

What Can I Do to Stop the Dying?

1. I can stop making it worse.

___ I can stand in the way of practices that cause habitat destruction, like mining, drilling, subdividing, clear-cutting, poisoning roadsides and fencerows, bulldozing meadows. Stand. On my feet. In the way. Singing.

___ I can eat from the honorable harvest, refusing beef and pork raised in ways that trash the high desert, rainforests, and streams, refusing farmed salmon, refusing genetically modified crops, turning away in noisy disgust from food raised in poisoned field -- and celebrating the pleasure of fresh, healthy food.

___ I can refuse to buy poisons -- any products that poison land or water (or children) -- and refuse to allow it in my home.

___ I can keep my cat inside and badger my friends to do the same, given that cats are the leading cause of death of birds and mammals in the US.

___ I can join with others to push, PUSH my elected representatives at all levels of government to pass powerful legislation that will stop greenhouse gas emissions. No more infrastructure for fossil fuels. A true price on carbon.

___ I can be responsible about reproduction, planning ahead to bear exactly the number of children I choose and no more.

___ I can renounce air travel or I can tithe, donating ten percent of my travel costs to organizations that are effectively protecting habitat and advocating for species diversity. This includes eco-travel; air-miles don't know their destination.

___ I can understand that just because I can afford it, doesn't mean I have to buy it. I can refuse to be a foot soldier in the consumer culture's war against the world. I can be a joyous and careful consumer.

___ I can stop pretending that a person can be an upright citizen who kills wild creatures in the course of his business, or causes them to be killed, or profits from the destruction of their habitat. The time has passed for that.

2. I can protect, create, and restore habitats.

___ I can lead a true sanctuary movement – in my yard, in my churchyard, in the school grounds, in my neighborhood – ripping out the unholy lawns and planting homelands for species of all kinds.

___ I can give my time, money, and sweat to restoration projects -- planting trees, slowing rivers, monitoring air quality, turning a vacant lot into a patch of prairie.

___ I can sell off my investments in companies that profit from death and deceit. Then I can use the money to buy unspoiled land and keep it safe.

___ I can give my money, votes, and time to those who create natural reserves – marine reserves, wildfowl reserves, wilderness reserves, public land trusts, urban wilderness parks, and other places where plants and animals can thrive.

3. I can imagine new human life-ways.

___ I can decide not to take more than I need from nature's bounty, understanding that what I take is taken from some other creature who has an equal right to the conditions for life.

___ I can celebrate and I can grieve, taking children by the hand to show them a nestling, crying with my neighbors in the silence of a morning that once was graced with birdsong.

___ I can radically transform my life, reclaiming the right to live simply and joyously.

___ I can push, PUSH for real democracy (not oligarchy, not plutocracy), but a government of all the people, by all the people, and for the planet that sustains us all.

___ I can stop asking what *one person* can do, and join with others to save the blessed world.