

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.

Be Patient. Native plants may not establish as quickly as traditional perennials. During the first year, plants establish their root systems rather than above-ground biomass.

2017 Bird-Friendly Plants

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|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Little blue stem | <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i> |
| Black cohosh | <i>Actaea racemosa</i> |
| Swamp milkweed | <i>Asclepias incarnata</i> |
| White turtlehead | <i>Chelone glabra</i> |
| Boneset | <i>Eupatorium perfoliatum</i> |
| Bergamot | <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> |
| NE Aster | <i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> |
| Purple-flowering Raspberry | <i>Rubus odoratus</i> |
| Pagoda dogwood | <i>Cornus alternifolia</i> |
| Northern red oak | <i>Quercus rubra</i> |

2018 Bird-Friendly Plants

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Indiangrass | <i>Sorghastrum nutans</i> |
| Anise hyssop | <i>Agastache foeniculum</i> |
| Black Chokeberry | <i>Aronia melanocarpa</i> |
| White wood aster | <i>Aster divaricatus</i> |
| Sweet birch | <i>Betula lenta</i> |
| Silky dogwood | <i>Cornus amomum</i> |
| Winterberry | <i>Ilex verticillata</i> |
| Blazing star | <i>Liatris spicata</i> |
| Trumpet coral honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera sempervirens</i> |
| Cutleaf coneflower | <i>Rudbeckia laciniata</i> |
| Black elderberry | <i>Sambucus canadensis</i> |
| Bluestem goldenrod | <i>Solidago caesia</i> |

The selected plants from 2017-2019 will be available by pre-order at our Spring Plant Sale in May. Please see our websites.



Cedar Waxwing on Eastern Red Cedar
Photo: Rick Bunting



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

2019

Native Plants for Birds
Creating Habitat for Wildlife



Eastern Bluebird on Winterberry
Photo: Rick Bunting

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. It all starts with native plants.

THINK OF YOUR YARD AS A WILDLIFE PRESERVE !

Inside you will find some native plants beneficial to birds and pollinators to add to your landscape, as well as tips to help support wildlife. All of these plants are available at select local nurseries.

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.