



Habitat Gardening in Central New York

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Creating a Bird-friendly Landscape

General resources

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 www.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

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

All About Birds: Cornell Lab's website at www.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 apps from Cornell Lab: merlin.allaboutbirds.org/ and Merlin Photo ID: merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-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: 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 for Apple/Android makes it even more convenient

Habitat Network: www.yardmap.org - Map the habitat in your yard. *And* its "Learn" section is full of useful articles on creating habitat.

Hummingbirds@Home: www.hummingbirdsathome.org/ This Audubon project collects info on hummingbirds. Apple/Android apps are available

Merlin Bird Photo ID: <http://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/photo-id/> Help train a new generation of photo ID by drawing boxes around pictures of birds -

North American Bird Phenology Project: www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp/ Help digitize bird-sighting records from mid-1800s to mid-1900s

Cornell Lab's Educational and home school resources:
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:
nationalzoo.si.edu/migratory-birds/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: 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

Snags: The wildlife tree – Washington Dept. of Fish & Wildlife -
wdfw.wa.gov/living/snags/

Nest boxes

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

Towers, home windows etc.

Fatal Light Awareness Program: www.flap.org/residential_new.php

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

Acopian BirdSavers: www.birdsavers.com/ (can 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

Cornell's All About Birds: www.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 www.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)

Native Plant Finder: www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder/

Audubon Plants for Birds: www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds

Some good 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 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

Journey North: Esp. for teachers, but good info for everyone about hummingbirds & other migrators: learner.org/jnorth/hummingbirds

Hummingbirds.net: www.Hummingbirds.net - All kinds of info about hummers, inc. how to rescue them if trapped in the garage, etc.

Hummingbird nectar recipe from Lab of Ornithology:

www.birds.cornell.edu/AllAboutBirds/attracting/feeding/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*)