



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

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Habitat Gardening for Birds

WHY Garden for Habitat?

These books are highly recommended! They explain why it's so important to change our conventional gardening practices.

Stokes, Donald and Lillian *Bird Gardening Book: The Complete Guide to Creating a Bird-Friendly Habitat in Your Backyard* – All the Stokes books are good, BUT there are some recommendations for non-native or even invasive plants. Research any plant selection before you acquire it.

Learning about Birds

www.allaboutbirds.org - Cornell's Lab of Ornithology's website . Includes a Bird Guide, Birding Basics, and Living Bird. Excellent website and resources!

Hummingbirds

www.journeynorth.org – A wonderful resource for teachers, but good information for everyone about birds and other migrating creatures.

www.hummingbirds.net - All kinds of information about hummingbirds, including how to rescue them if they get caught in the garage.

Hummingbird nectar recipe:

1 cup water and 1/4 cup table sugar

Boil one minute. Keeps one week in the refrigerator.

Do NOT add red food coloring, honey, or artificial sweetener!

Change nectar at least every 3-5 days;

Clean feeder at least once a week.

Natural food is the easiest. Here are some hummer favorites:

Native trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*)

Cardinal flower lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*)

Bee balm, Oswego tea – (*Monarda*)

Sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*)

Jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis*) spreads—a lot—but easy to pull out!

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*)

Native salvia (*Salvia coccinea* 'Lady in Red')

Penstemon , beardtongue (*Penstemon digitalis*)

Trumpet vine (*Campsis radicans*) – will spread

Tallamy, Douglas – *Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants* - Tallamy explains why our landscaping practices are important to biodiversity.

Landscaping for Birds

BOOKS

Cayuga Bird Club *Native Plants for Native Birds: A Guide to Planting for Birds In and Around Ithaca, New York* – We aren't Ithaca, but we're close enough that the information is relevant. An excellent guide to the plants birds need and how to grow them.

DeGraff, Richard *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds* – Very useful book. Describes plants that are useful for birds and specifies which birds are most likely to use each plant. Also specifies whether the birds use it for food, cover or as a place to raise young. **One caution:** Several non-native invasive plants are included in the book (e.g. Norway maple, multiflora rose etc. Even though birds may use these plants, their overall impact is extremely negative for birds and everything else.

Bird Conservation

BOOKS

Erickson, Laura *101 Ways to Help Birds* – Written by the host of the radio program “For the Birds,” this book is a very comprehensive look at the many ways we can help birds, both directly and indirectly. Includes landscaping and much more. *Highly recommended!*

WEBSITES

General information

American Bird Conservancy – www.abcbirds.org

National Audubon Society - www.audubon.org

Cornell Lab of Ornithology – www.birds.cornell.edu

A visit to the Lab and Sapsucker Woods is highly recommended!

Pesticides

www.abcbirds.org/conservationissues/threats/toxins.html

Also see Smithsonian fact sheet below

Shade Coffee

Shade Coffee Campaign: - www.shadecoffee.org

Also see Smithsonian fact sheet below

Smithsonian Institution’s Migratory Bird Center Fact Sheets

http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/MigratoryBirds/Fact_Sheets

- Why Migratory Birds are Crazy for Coffee
- How Birds Keep our World Safe from the Plagues of Insects
- Brown-Headed Cowbirds: From Buffalo Birds to Modern Scourge
- Travel Alert for Migratory Birds: Stopover Sites in Decline
- When it Comes to Pesticides, Birds are Sitting Ducks
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Basics

Nestboxes

www.birds.cornell.edu/nestinginfo/nestboxref/features

Towers, home windows etc.

Fatal Light Awareness Program: www.flap.org/

Global warming and birds

The Birdwatcher’s Guide to Global Warming

<http://www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/birdguide.html>

Birds and Climate Change: On the Move

<http://birdsandclimate.audubon.org/>

Cats

Cats Indoors! Campaign -

www.abcbirds.org/abcprograms/policy/cats/index.html

Facts on Cats and Wildlife: A Conservation Dilemma

www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/7148.htm

Miscellaneous

Keeping Your Yard Safe for Birds

www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/7145.htm

“I planted a dead tree!”

www.birdwatchersdigest.com/site/funbirdstuff/perfect_snag.aspx

Understanding Ruby-throated Hummingbirds

<http://www.umext.maine.edu/onlinepubs/htmpubs/7152.htm>

Audubon at Home: Birds to Help

<http://audubonathome.org/birdstohelp/>

Citizen Science for Birds

North American Bird Phenology Project - www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/

Transcribe bird sighting records from mid 1800s to mid 1900s!

Project FeederWatch – www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw - Count birds once a week throughout winter

Nest Watch – www.nestwatch.org - Monitor nest boxes

Great Backyard Bird Count – www.birdcount.org - Count birds one weekend in February

eBird – www.ebird.org - Keep track of your bird observations

Presentations for any group

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Contact me for fees and availability