

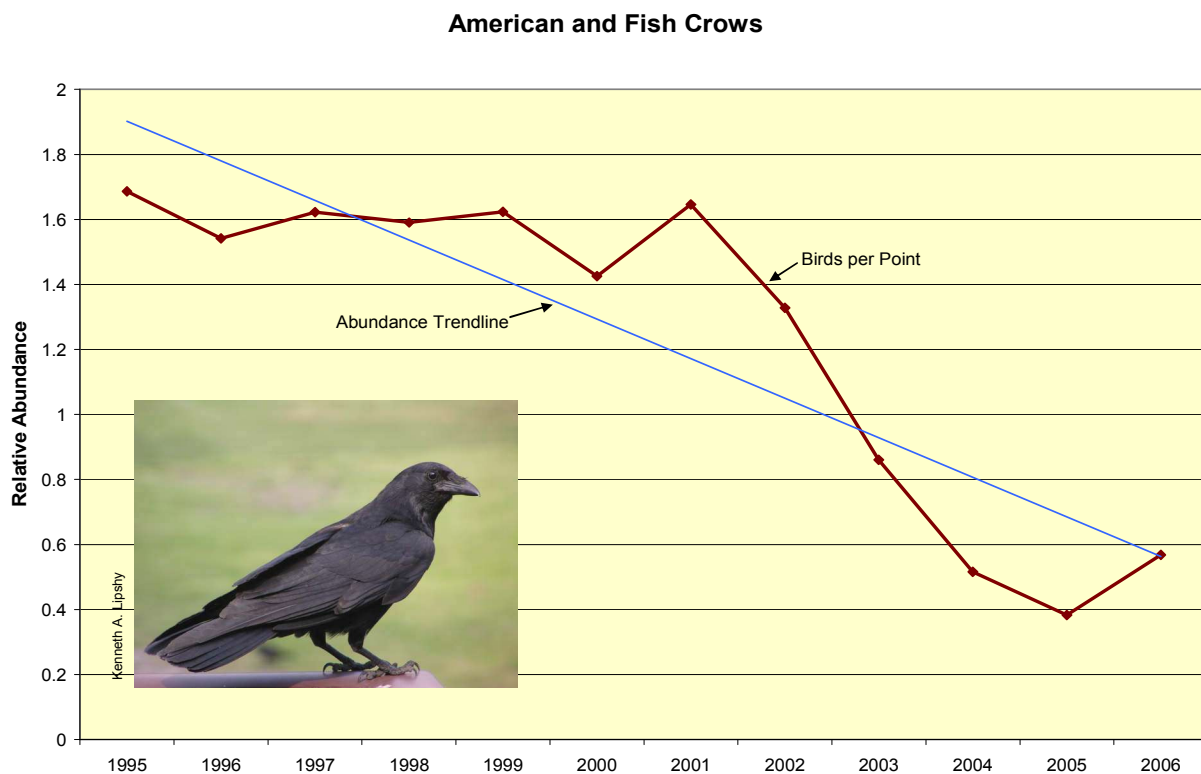
2006 Northern Virginia Bird Survey—Summary

Survey Dates—June 1—July 7, 2006

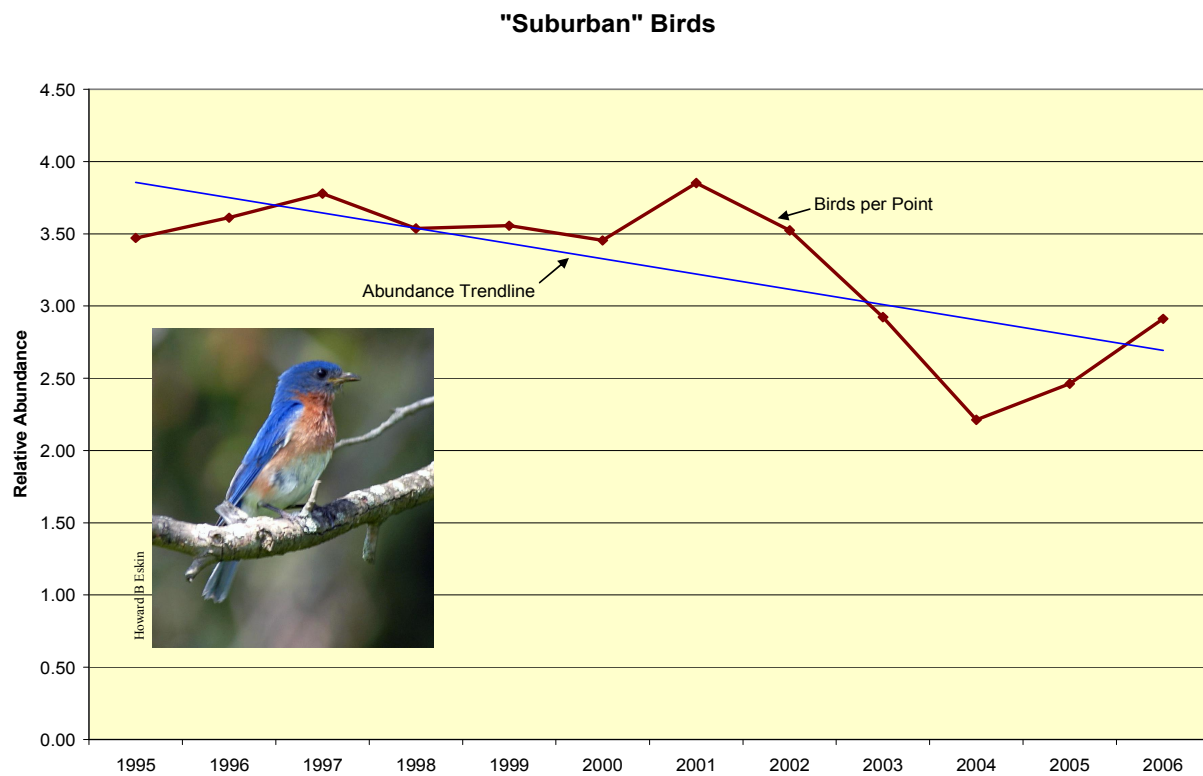
Number of Points Surveyed	599 (750 in 2005)
Areas Surveyed	Manassas National Battlefield Park, Great Falls Park, Dyke Marsh, Occoquan Bay NWR, Riverbend Park, Huntley Meadows Park, Scott's Run Nature Preserve, Difficult Run Stream Valley, Little Difficult Run, Atwood's "Small Woodlots", Oak Marr Park, Lorton/Laurel Hill (former D.C. Dept. of Corrections, Lorton Facility), Occoquan Regional Park, Long Branch Nature Center, Glencarlyn Park, Glencarlyn, Monticello Park, Daniels Run Park, Daniels Run (Daniels Run Park to Fairfax City Hall), Fairview, Little River Hills, Old Lee Hills, U.S. Army Fort Belvoir (Accotink Bay Wildlife Refuge, Training Areas, Davison Airfield), Fraser Preserve (The Nature Conservancy), Reston, Middleridge, Frying Pan Park
Number of Participants	54 (9 new) (55 in 2005)
Total Number of Birds	10,768 (12,367 in 2005)
Number of Bird Species	108 (3 new) (102 in 2005)
Top 3 Most Abundant Species	Northern Cardinal (754), Common Grackle (707), Red-winged Blackbird (680). American Crow #13 with 239 individuals. (2005 - Northern Cardinal (963), Common Grackle (947), European Starling (643). American Crow #20 with 212 individuals.) (2004 - Northern Cardinal (687), Common Grackle (594), Red-winged Blackbird (545). American Crow - #11 with 262 individuals.)
Top 3 Most Widely Distributed Species	Northern Cardinal 355 points (59%), Carolina Wren 325 points (54%), Carolina Chickadee 226 points (38%). American Crow #15 at 145 points (24%). (2005 - Northern Cardinal 451 (60%), Carolina Wren 287 (38%), Tufted Titmouse 266 (35%). American Crow #21 at 129 points (17% of total points). (2004 - Northern Cardinal (341), Red-eyed Vireo (251), Carolina Wren (236). American Crow - #11 at 145 points.)
Average # Birds Per Survey Point	18 (17 in 2005)
Average # Species Per Survey Point	10 (9 in 2005)

2006 Northern Virginia Bird Survey—Selected Trends

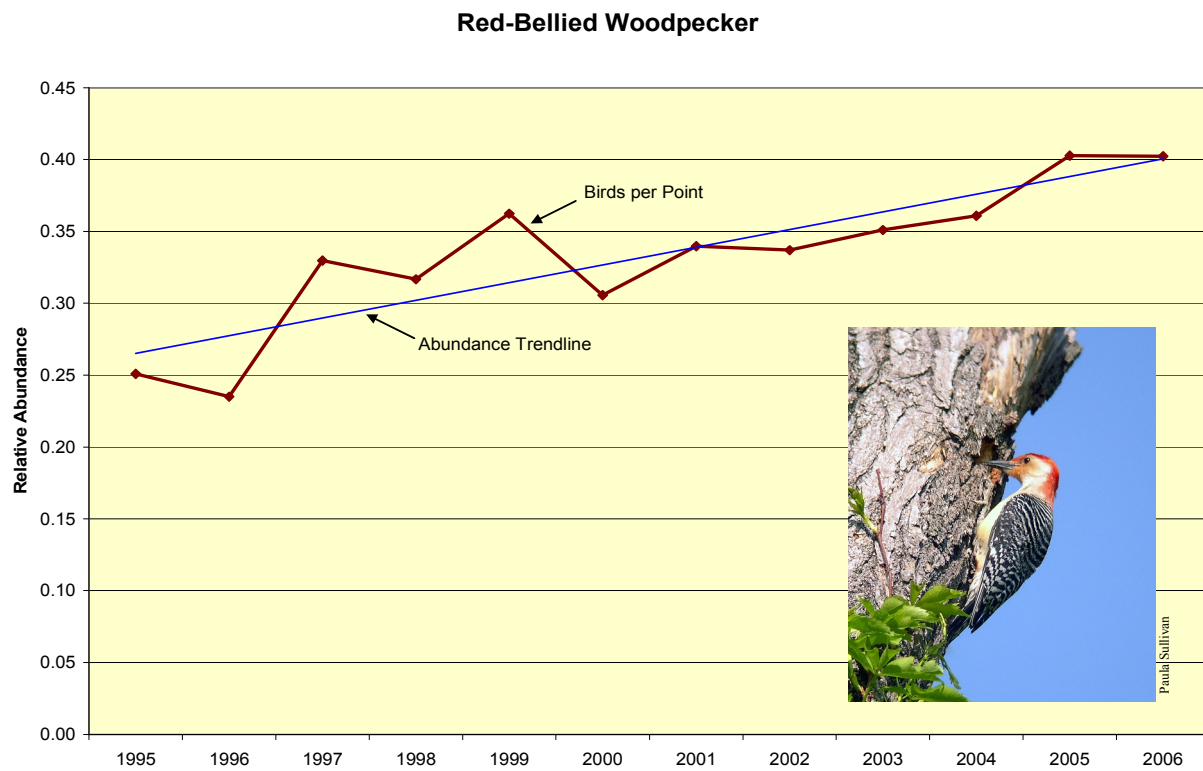
The crow population in our area had been in precipitous decline since 2002, possibly due in part to the disproportionate effect West Nile Virus has had on corvids. Another likely factor was the poisoning of a crow roost in Alexandria in 2002 and 2003. In 2006, we recorded a slight uptick – perhaps the beginning of a population recovery.



Further on West Nile Virus - a recent study, led by a researcher at the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, focused on the effect this disease has had on a number of bird species, including seven common “suburban” birds: American crow, blue jay, tufted titmouse, American robin, house wren, chickadee, and eastern bluebird. Our data for these species shows a decline starting in 2002 and continuing through 2004, with some partial recovery during the past two years.



No, it isn't your imagination, there are more Red-bellied Woodpeckers around. This bird seems to be doing well in our fragmented, suburban habitat.



On the other hand, habitat loss is continuing to have a negative effect on many grassland species, such as the Grasshopper Sparrow.

