

Citizen Resolution # 040423



Keep Cats Indoors Education

Since the 1960's North America's wild birds have declined by one-third, or nearly 3 billion individuals. One of the greatest causes of unnatural mortality in wild birds is house cats thoughtlessly allowed to roam free outdoors. Cats let out-of-doors by people kill an estimated billion birds a year in the United States. A single house cat turned loose outside – even if declawed or belled – can kill several dozen wild birds in a year. A current practice called TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) involves releasing trapped cats back into the wild after neutering them. The practice, while reducing cats' ability to breed does nothing to reduce the significant predatory pressure on birds. Education about the impact of free-roaming cats could change the behaviors of pet owners and reduce bird mortality.

Do you support the Conservation Congress working with WDNR, and other conservation groups to create an awareness campaign focused on the dangerous impact outdoor cats have on Wisconsin's wild bird populations?

Additional Information provided by author:

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/moral-cost-of-cats-180960505/>

<https://www.nature.com/articles/ncomms2380>

https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/outdoor-cats-kill-between-14-billion-and-37-billion-birds-a-year-study-says/2013/01/31/2504f744-6bbe-11e2-ada0-5ca5fa7ebe79_story.html

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23360987/>

<https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Loss-and-Marra-2017-Population-impacts-of-free-ranging-domestic-cats-on-mainland-vertebrates.pdf>

Submitting Author in Bayfield County:

Chequamegon Audubon Society

PO Box 342

Washburn, WI 54891

(715) 373-5681

chequamegonaudubon@gmail.com

Bayfield County

Original Author:

Steve Betchkal

stevebetchkal@gmail.com

Resolutions introduced at each Spring Hearing are public documents under Wisconsin's Open Records law [ss. 19.31-19.39, Wis. Stats.] and will be posted online for the public to review. Any personally identifiable information will be available to the public but will only be used by the Department for administrative purposes.