

## Landscaping for Birds and Other Wildlife Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon



- Don't buy into the aesthetics of a mowed lawn! A mowed lawn is a virtual wasteland for pollinators. Replace lawn areas with native plants, trees and shrubs.
  - Plant in "layers"-think from the tree canopies down to the ground.
  - Before choosing your plants, make sure they are suitable for the sun, shade and water availability for your garden, as well as the soil type. Make sure the plants you are purchasing will fit in your garden when mature.
- Even “organic” pesticides can harm wildlife-don’t use pesticides!
  - Remember, some insect damage on your plants is a good thing...it means the plant is being utilized by wildlife as it should be!
  - Provide water sources for wildlife. This includes birdbaths, ponds, water features and puddling areas for butterflies.
  - Leave snags if they don’t pose a hazard. Over 85 bird species rely on dead tree snags to nest, feed or seek cover.
  - Please do not engage the services of a tree removal company until after nesting season has passed. Cutting down trees can result in the inadvertent death of baby birds, squirrels, raccoons and other critters.
  - Don’t be so quick to remove a brush pile or rake up leaf litter. Birds, reptiles, amphibians, chipmunks, rabbits, opossums, woodchucks and other small animals need dense cover in which to nest, shelter, sleep and hide from predators. During the winter, when trees and shrubs have lost their leaves, animals rely even more on these sheltered areas.



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