



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

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Creating a Bird-friendly Landscape

WHY?

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

biodiversity. This award-winning book is a modern classic!

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

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.

DeGraff, Richard *Trees, Shrubs, and Vines for Attracting Birds* –Describes plants useful for birds and specifies which birds are most likely to use each plant and what they use it for. **Caution:** Several non-native invasive plants are included (e.g. Norway maple, multiflora rose etc.) Even though birds may use these plants, their overall impact is extremely negative for birds.

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

An example habitat garden in CNY

www.OurHabitatGarden.org - Sections on birds and on hummingbirds are in the Creatures section of the menu; links to citizen science in Act! section

Learning about birds and bird identification

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

Cornell Lab's Bird Academy - <https://academy.allaboutbirds.org/> Broaden your understanding of birds; free and premium content for all knowledge levels. Learn everything—from birding basics to college level ornithology

Merlin – FREE app for Apple/Android from Cornell Lab – Easy bird ID; <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/> and beta version of Merlin Photo ID at <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id/> - just submit a photo to get ID!

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. Fascinating!

Citizen science for bird conservation

Help scientists collect needed information for bird conservation

Great Backyard Bird Count – <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/> - Count birds one weekend in February - Family-friendly and easy - make it a tradition!

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

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

eBird – www.ebird.org - Keeps track of your bird observations; the eBird app in iTunes makes it even more convenient

YardMap – www.yardmap.org - Map the habitat in your yard – *And* YardMap's "Learn" section is full of useful articles on creating habitat!

Hummingbirds@Home - www.hummingbirdsathome.org/ This Audubon project collects info on hummingbirds (An app is also available)

North American Bird Phenology Project - www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/ Help digitize bird-sighting records from mid-1800s to mid-1900s; not only helps bird conservation, but also important for climate change research

Cornell Lab's Educational and home school resources

<http://feederwatch.org/learn/educational-and-homeschool-resources/>

Bird conservation

National Audubon Society - www.audubon.org

American Bird Conservancy – www.abcbirds.org

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
- Travel Alert for Migratory Birds: Stopover Sites in Decline
- When it Comes to Pesticides, Birds are Sitting Ducks
- Neotropical Migratory Bird Basics

Erickson, Laura **101 Ways to Help Birds** – Discusses the many ways we can help birds, both directly and indirectly. *Highly recommended!*

Pesticides

ABC Birds: <https://abcbirds.org/threat/pesticides/>

Nest boxes

Cornell Lab's info <http://nestwatch.org/learn/all-about-birdhouses>

Towers, home windows etc.

Fatal Light Awareness Program: www.flap.org

ABC Birds Window strikes: <https://abcbirds.org/threat/bird-strikes/>

Climate change and birds

Audubon Climate Report: <http://climate.audubon.org/>

The Birdwatcher's Guide to Global Warming

<https://abcbirds.org/threat/climate-change/>

Coffee

Cornell's All About Birds: Bird-friendly coffee supports critical winter habitat at www.allaboutbirds.org/page.aspx?pid=2595

Note: Wegmans' *Single Origin Organic Guatemalan* coffee is certified Bird-Friendly; also *Bird and Beans* brand available online at www.birdsandbeans.com (sometimes available at Wild Birds Unlimited)

Cats Indoors! Campaign -

<https://abcbirds.org/threat/cats-and-other-invasives/>

Snags (dead trees)

Snags: The wildlife tree – Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife -

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/living/snags/>

Birds and Blooms:

<http://www.birdsandblooms.com/blog/trees-attract-birds-wildlife-trees-snags/>

Native plants for birds

Some top native berry shrubs and trees for birds:

Common elderberry (*Sambucus nigra ssp. canadensis*)

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 common non-native Kousa dogwood is NOT recommended

Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) – need male and female for berries

Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*) – need a male and female for berries

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

Hummingbirds

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

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

Hummingbird nectar recipe from Lab of Ornithology:

Add 1 c. boiling water to ¼ c. table sugar. *Do NOT add honey, food coloring, or artificial sweetener!* Keeps 1 wk in the fridge. Change nectar every 3-5 days; clean feeder at least once a week.

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*)

Insects, insects, insects!! Native plants in general support insects, ESSENTIAL food for hummingbirds, too!