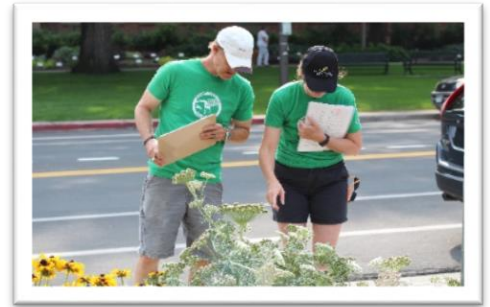


# 2018 BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

## WHAT IS THE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT?

Right now, 80% of Americans live in an urban setting, and humans around the world are building the equivalent of a city the size of Vancouver, Canada every single week! This urban growth is displacing and causing extinctions of many plants and animals.

To help understand how different land uses and the management of natural spaces affect bird and butterfly species, the City of Fort Collins Nature in the City program created the Biodiversity Project in partnership with Colorado State University (CSU) and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). During the summer, citizen scientists collect data on a number of bird and butterfly species at different locations around Fort Collins. The data they collect will help City staff design and maintain natural spaces that not only provide happiness for people, but also protect important habitat for animals.



## GOALS OF NATURE IN THE CITY



**Easy access to nature:** ensure every resident is within a 10-minute walk to nature from their home or workplace.



**High quality natural spaces:** conserve, create, and enhance natural spaces to provide diverse social and ecological opportunities.



**Land stewardship:** shift the landscape aesthetic to more diverse forms that support healthy environments for people and wildlife.

## WHAT DID WE DO IN 2018?

Citizen scientists monitored at nine different land uses to assess how different sites affect species biodiversity. This year, we had a team of 44 citizen scientists that monitored 71 sites and conducted nearly 350 surveys in a three-month period from May to August.

## HOW DOES THE CITY USE THE RESULTS?

In partnership with CSU and WCS, the City of Fort Collins creates species corridor maps to understand areas with high and low biodiversity. The City can then protect or enhance biodiversity through community projects, land use code updates, or land acquisitions.



# BIRD RESULTS

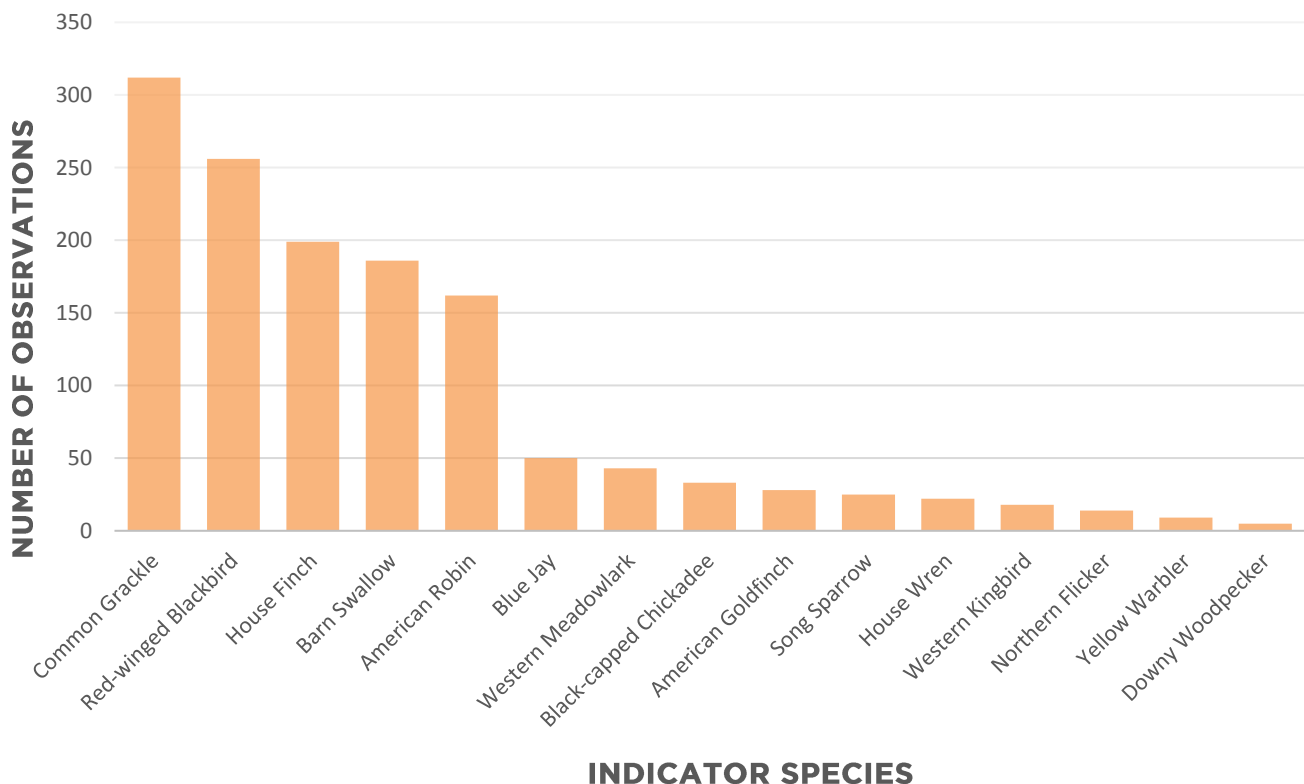
| SPECIES                | 2017 | 2018 |
|------------------------|------|------|
| AMERICAN GOLDFINCH     | 21   | 28   |
| AMERICAN ROBIN         | 123  | 162  |
| BARN SWALLOW           | 203  | 186  |
| BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE | 36   | 33   |
| BLUE JAY               | 39   | 50   |
| COMMON GRACKLE         | 260  | 312  |
| DOWNY WOODPECKER       | 4    | 5    |
| HOUSE FINCH            | 144  | 199  |
| HOUSE WREN             | 19   | 22   |
| NORTHERN FLICKER       | 10   | 14   |
| RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD   | 241  | 256  |
| SONG SPARROW           | 18   | 25   |
| WESTERN KINGBIRD       | 7    | 18   |
| WESTERN MEADOWLARK     | 46   | 43   |
| YELLOW WARBLER         | 3    | 9    |

🌱 Citizen scientists recorded a total of 1,362 observations in 2018.

🌱 Common grackles and red-winged blackbirds were the most common species detected.

🌱 Yellow warblers and downy woodpeckers were the least detected species.

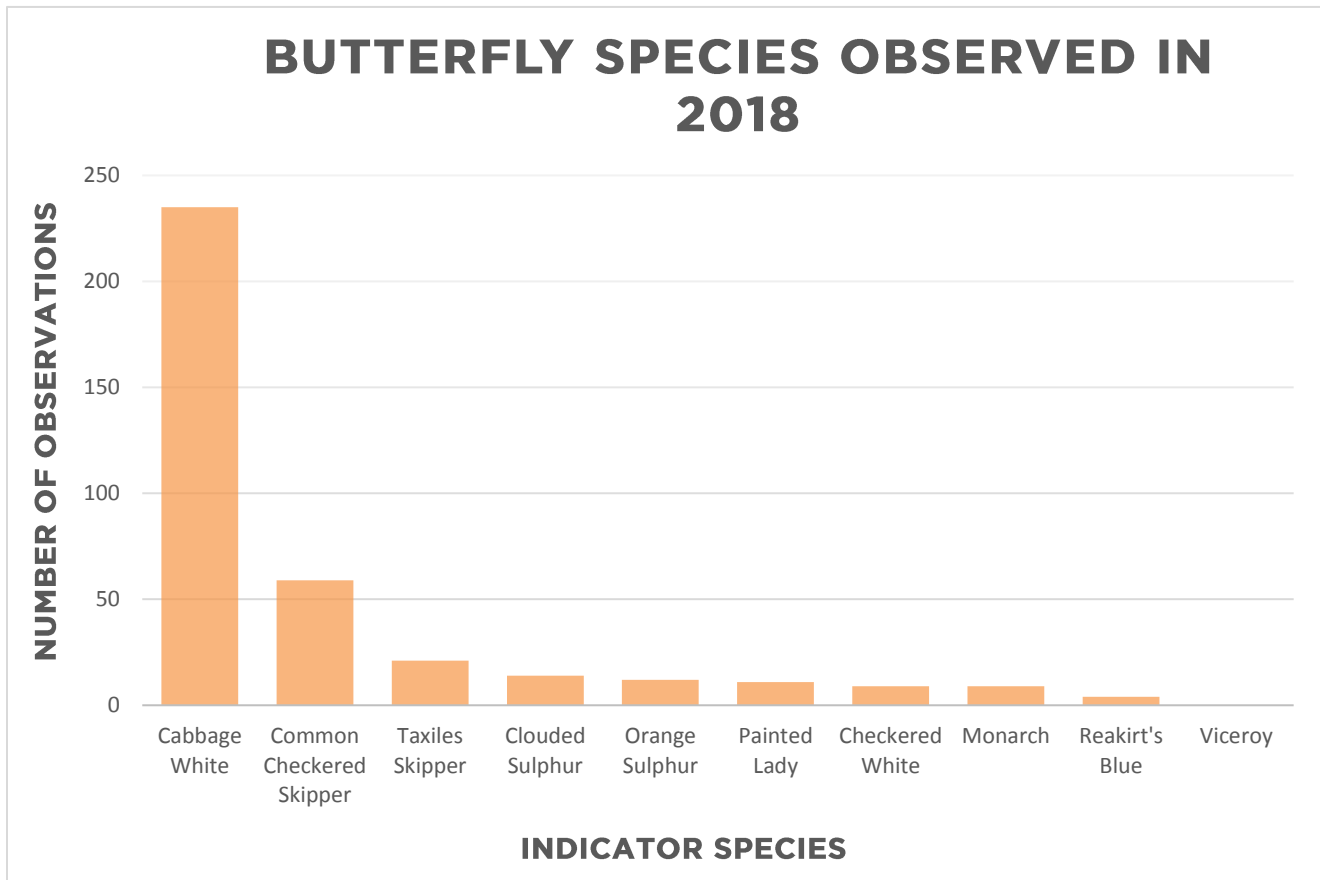
## BIRD SPECIES OBSERVED IN 2018



# BUTTERFLY RESULTS

| SPECIES                  | 2017 | 2018 |
|--------------------------|------|------|
| CABBAGE WHITE            | 245  | 235  |
| CHECKERED WHITE          | 7    | 9    |
| CLOUDED SULPHUR          | 6    | 14   |
| COMMON CHECKERED-SKIPPER | 11   | 59   |
| MONARCH                  | 3    | 9    |
| ORANGE SULPHUR           | 21   | 12   |
| PAINTED LADY             | 23   | 11   |
| REAKIRT'S BLUE           | 1    | 4    |
| TAXILES SKIPPER          | 19   | 21   |
| VICEROY                  | 6    | 0    |

- Citizen scientists recorded a total of 374 observations in 2018.
- Cabbage whites and checkered whites were the most common species detected.
- Reakirt's blue and viceroy were the least detected species.



To be a citizen scientist next year, look for the application posted on the City of Fort Collins Engage website in April 2019. For other volunteer opportunities with the Natural Areas Department, visit: <https://engage.fcgov.com/d/na/>