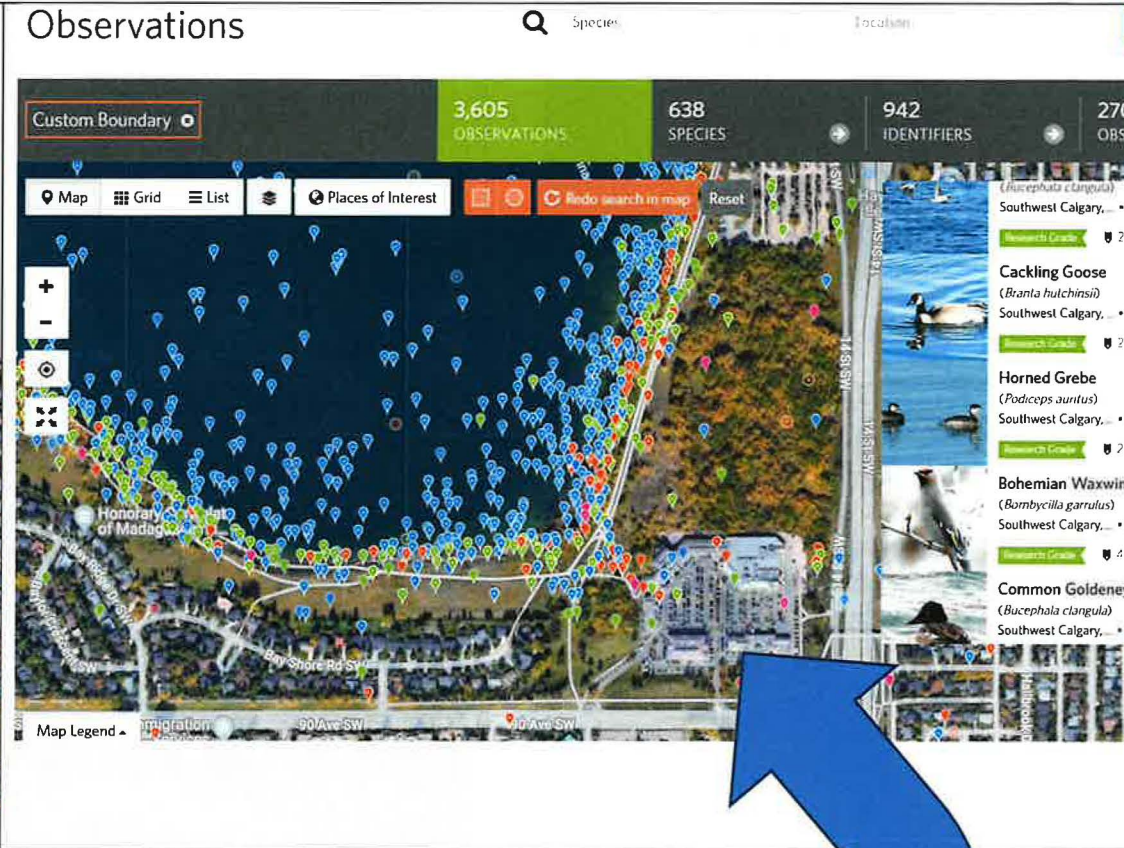
SPECIES NAME	COUNT
1. Tree Swallow	15,000
2. Canada Goose	12,000
3. Ring-billed Gull	12,000
4. American Coot	5,000
5. Franklin's Gull	4,000
6. Mallard	2,000
7. American Crow	2,000
6. Bufflehead	1,500
9. American Wigeon	1,000
10. Bohemian Waxwing	1,000
11. Cliff Swallow	750
12. Lesser Scaup	700
13. California Gull	600

Birds fly in and out of the area seasonally and/or daily. Even hummingbirds are found in the area. They are susceptible to window strikes.

Wildlife uses the surrounding grassy areas as corridors. Reviews of impact of pushing them closer to heavy traffic should be undertaken.



Observations



CITY OF CALGARY
RECEIVED
IN COUNCIL CHAMBER
JAN 10 2024
ITEM: 7.1 IP2024-0065
DISTRIB-PRESENTATION-9
CITY CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

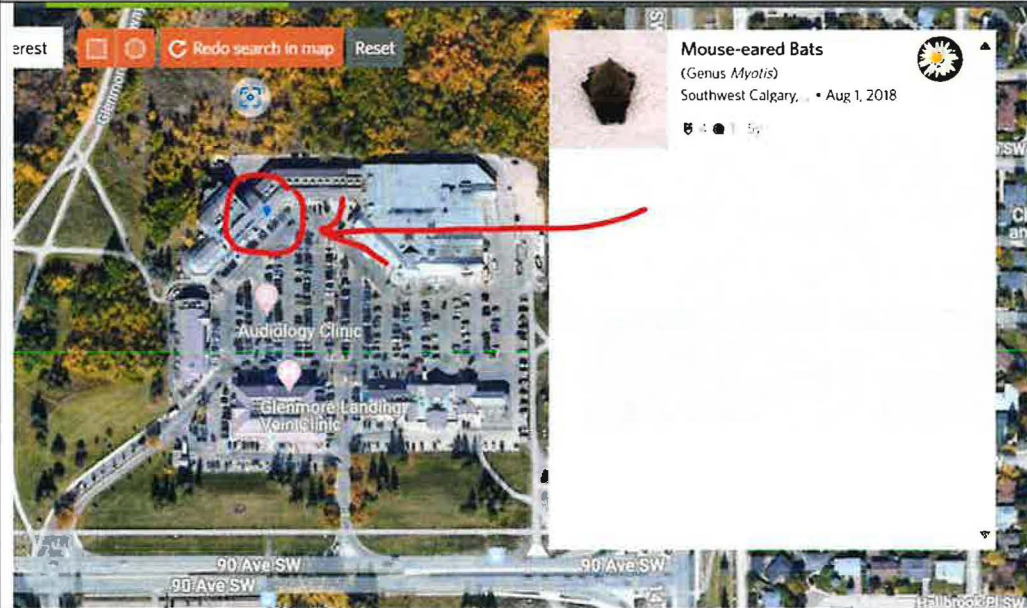


Coyote (*Canis latrans*) Research Grade



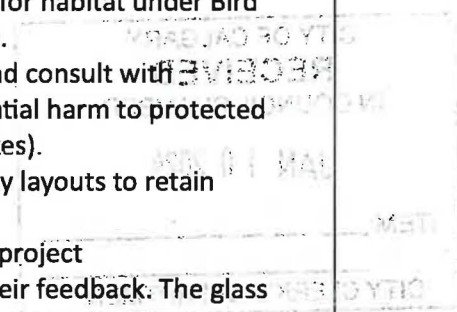
Bats are common in this area. Note the observation of one perched on a wall at Glenmore Landing in 2018.

Full environmental and wildlife impact studies are needed to ensure inclusion of migratory species impacts.



The City and the Developer are requested to:

- Adhere to commitments made for greenspace, parks and for habitat under Bird Friendly City and all climate change and biodiversity plans.
- Review and understand the *Migratory Bird Regulations* and consult with Environment and Climate Change Canada regarding potential harm to protected species migratory species of birds (eg due to window strikes).
- Significantly reduce the height of the buildings and employ layouts to retain maximum affordable units
- Retain all possible greenspace and trees surrounding this project
- Employ experts in the field of window strikes and heed their feedback. The glass MUST be bird-friendly.



- Employ experts in dark skies and light pollution to reduce all avoidable light pollution. New light pollution MUST be avoided.
- Employ dedicated architects (landscape and structural) who can implement this feedback into world-class bird-friendly design, including but not limited to:
 - o Avoid use of reflective glass
 - o Reduce or avoid use of transparent and unmarked glass wherever possible
 - o Ensure all transparent glass is effectively marked
 - o Use window designs that minimize escape of light to surroundings
 - o Avoid any decorative façade, landscape and unnecessary roof lighting
 - o Ensure the bulbs, brightness and colour of any lights used are as bird, bat, insect and fish-friendly as possible
 - o Railings and dividers – avoid use of transparent unmarked glass. They must be bird-friendly.
 - o Corners and cosmetics – ensure no “fly through” zones exist. Every element of these designs must be bird-friendly.
- Conduct light studies affecting the water habitat and at the Weaselhead habitat facing this complex at night
- Conduct environmental studies inclusive of bat and bird habitat and patterns in all seasons.
- Put plans and resources in place to avoid and increase of at-large dogs and cats in the adjacent woods and paths.
- Note that Calgary’s Bird Friendly Guidelines require updating and include some ineffective solutions no longer recommended.
- These recommendations are not exhaustive. They are recommendations only. Responsibility remains with the Developer and the City of Calgary to conduct thorough studies to assure compliance with any and all legislation and guidelines.

Thank you for your time and for being responsible in your full consideration.