

Bird Populations Are in Meltdown

Humans rely on birds to eat insects, spread seeds, and pollinate plants—but these feathered friends can't survive without their habitats.

[Chris Baraniuk](#) Jun 20, 2023 1:15 PM

Photograph: Getty Images

Every night, Alice Cerutti falls asleep to the sound of birds singing on her rice farm in the middle of the Italian countryside. In the morning, the voice of the black-tailed godwit, a bird [whose numbers are declining](#) globally, wakes her from sleep—a little harshly. Cerutti imitates the bird's [piercing call](#) over the phone and laughs. "Her sound is a bit annoying," she says, though she quickly adds, "I really love her."

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