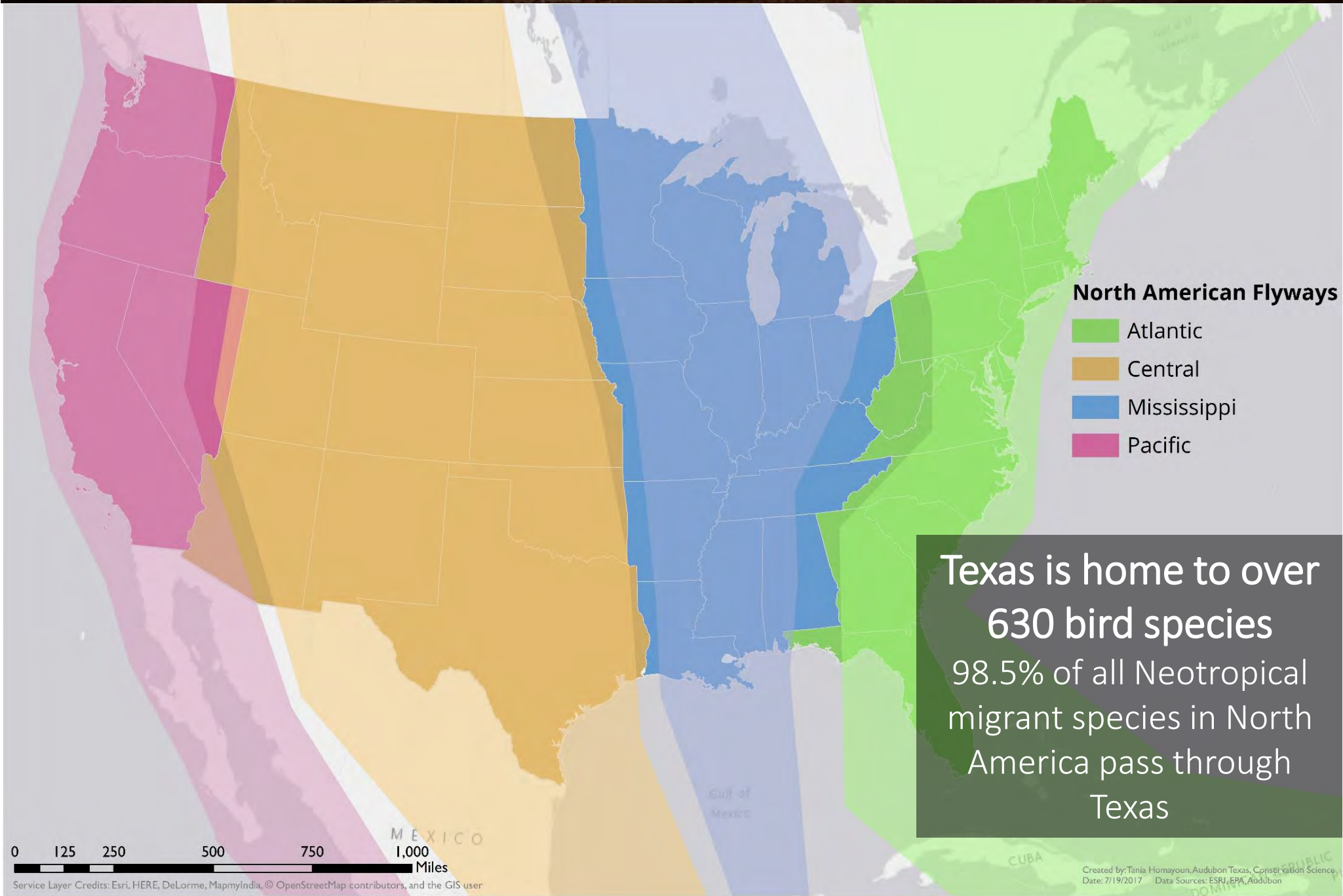




Birds & their Conservation in an Urbanizing Texas



Eric Kilby, Flickr, Creative Commons



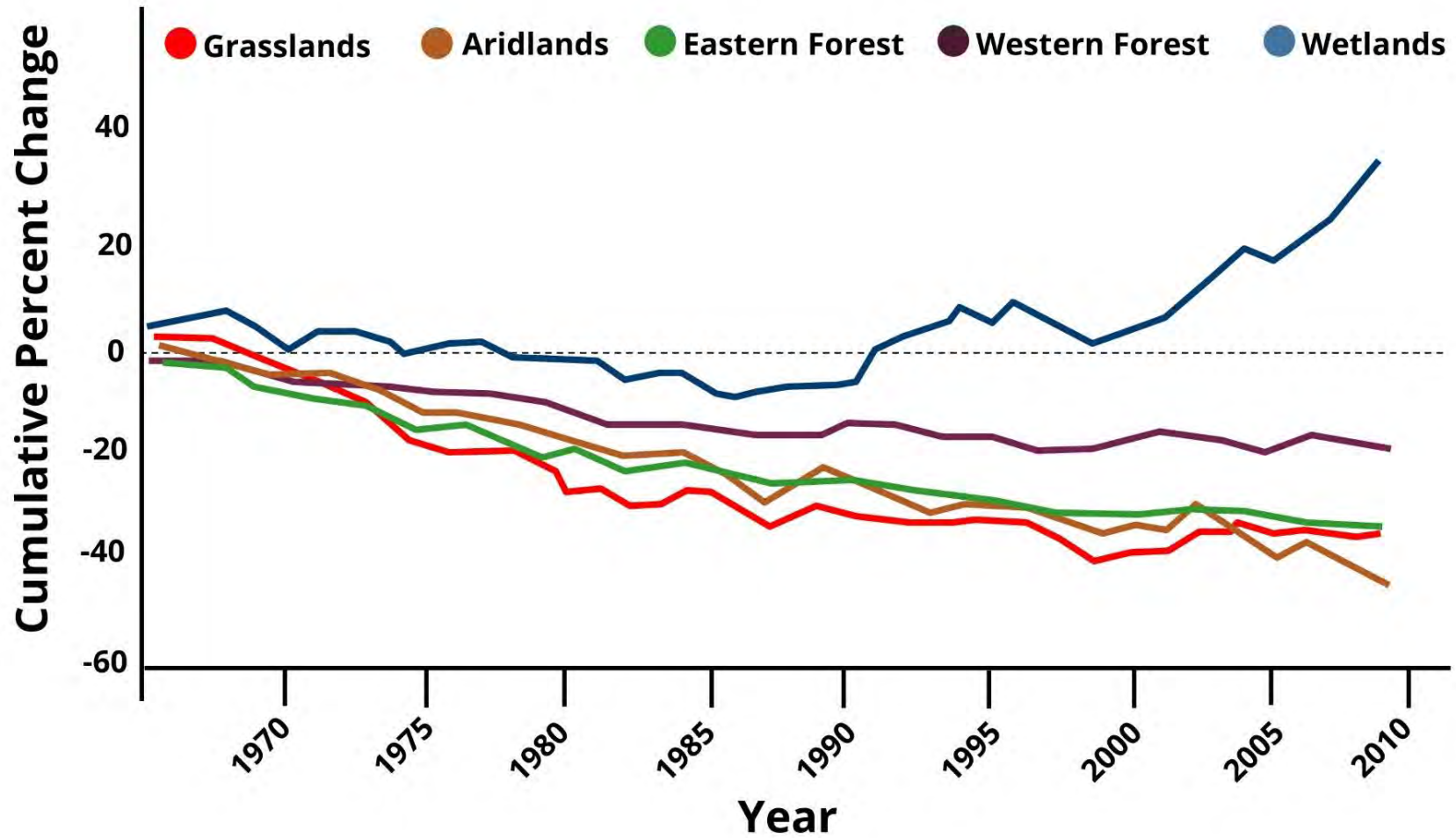
North American Flyways

- Atlantic
- Central
- Mississippi
- Pacific

Texas is home to over 630 bird species
98.5% of all Neotropical migrant species in North America pass through Texas



BIRD POPULATION INDICATORS IN FIVE INLAND HABITATS



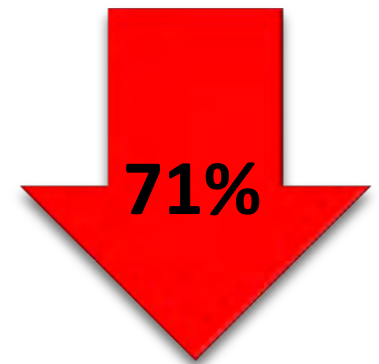
Adapted from *State of the Birds 2014*

Common Birds in Decline

Eastern Meadowlark



In past 40 years:



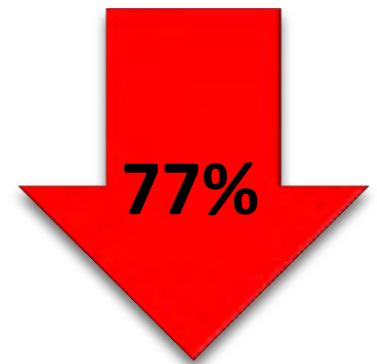


Common Birds in Decline

Northern Pintail



In past 40 years:



Common Birds in Decline

Purple Martin



In past 40 years:





Common Birds in Decline

Indigo Bunting



In past 40 years:

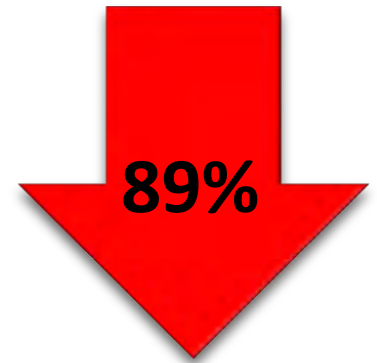


Common Birds in Decline

Red-headed Woodpecker

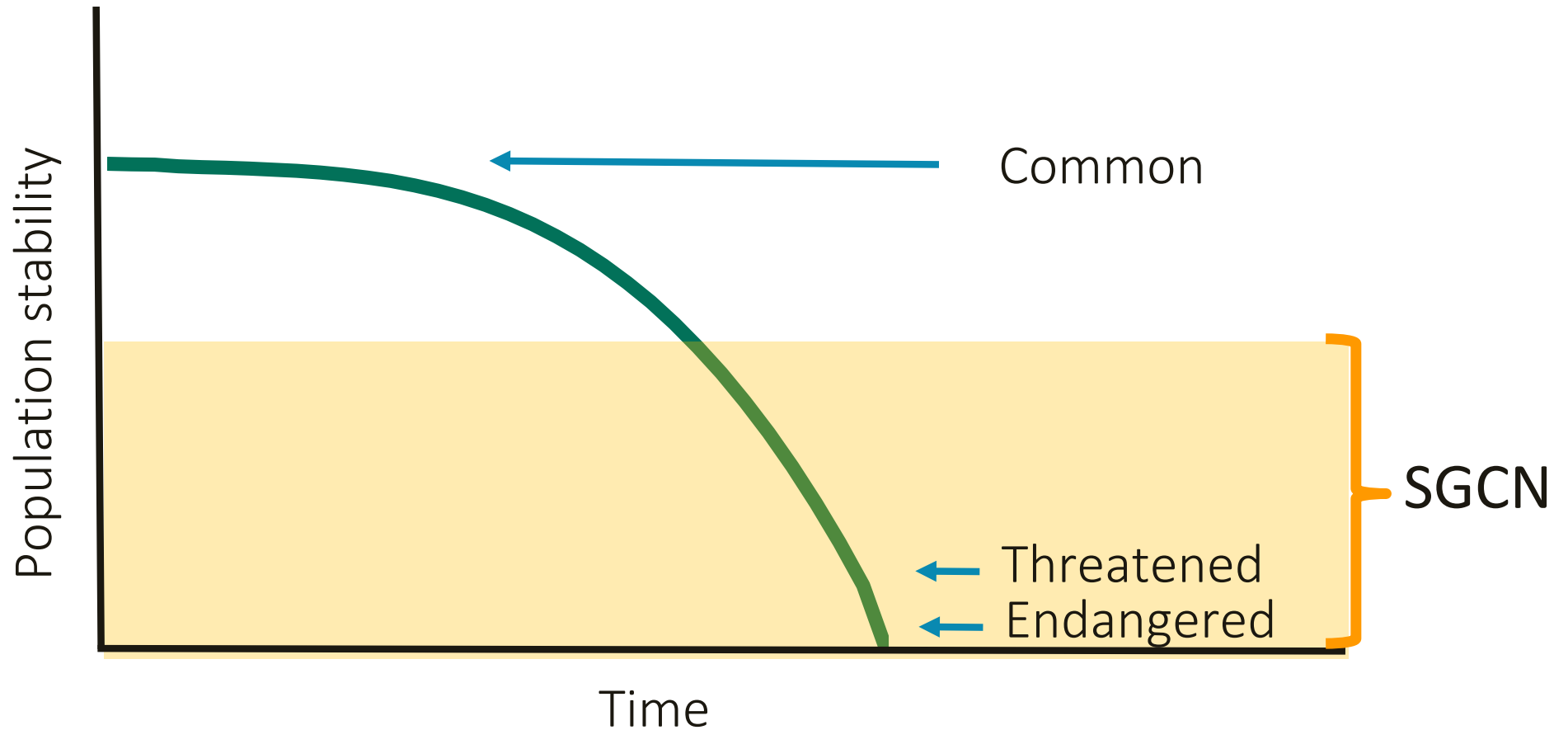


In past 40 years:





Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)



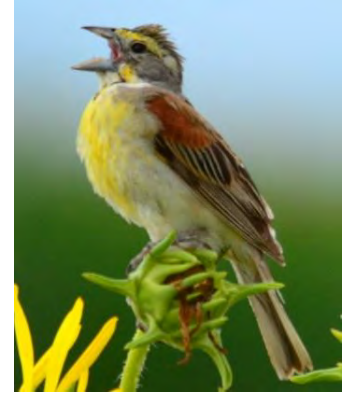
Who are our SGCNs?



- There are over **15,000 SGCN** in the US



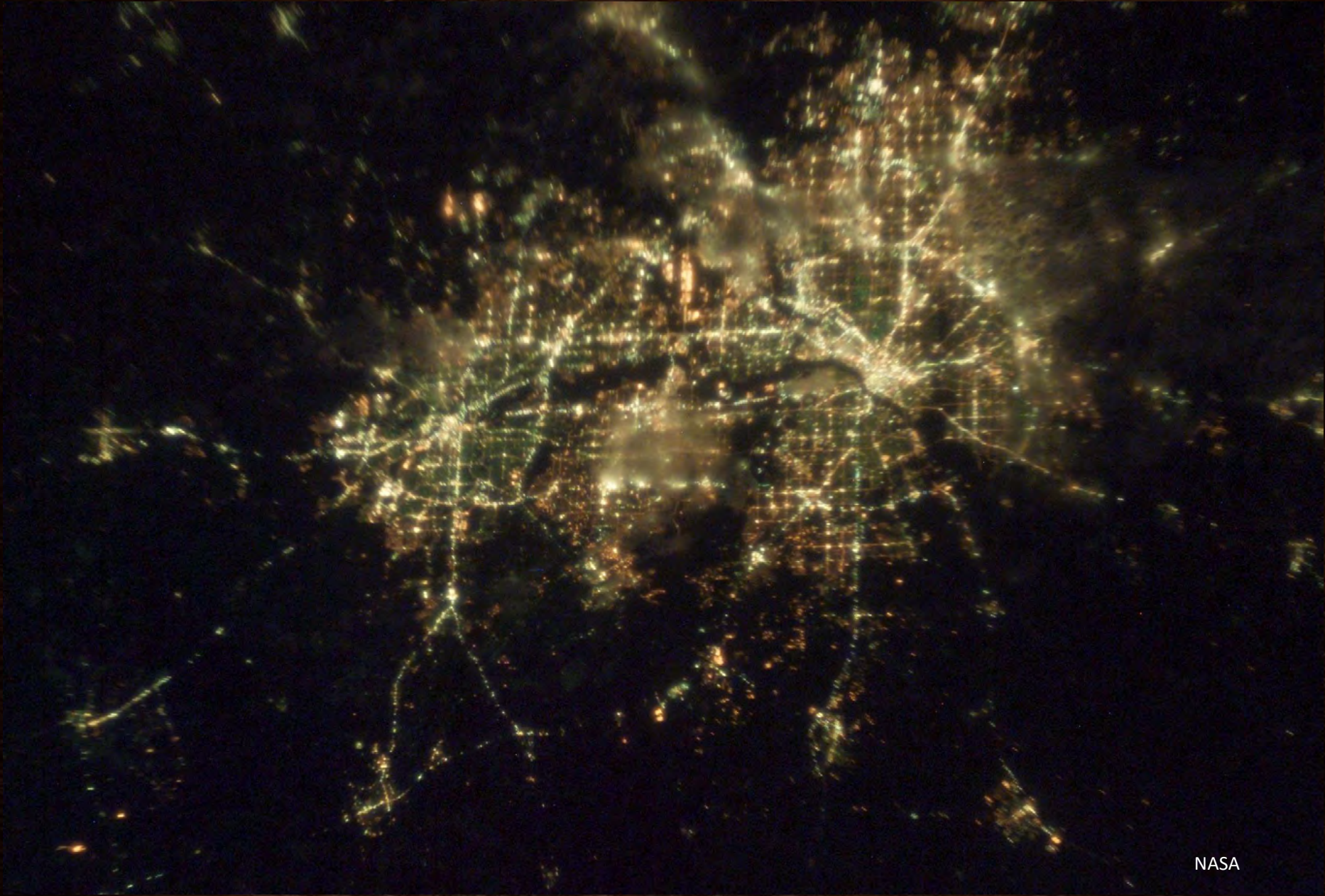
Who are our SGCNs?



Of Texas' over 1,300 SGCN, **110** are birds

Urbanization is one of the primary causes of habitat fragmentation & loss





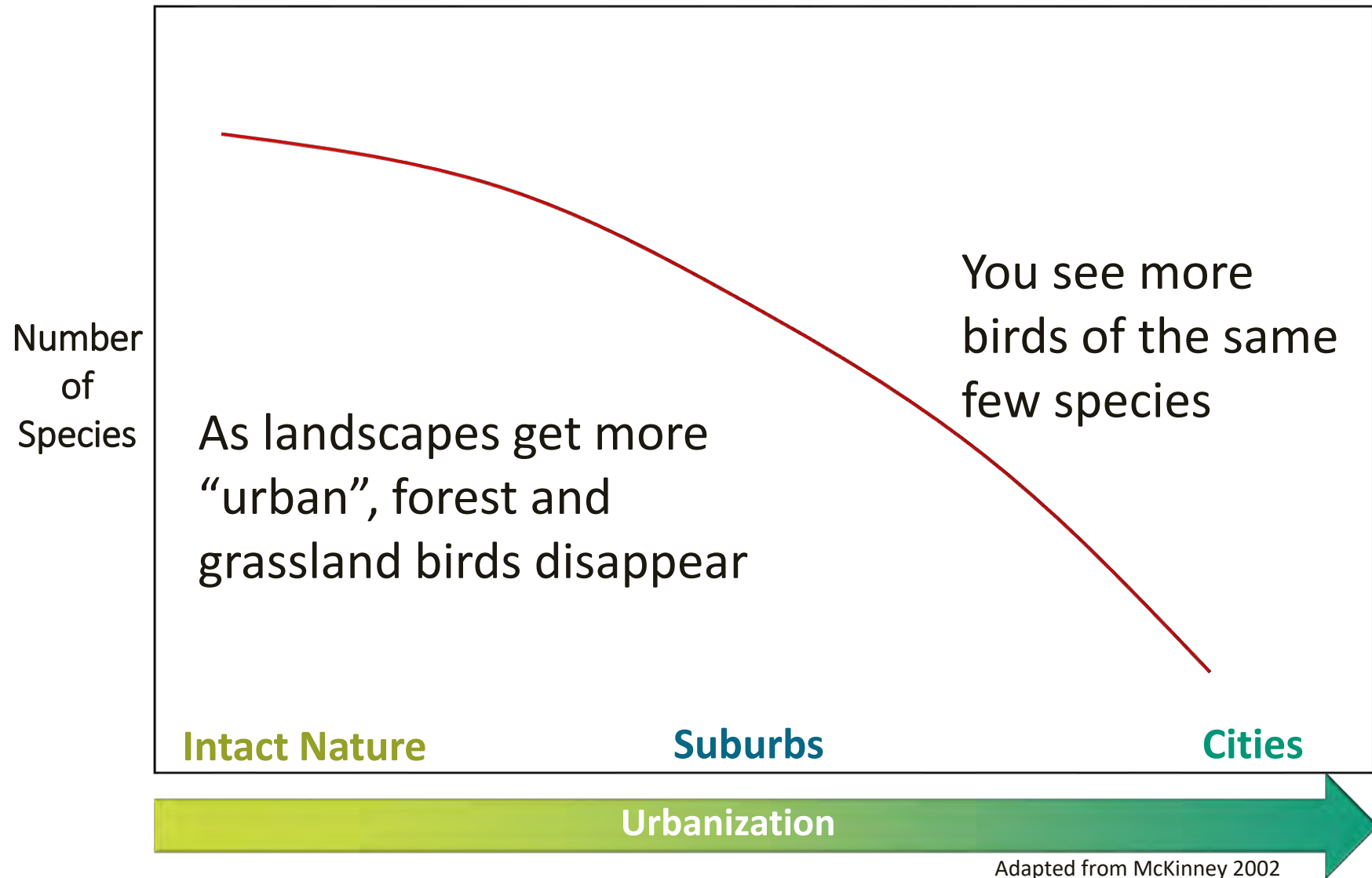
NASA

Habitat Fragmentation is the process of breaking larger habitat areas into **smaller, more isolated** patches.





Human Communities Change Bird Communities



“Urban Avoiders”



Grassland



Forest

Footage by Jennifer Reidy, US Fish & Wildlife Service



“Urban Adapters”



Suburb &
Backyard

“Urban Exploiters”



City Center



from *BBC Wildlife*



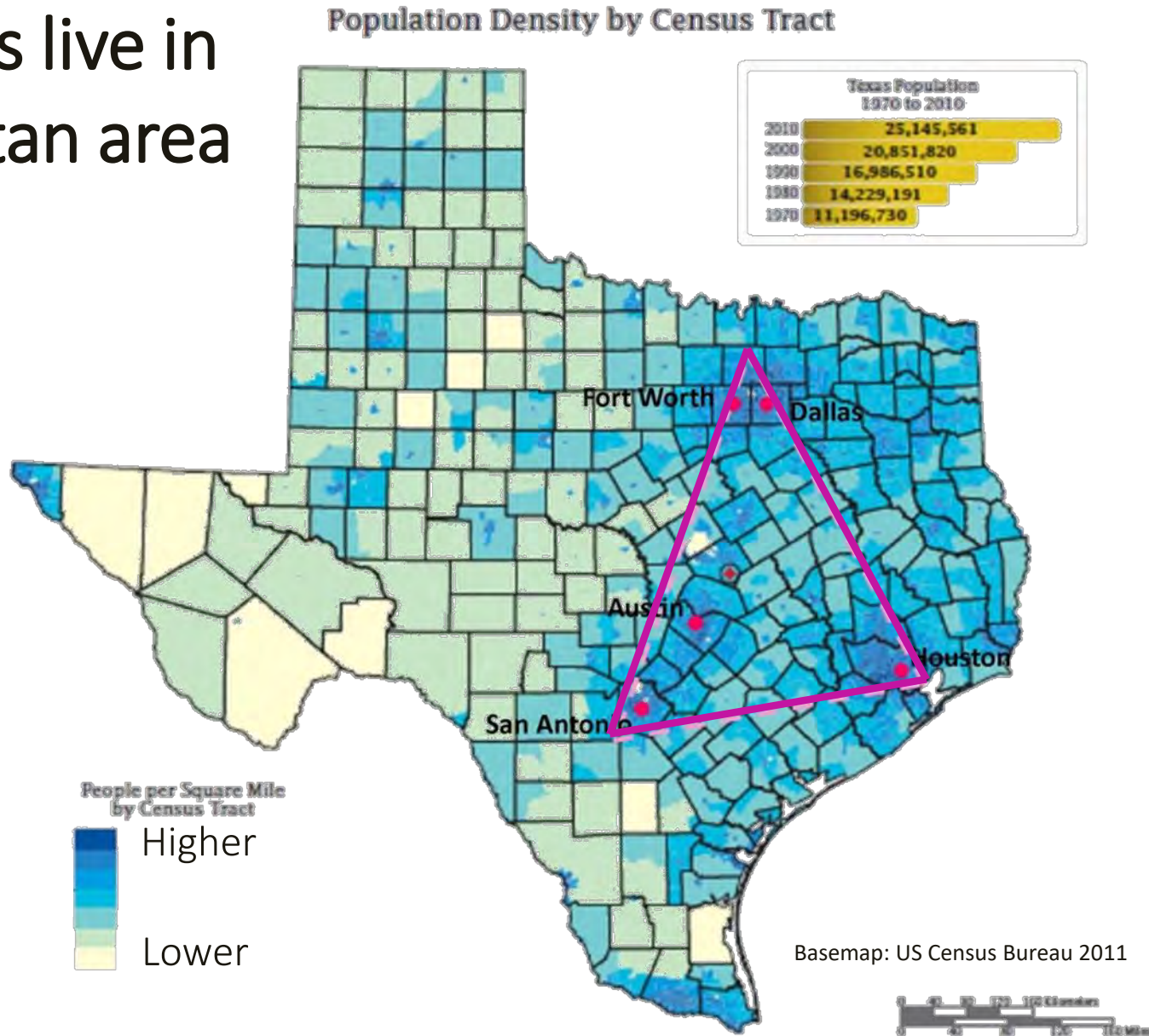


Over 85% of Texans live in a major metropolitan area

- Texas Triangle Megaregion

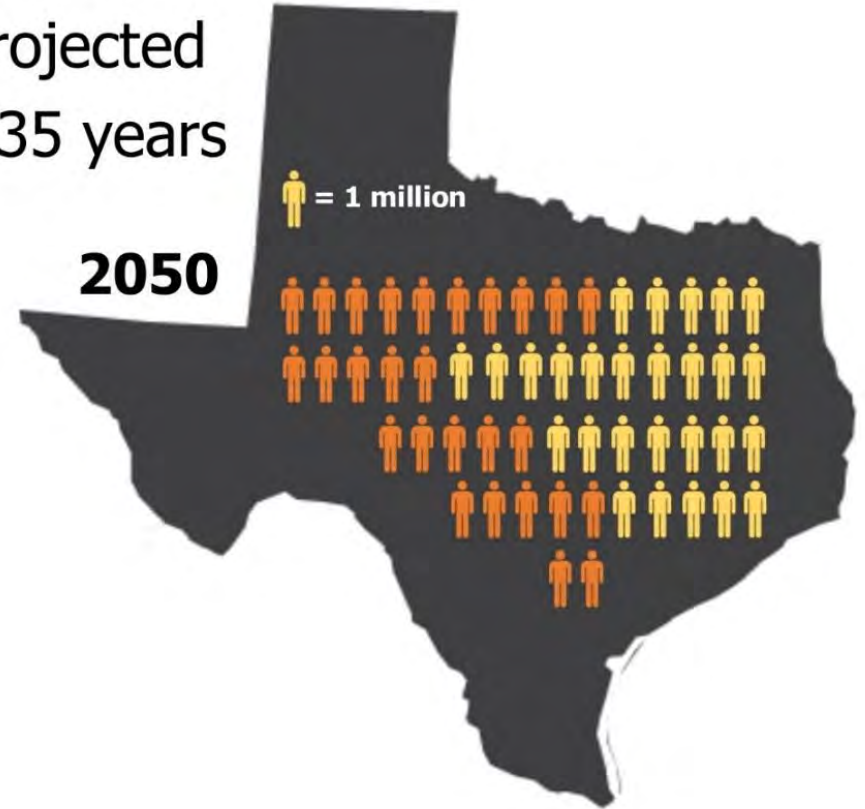
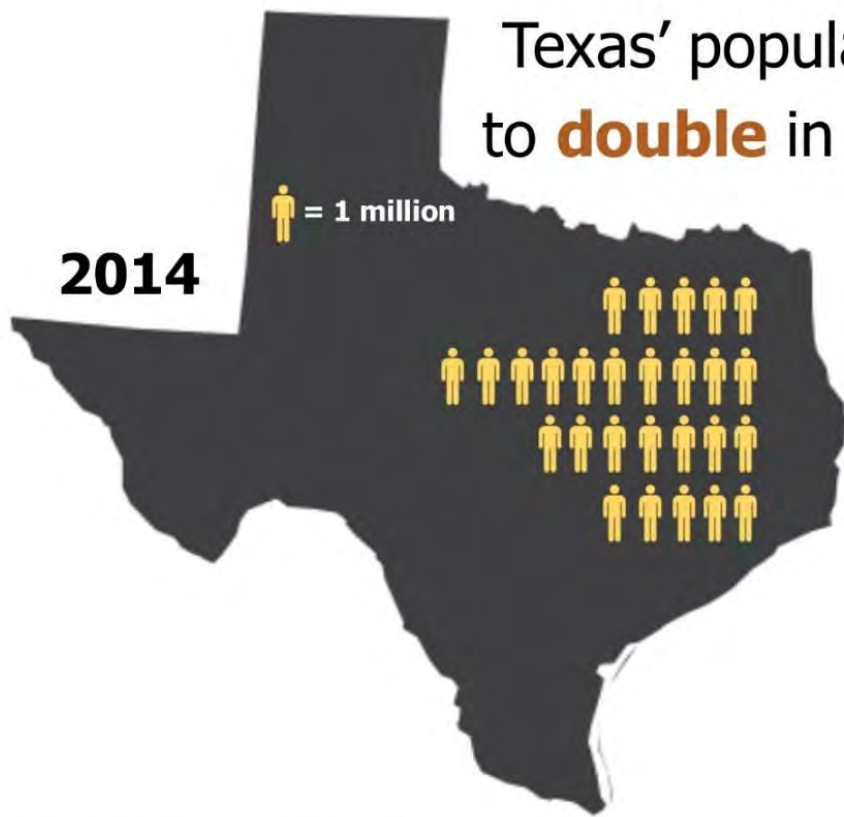
- Projected 93% growth by 2050

- 49% of Texas population lives in Houston & DFW metro areas





Texas' population is projected to **double** in the next 35 years





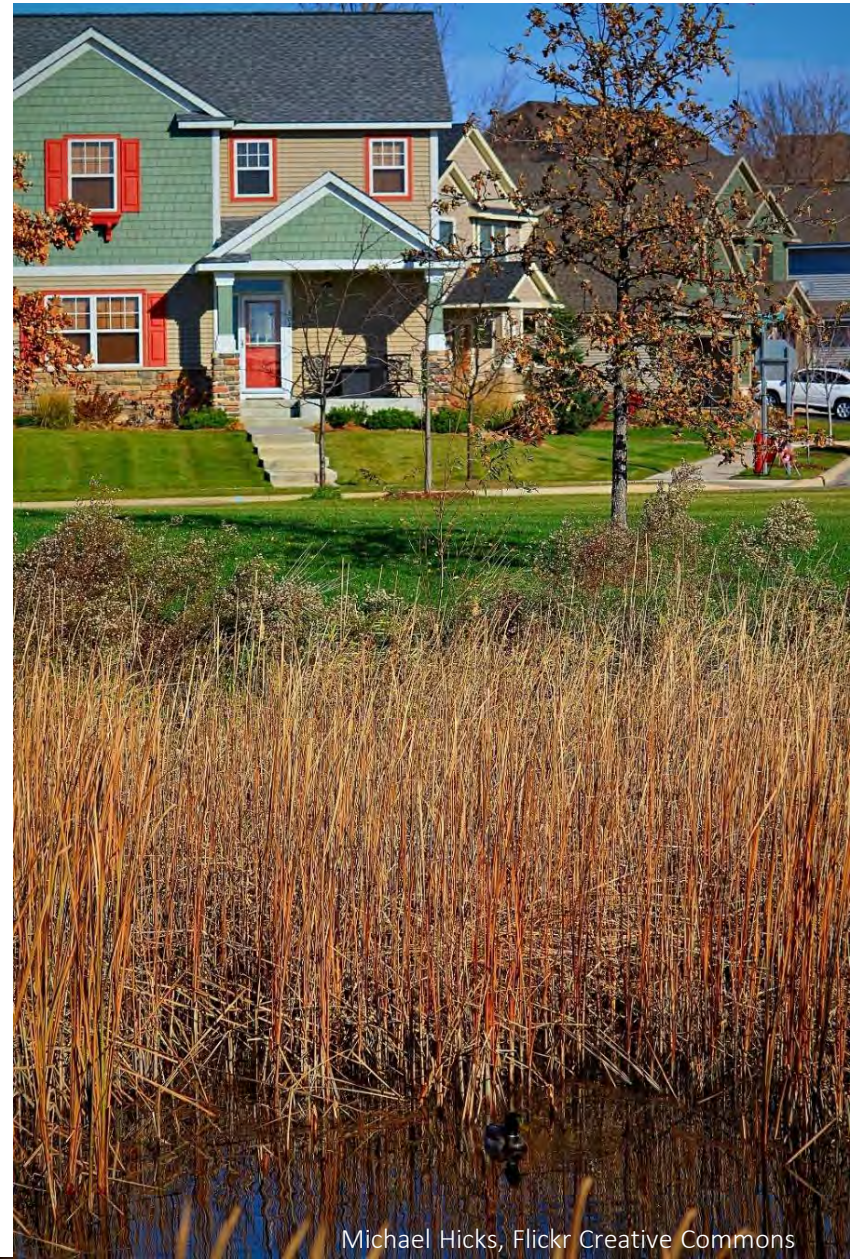
Is this Landscape for the Birds?



MTA, Flickr Creative Commons

Cities and Suburbs as Stopovers

- Twin Cities study on landbirds and urbanization
- Migrants more sensitive to urbanization than permanent residents
- Migrant birds appear more sensitive to landscape during breeding than migration





Where would you rather stop?






Good bird habitats provide food, water, shelter/space, and safety.



Michael Hicks, Flickr Creative Commons

A small bird, possibly a warbler, is perched on a branch of a tree. The bird has a greyish-brown back and a lighter underbelly. It is holding a small, round, red fruit in its beak. The branch is covered with green leaves and several small, round fruits, some of which are red and some are yellow. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural, outdoor setting.

Native plants provide the best source of food for birds, both for the seeds, fruits, and nuts they produce and the native insects they support.



Yards landscaped with non-native ornamental plants support 29 times **less** biodiversity than those using native plants.



Native oaks can host over 500 species of insects.

FOOD



pverdonk, Flickr Creative Commons



T Homayoun



WATER

Supplemental water can be critical to birds during periods of drought.

