

Bird won't be the word if we continue to use pesticides

BY THOMAS GLEN, CALGARY HERALD JUNE 16, 2011

Re: "We need to change our tune if songbirds are to survive," Naomi Lakritz, Opinion, June 14, "Weed wisdom," Letter, June 14, and "Start spraying," Letter, June 14.

I challenge all those who state pesticides are not dangerous to humans. Would you take a bottle of it and drink it, even one sip, and expect no serious side-effects?

Would you stare at it in your fridge alongside the rest of your food?

Doesn't look very safe in that light, does it? Pesticides are killers; they are designed to terminate life.

As ornithologists, we are taught pesticides are one of the contributing factors to the enormous songbird decline, as stated in Silence of the Songbirds, by Bridget Stutchbury, arguably Canada's foremost authority on songbird decline and its causes.

As someone who had to watch his mother slowly die of cancer, I read everything I could find on cancer, trying to save her. Every naturopathic text on the subject strongly advised zero exposure to any pesticide.

In the 11 years I have lived in my home, I have never used pesticides and never will. Pesticides are poisons designed to kill life. I hope everyone who reads this will always remember that.

Where would we be without the beautiful, calming effect of a robin's voice in spring, or the haunting voice of a common loon on a mountain lake at sunset? I could not live if I could not hear songbirds in the forest. God must have known what He was doing when he created all our birds.

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