



Plants for Birds

Restoring our community, one garden at a time

Brian Merlos, Audubon Great Lakes

Why we need plants for birds

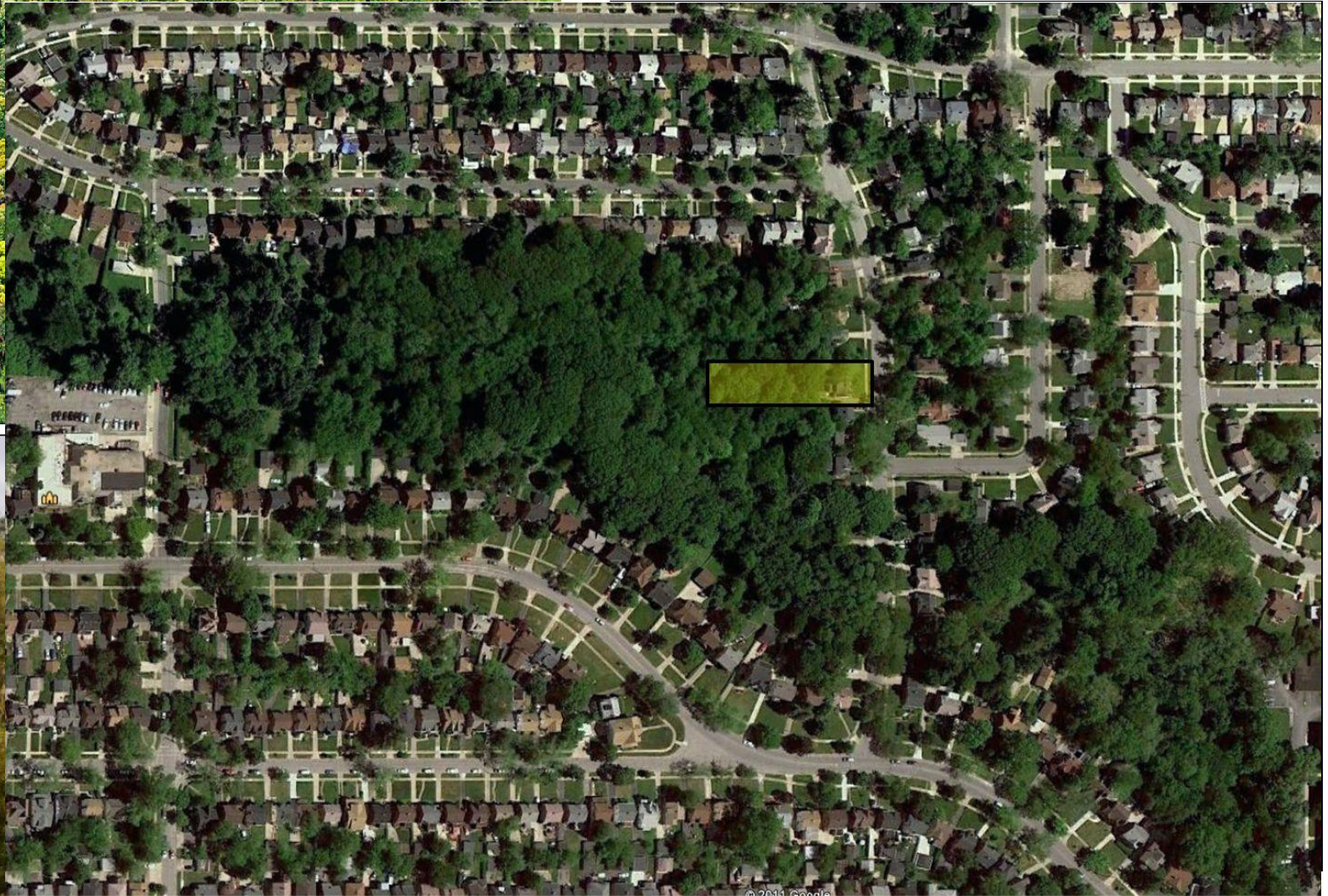
Habitat loss and other threats



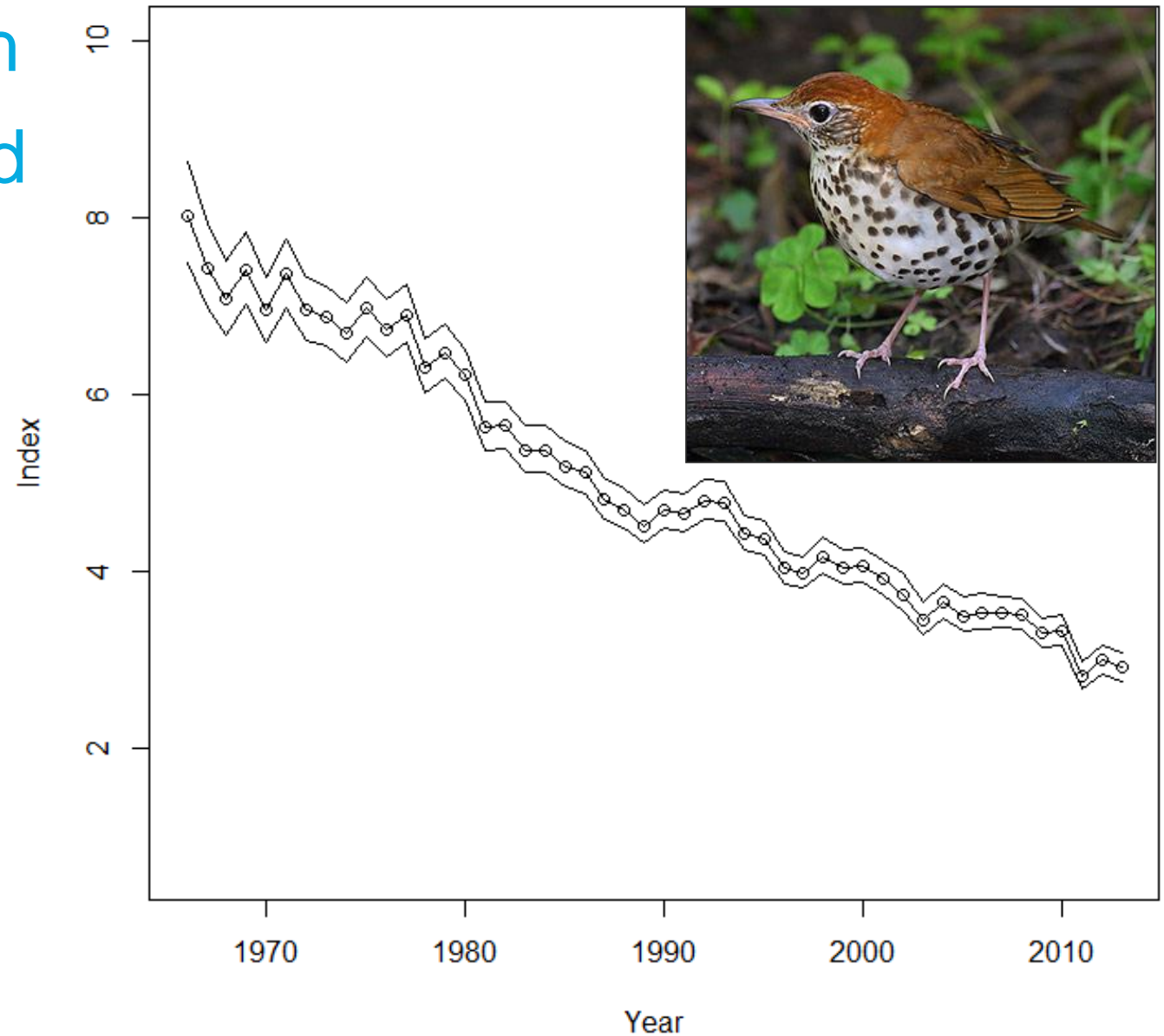


The Wood Thrush's Story





Wood Thrush Breeding Bird Survey Data





Cerulean Warbler. Creative Commons



Red-eyed Vireo. Creative Commons © Matt MacGillivray



Black-throated Blue Warbler. Creative Commons © Bob Devlin



Rose-breasted Grosbeak Creative Commons © Steven Kersting







PESTICIDE APPLICATION

**KEEP
OFF**



**UNTIL
DRY**



Brown-headed Cowbird. Creative Commons © Brad Horwedel





Audubon's Birds and Climate Change Report

314 Species on the Brink

Shrinking and shifting ranges could imperil nearly half of U.S. birds within this century.

Audubon.org/climate



Baird's Sparrow

By 2080, this grassland bird is expected to lose 100 percent of its current breeding range.

[See the climate forecast map »](#)

Tony Bynum

Take Action

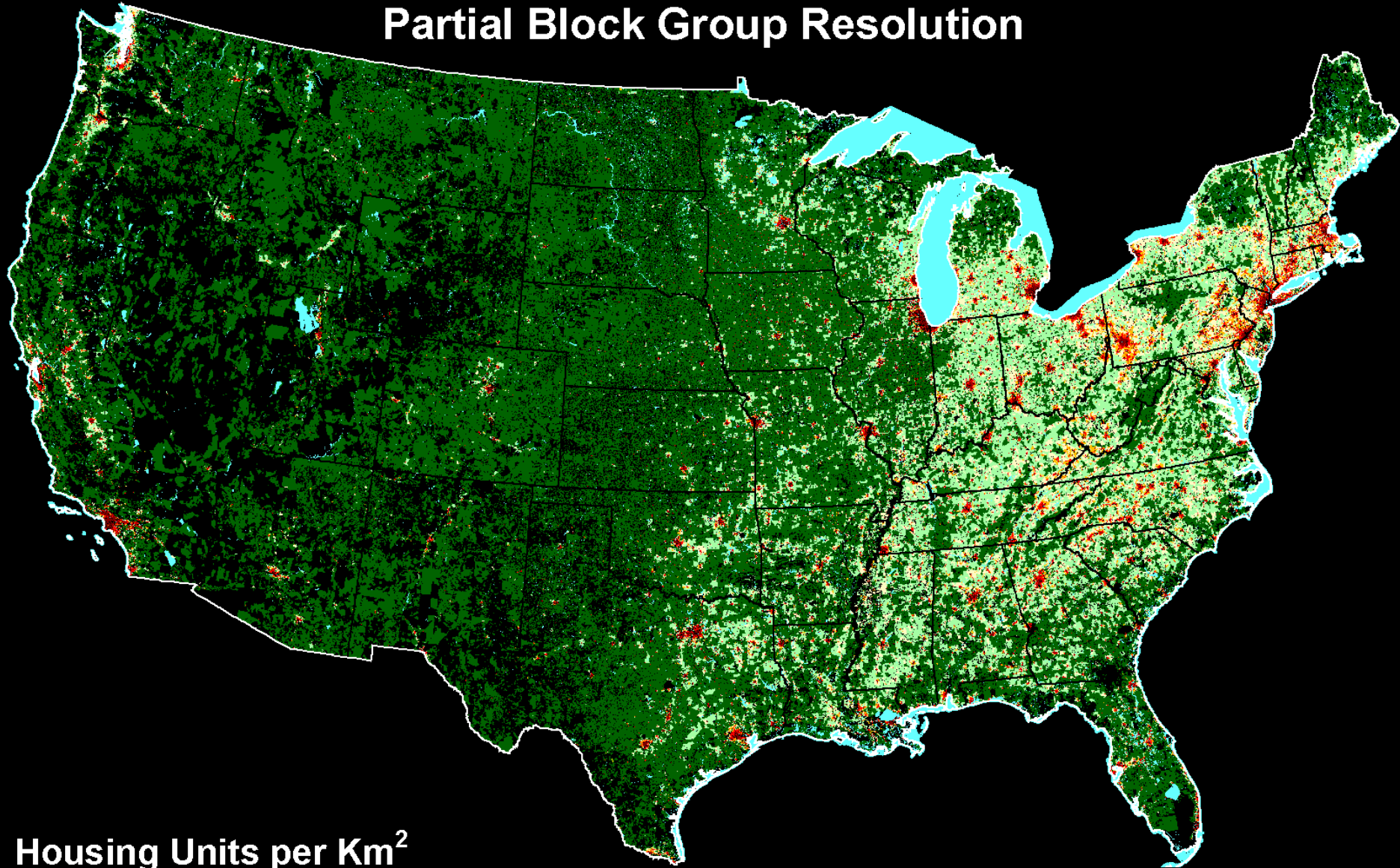
Climate change threatens the birds we see every day. I pledge to help build a brighter future for the 314 birds at risk.

Your Email Address

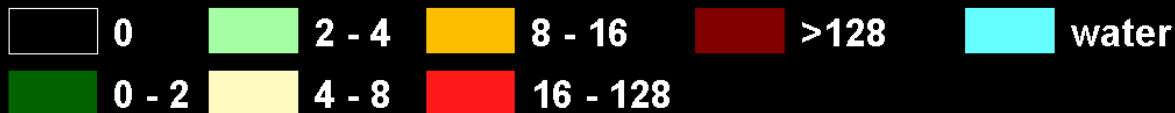
Pledge

Housing Density 1940

Partial Block Group Resolution

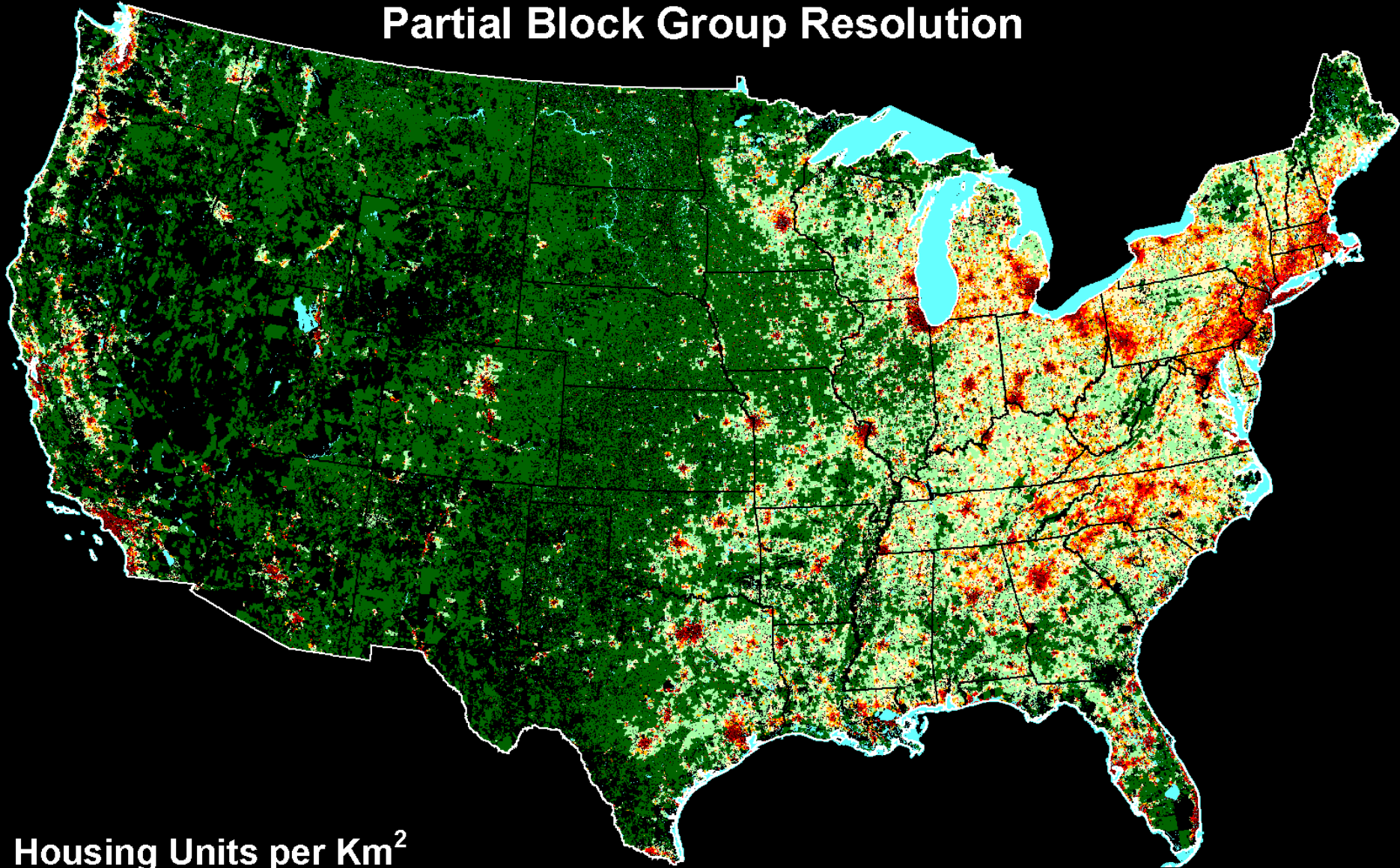


Housing Units per Km²

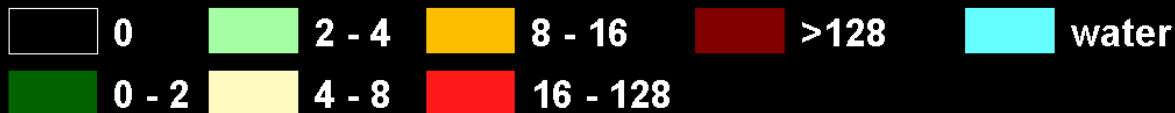


Housing Density 1980

Partial Block Group Resolution

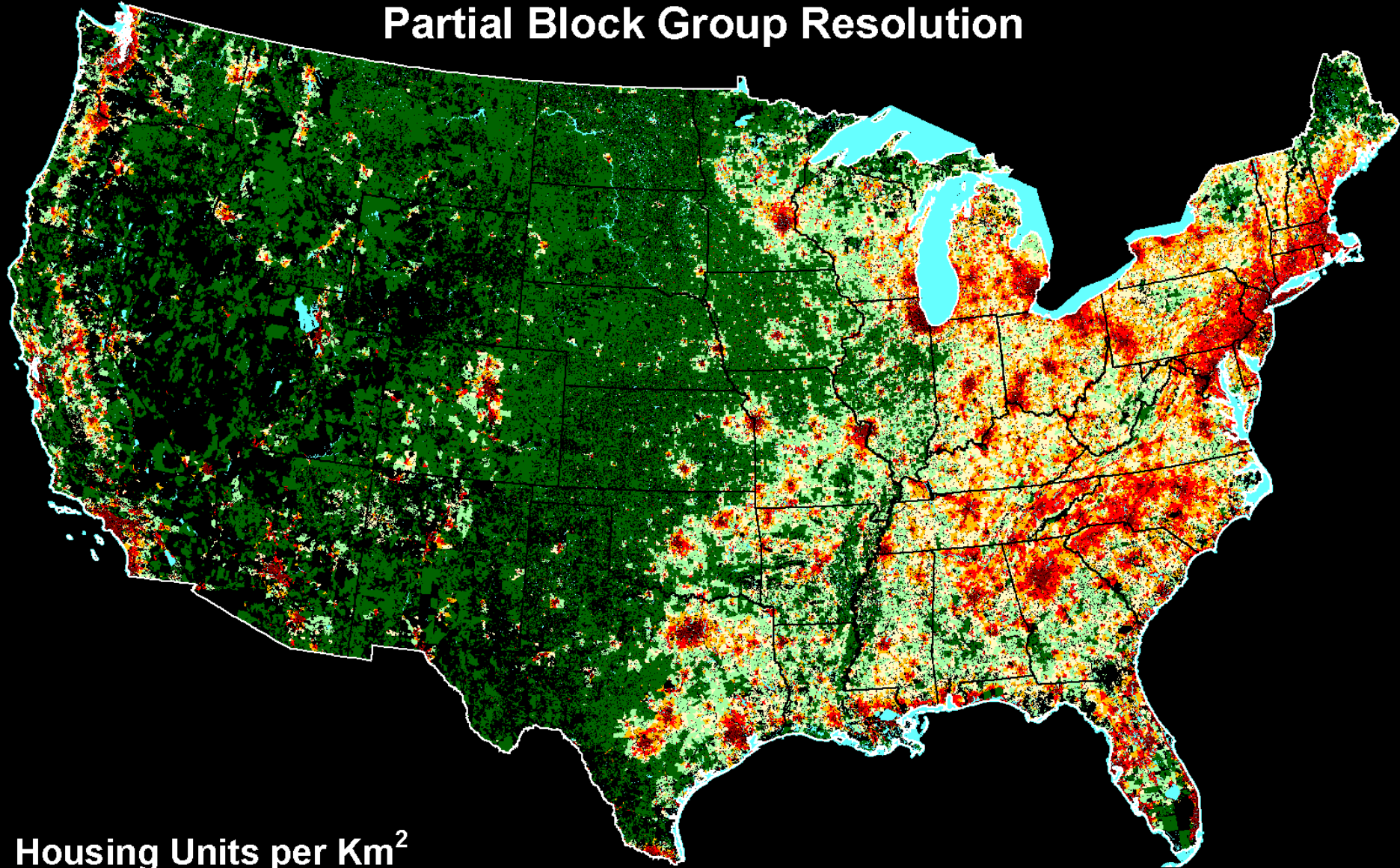


Housing Units per Km²



Housing Density 2010

Partial Block Group Resolution

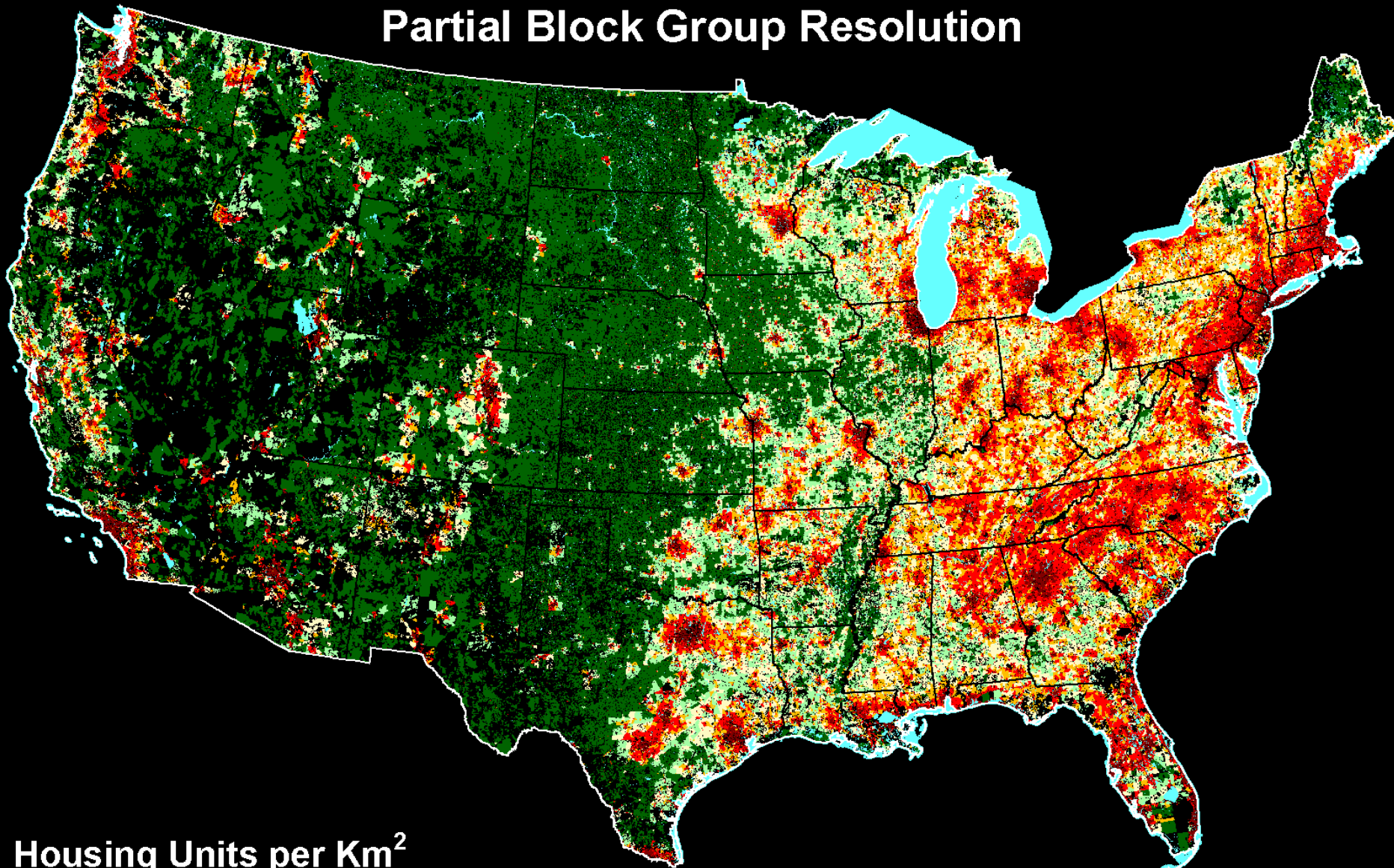


Housing Units per Km²



Projected Housing Density 2030

Partial Block Group Resolution



Housing Units per Km²

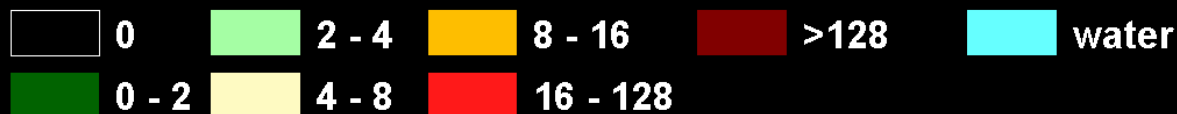













Photo by Doug Tallamy



Restoring native plants means we will have more
birds, butterflies, and flowers in our lives!

“Plant something meaningful.”

– Dr. Larry Mellichamp, author of
Native Plants of the Southeast



Solutions in Our Backyards

Building a bird-friendly garden



The Bird-Friendly Yard

- Native plant foods
- Layers of habitat
- Water
- Shelter & nest sites



Will Stuart

Four Native Plant Food Groups for Birds

- Insects
- Berries & fruits
- Nectar
- Nuts & Seeds

Food Group #1: Insects





Photo by Will Stuart



557 species of caterpillars

Creative Commons Photo by Michael W. May



5 species of caterpillars

Creative Commons Photo by Landhalauts

Specialization is the key

90% of the insects
that eat plants can
only eat the plants
with which they co-
evolved.





A world
without
insects is a
world without
birds.



Photo by Will Stuart

Best caterpillar trees

Oak	557
Willow	456
Cherry	456
Birch	413
Crabapple	311
Blueberry	288
Maple	285
Pine	203
Hickory	200

Food Group #2: Berries & Fruits



Highbush Blueberry



Photo by Will Stuart

Spicebush, *Lindera benzoin*



Photo by Will Stuart

Pokeweed



Gray Catbird, Will Stuart

Winterberry



Photo by Will Stuart

Eastern Red Cedar



Cedar Waxwing, Photo by Will Stuart

Food Group #3: Nectar



Jewelweed



Wild Columbine



Coral Honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*



Photo by Will Stuart

Crossvine



Will Stuart

Trumpet Vine



Ruby-throated Hummingbird - Will Stuart



Food Group #4: Nuts & Seeds





Photo by Will Stuart



Seeds

 Audubon



Creative Commons © Rob Amend

Black-eyed Susan, Rudbeckia



Goldenrod, Little Bluestem



Palm Warbler Will Stuart



Little Bluestem, Will Stuart



The Bird-Friendly Yard

- Native plant foods
- Layers of habitat
- Water
- Shelter & nest sites

Habitat Layers

Over-story
(canopy trees)

Mid-story
(small trees & shrubs)

Understory
(perennials & ground cover)





The Bird-Friendly Yard

- Native plant foods
- Layers of habitat
- Water
- Shelter & nest sites

Water



Eastern Towhee – Will Stuart



The Bird-Friendly Yard

- Native plant foods
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- Shelter & nest sites

Shelter and Nest Sites



Build a Brush Pile



Leaf Litter



Wood Thrush by Will Stuart

Scaling Up

A community effort



Photo by Robert Petty



Photo by Kim Brand



Terresa Carter Wotring
Baltimore, Maryland

Patterson Park Audubon Center
50% of patio in native plants
Urban conservationist since 2013

Benefits to people:

It is not just about birds. Creating beautiful native plant habitat benefits humans too.



- Increased physical health
- Increased mental health
- Saves money.
- Saves time
- Increases property value
- Increased recreation time outside
- Quality of life for community



Photo by Will Stuart

Bird-Friendly is Climate-Friendly:

- Directly reduces greenhouse gas emissions
- Increases carbon storage
- Builds resilient bird populations

"If you have a backyard, this book is for you."
—Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*

Bringing Nature Home

UPDATED AND EXPANDED

**How You Can
Sustain Wildlife
with Native Plants**

Douglas W. Tallamy

With a Foreword by Rick Darke

You can help birds by:

- Reducing your lawn.
- Planting native plants wherever you can.
- Removing invasive plants
- Creating corridors that connect with natural areas

Backyard Habitat Certification Program

Site Inventory, July 2015



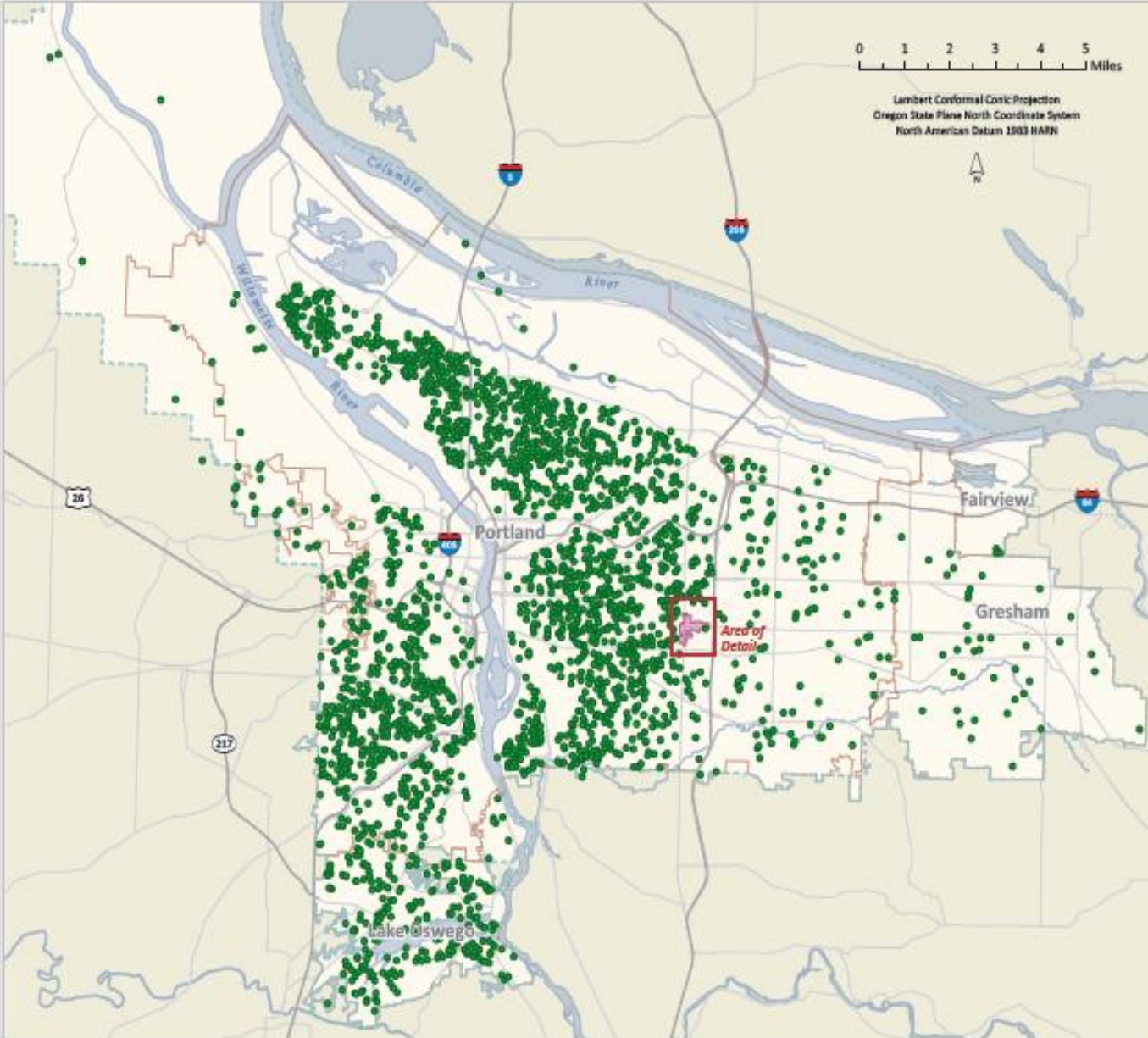
- Participating BHC Site
- BHC Program Boundary
- Jade District NPI Area
- City Administrative Boundary

Data Sources:

Audubon Society of Portland, Columbia Land Trust
 Friends of Tryon Creek, Metro RLIS (May 2015 distribution),
 Jade District Visioning Plan 2014



This map is intended for informational purposes. It is not intended for, and may not be suitable for, legal, engineering, or surveying purposes. The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaborative effort of the Audubon Society of Portland and Columbia Land Trust.





North Carolina Executive Mansion, Oct. 2017



PHOTO: Jeremy M. Lange



A photograph of an American Goldfinch perched on a purple coneflower. The bird is bright yellow with black wings and a black cap. The flower is a vibrant purple with a dark brown center. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

Bring more birds to your home with native plants

Enter your zip code to use Audubon's native plants database and view a list of the best plants for birds in your area, as well as local resources and links to more information. By entering your email address, you'll receive an emailed list of the native plants you've selected, get additional tips on creating your bird-friendly habitat, and help us keep track of your contributions to our efforts to get 1 million native plants for birds in the ground. [Privacy Policy](#)

Purple Coneflower and American Goldfinch. Photo: Will Stuart

Audubon's Plants for Birds Program:

<http://www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds>

Search the Native Plants Database:

<http://www.audubon.org/native-plants>

Find Local Native Plant Resources:

<http://www.audubon.org/native-plants-resources>



Questions, thoughts, or comments?

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