

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.

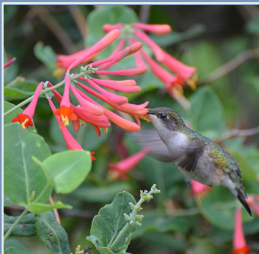
Leave snags if they don't pose a hazard. Over 85 bird species rely on dead tree snags to nest, feed or seek cover.

Provide water sources for wildlife. This includes birdbaths, 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.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird on Coral Honeysuckle
Photo: Janet Allen



Whether you have a container garden, a small yard or many acres, you can help protect birds and other wildlife. We can all contribute to a network of pocket habitats and refuges that provides food, water, cover and nesting sites for birds right in our own yards.

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

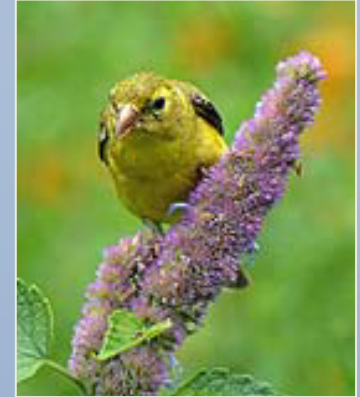
Doug Tallamy: bringingnaturehome.net
HGCMY: www.hgcmny.org
National Audubon Plants for Birds: audubon.org/plantsforbirds
Virtual Tour of a Local Habitat Garden: www.ourhabitatgarden.org
Audubon NY: ny.audubon.org/get-outside/gardening-birds

American Robin on Winterberry
Photo: Rick Bunting



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

Native Plants for Birds Creating Habitat for Wildlife



American Goldfinch on Anise Hyssop
Photo: Janet Allen

"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 !

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.