Creating a Bird-friendly Landscape

General resources


Tallamy, Douglas – *Nature’s Best Hope: A New Approach to Conservation that Starts in Your Yard* - Explains why native plants and landscaping practices are important to biodiversity.

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

Stein, Sara – *Noah’s Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Back Yards* – Another classic! Fascinating story of her evolution from an ornamental gardener to a native plant / natural landscape gardener. Also *Planting Noah’s Garden: Further Adventures in Backyard Ecology*

Allen, Janet - *Caring for Our Piece of the Earth* 6-week discussion course that will help you learn how to be a good steward of your home landscape, provide habitat for wildlife, and create a joyful, healthy yard for people, too. **FREE** at hgcny.org/course; Designed for groups of 8-12 people, but individuals can use it, too.

**HOW TO** landscape for birds and habitat

Cayuga Bird Club *Native Plants for Native Birds: A Guide to Planting for Birds in and Around Ithaca, New York* – An excellent guide to CNY-native plants that provide habitat for birds and tips on growing them.

Darke, Rick and Douglas Tallamy *The Living Landscape: Designing for Beauty and Biodiversity in the Home Garden* – Extends the ideas in *Bringing Nature Home* and gives practical suggestions for implementing them; very useful appendices listing appropriate native plants.

Kress, Stephen *The Audubon Society Guide to Attracting Birds: Creating Natural Habitats for Properties Large and Small 2nd Ed.* – The 2nd edition updates the first edition with add’l info on the importance of native plants; also includes nestboxes, supplemental feeding, healthy habitats etc.

Summers, Carolyn *Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East* – Practical advice about how (and why) to use native plants in attractive home landscapes. Useful lists of plants in the appendices.

**An example habitat garden in CNY**

**Our Habitat Garden** – A CNY landscape featuring native plants and natural landscapes at ourhabitatgarden.org. Sections on birds are in the Creatures section of the menu; links to bird citizen science are in the Act! section

**Learning about birds and bird identification**

**All About Birds**: Cornell Lab’s website at allaboutbirds.org/ includes a Bird Guide, Birding Basics, and Living Bird. **Excellent!**

**Cornell Lab’s Bird Academy**: academy.allaboutbirds.org/ Broaden your understanding of birds; free and premium content for all knowledge levels — from birding basics to college level ornithology

**Merlin**: FREE app from Cornell Lab: merlin.allaboutbirds.org/

Stokes, Donald & Lillian *Field Guide to Birds*: Easy for beginning bird ID; Peterson’s Guide and others may be more appropriate for advanced birding

Stokes *Guide to Bird Behavior*: 3 volumes describing specific bird behaviors (courtship, nesting, displays etc.) for backyard species.

**Citizen science for bird conservation**

**Great Backyard Bird Count**: birdcount.org/ - Count birds one weekend in February; family-friendly and easy - make it a tradition!

**Project FeederWatch**: feederwatch.org - Count birds once a week from November through early April

**Nest Watch**: nestwatch.org - Monitor nest boxes

**eBird**: ebird.org - Keeps track of your bird observations

**Hummingbirds@Home**: hummingbirdsathome.org/ - This Audubon project collects info on hummingbirds.

**Merlin Bird Photo ID**: merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id/ - Help train a new generation of photo ID

**Cornell Lab’s Educational and home school resources**: feederwatch.org/learn/educational-and-homeschool-resources/

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**Wild Ones**

**Habitat Gardening in Central New York**

hgcny.org
facebook.com/hgcny
wildones.org
ourhabitatgarden.org
info@hgcny.org
(315) 487-5742
Bird conservation
National Audubon Society: audubon.org
American Bird Conservancy: abcbirds.org
Smithsonian Institution’s Migratory Bird Center fact sheets: nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/fact-sheets such as
- Travel Alert for Migratory Birds: Stopover Sites in Decline
- When it Comes to Pesticides, Birds are Sitting Ducks
Erickson, Laura 101 Ways to Help Birds – Discusses the many ways we can help birds, both directly and indirectly. Highly recommended!

Pesticides
ABC Birds: abcbirds.org/threat/pesticides/

Snags (i.e. dead trees)
The Cavity Conservation Initiative: cavityconservation.com/
Includes info on how to safely retain at least a portion of dead trees
Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Snags: The wildlife tree – wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/living/snags

Nest boxes
Cornell Lab’s info: nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses

Light, home windows etc.
Fatal Light Awareness Program: flap.org/residential_new.php
ABC Birds Window strikes: abcbirds.org/threat/bird-strikes/
Acopian BirdSavers: birdsavers.com/ (How to make your own!)

Climate change and birds
Audubon Climate Report: climate.audubon.org/
The Birdwatcher’s Guide to Global Warming: abcbirds.org/threat/climate-change/

Coffee
Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center: A variety of information: nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/bird-friendly-coffee
Cornell’s All About Birds: allaboutbirds.org/bird-friendly-coffee-supports-critical-winter-habitat/
Wegmans Single Origin Organic Guatemalan coffee is certified Bird-Friendly; Bird and Beans brand is online at birdsandbeans.com

Cats Indoors! Campaign - abcbirds.org/threat/cats-and-other-invasives/

Native plants for birds
Insects, insects, insects!! Native plants support insects for birds!
Check appendices of Tallamy books (see other side)
Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
Native trees that support insects, which are ESSENTIAL for birds
Oaks (Quercus) supports 557 lepidoptera species!!
Cherries (Prunus) 456 – e.g. black cherry (P. serotina), and other natives
Willows (Salix) 455 – (Note: weeping willow is NOT native)
Birches (Betula) 411; Poplars (Populus) 367; Crabapples (Malus) 308
Maples (Acer) 297 such as sugar maple, red maple NOT Norway maple
Blueberries (Vaccinium) 294; Alders (Alnus) 255; Hickories (Carya) 235
Pines (Pinus) 201; Hawthorns (Crataegus) 168; Spruces (Picea) 150

Native berry shrubs and trees for birds:
Common serviceberry (Amelanchier arborea) also A. laevis, A. canadensis
Native dogwoods such as silky dogwood (Cornus amomum),
pagoda dogwood (C. alternifolia), flowering dogwood (C. florida)
NOTE: The non-native Kousa dogwood is NOT recommended
Spicebush (Lindera benzoin) – need male and female for berries
Common elderberry (Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis)
Winterberry (Ilex verticillata) – need male and female for berries

ALSO: Native herbaceous plants, such as asters, IF seedheads are left!

Hummingbirds
Journey North: Esp. for teachers, but good info for everyone about
hummingbirds & other migrants: journynorth.org/hummingbirds
Hummingbirds.net: hummingbirds.net - All kinds of info about hummers,
ic. how to rescue them if trapped in the garage, etc.

Hummingbird nectar recipe from Lab of Ornithology:
allaboutbirds.org/news/whats-the-best-recipe-for-hummingbird-nectar/

Native plants are EASIER than manmade nectar and more nutritious:
Jewelweed (Impatiens capensis) spreads—a lot—but easy to pull out!
Trumpet vine (Campsis radicans) – will spread
Native trumpet honeysuckle vine (Lonicera sempervirens)
Cardinal flower lobelia (Lobelia cardinalis)
Bee balm, Oswego tea (Monarda spp.)
Summersweet / Sweet pepperbush (Clethra alnifolia)
Penstemon / beardtongue (Penstemon digitalis)
Columbine (Aquilegia canadensis)
Black cohosh (Cimicifuga racemosa)
Turk’s cap lily (Lilium superbum)