

WHY BIRDS MATTER?

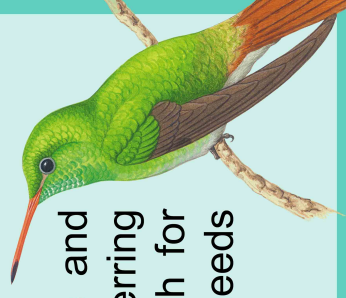
Tourism & Recreation

Bird songs and colors attract visitors for bird tourism. Many Belizean families generate income through birdwatching activities. Birds also inspire art and poetry and encourage us to get outdoors.



Pollination & Seed Dispersal

Some birds play a key role in pollinating flowering plants and dispersing seeds. Hummingbirds fertilize plants by transferring pollen on their beaks from flower to flower as they search for nectar. Other birds eat fruits and berries, helping to disperse seeds away from the parent plant.



Nature's Clean up crew

Many birds are excellent pest control agents. They feast on mosquitoes, caterpillars and other insects. Other birds eat dead animals helping to clean up the environment and to prevent the spread of diseases.



Indicators of Environmental Change

Because birds play key roles in the balance of nature, they are excellent indicators of environmental change. Changes in bird populations are often the first sign of environmental problems.

