Native Plants for Birds
Creating Habitat for Wildlife

The Native Plants for Birds project purposely selects 12 bird-friendly plants native to the Northeast to promote each year. We encourage growers to grow them and gardeners to plant them. By planting these natives you will join a collective action helping meet birds’ needs within the places that people live.

"Studies have shown that even modest increases in the native plant cover on suburban properties significantly increases the number and species of breeding birds... As gardeners and stewards of the land, we have never been so empowered to help save biodiversity from extinction, and the need to do so has never been so great. All we need to do is plant native plants!"
(Doug Tallamy, www.bringingnaturehome.net)

THINK OF YOUR YARD AS A WILDLIFE PRESERVE!

Gardening for wildlife tips

- Plant in layers. Think from the tree canopy down to the ground cover.
- Have plants in bloom from early spring to late fall. Choose at least 3 species that bloom each season, providing food throughout the growing season.
- Tolerate leaf damage. Native insects are beneficial; nibbled leaves means your yard is functioning ecologically.
- Eliminate pesticides. Even ‘organic’ pesticides can harm wildlife.
- Be vigilant. Remove exotic invasive plants. Native "weeds" on the other hand are probably beneficial.
- Stop cleaning up. Dead wood, fallen leaves and spent perennials host many organisms; it's best to leave them in your ecological landscape. Leave brush piles and a layer of leaves.
- Leave snags if they don't pose a hazard. Over 85 bird species rely on dead tree snags to nest, feed or seek cover.
- Provide water sources for wildlife. This includes bird baths, ponds, water features and puddling areas for butterflies.
- Before buying plants, make sure they are suitable for the sun, shade, water availability and soil type in your space.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn. Lawn provides little benefit to birds and other wildlife.

Native Plants for Birds is a joint project between Habitat Gardening in Central NY (hgcny.org) and Onondaga Audubon (OnondagaAudubon.org). Please visit our websites for more information.

For More Information
Books
Bringing Nature Home by Douglas Tallamy
Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald Leopold
The Living Landscape by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy
Native Plants for Native Birds by Joel Baines

Websites
Doug Tallamy: bringingnaturehome.net
HGCNY: www.hgcny.org
National Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
Virtual Tour of a Local Habitat Garden: www.ourhabitatgarden.org
Audubon NY: ny.audubon.org/get-outside/gardening-birds

Books
- Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald Leopold
- The Living Landscape by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy
- Native Plants for Native Birds by Joel Baines

Websites
- Doug Tallamy: bringingnaturehome.net
- HGCNY: www.hgcny.org
- National Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
- Virtual Tour of a Local Habitat Garden: www.ourhabitatgarden.org
- Audubon NY: ny.audubon.org/get-outside/gardening-birds

Gardening for wildlife tips

- Plant in layers. Think from the tree canopy down to the ground cover.
- Have plants in bloom from early spring to late fall. Choose at least 3 species that bloom each season, providing food throughout the growing season.
- Tolerate leaf damage. Native insects are beneficial; nibbled leaves means your yard is functioning ecologically.
- Eliminate pesticides. Even ‘organic’ pesticides can harm wildlife.
- Be vigilant. Remove exotic invasive plants. Native "weeds" on the other hand are probably beneficial.
- Stop cleaning up. Dead wood, fallen leaves and spent perennials host many organisms; it's best to leave them in your ecological landscape. Leave brush piles and a layer of leaves.
- Leave snags if they don't pose a hazard. Over 85 bird species rely on dead tree snags to nest, feed or seek cover.
- Provide water sources for wildlife. This includes bird baths, ponds, water features and puddling areas for butterflies.
- Before buying plants, make sure they are suitable for the sun, shade, water availability and soil type in your space.
- Reduce or eliminate lawn. Lawn provides little benefit to birds and other wildlife.

For More Information
Books
- Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald Leopold
- The Living Landscape by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy
- Native Plants for Native Birds by Joel Baines

Websites
- Doug Tallamy: bringingnaturehome.net
- HGCNY: www.hgcny.org
- National Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
- Virtual Tour of a Local Habitat Garden: www.ourhabitatgarden.org
- Audubon NY: ny.audubon.org/get-outside/gardening-birds

Native Plants for Birds
Creating Habitat for Wildlife

The Native Plants for Birds project purposely selects 12 bird-friendly plants native to the Northeast to promote each year. We encourage growers to grow them and gardeners to plant them. By planting these natives you will join a collective action helping meet birds’ needs within the places that people live.

For More Information
Books
- Native Plants of the Northeast by Donald Leopold
- The Living Landscape by Rick Darke and Doug Tallamy
- Native Plants for Native Birds by Joel Baines

Websites
- Doug Tallamy: bringingnaturehome.net
- HGCNY: www.hgcny.org
- National Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
- Virtual Tour of a Local Habitat Garden: www.ourhabitatgarden.org
- Audubon NY: ny.audubon.org/get-outside/gardening-birds

Native Plants for Birds
Creating Habitat for Wildlife

The Native Plants for Birds project purposely selects 12 bird-friendly plants native to the Northeast to promote each year. We encourage growers to grow them and gardeners to plant them. By planting these natives you will join a collective action helping meet birds’ needs within the places that people live.