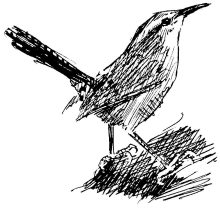


Bringing Wildlife Home: Creating Backyard Gardens for Birds

What Does a Bird Want?



Transitioning to native plants and incorporating bird-safe gardening components doesn't have to be expensive or time consuming. Start by familiarizing yourself with the native plants in your area (bayside, mountains or coast) from your nursery or web resources. Natives are the key to attracting and supporting birds, butterflies, beneficial non-pest insects, rich moisture holding soil, and perhaps a salamander. Start by replacing ornamentals, rotating out plants that do not provide support for wildlife, observe the results and its unique sun and water needs. Even a few containers on a small balcony increases resilience as we help our birds adapt to the changing climate.

Have fun and join Citizen Science by posting your sightings on eBird, iNaturalist or the Hummingbirds at Home program (apps are free, easy to use and your sightings help scientists protect birds).

- Food** Native plants make a big difference in producing the food (nectar, berries, seeds, bugs) that birds are adapted to eat.
- Water** A source for water can be as simple as a shallow pan. It's easy to clean, requires minimum water and is easy for birds to bath in.
- Shelter** Safe places to rest, sleep or build nests. Create shelter with a brush pile, loose shrubs, tree snags or hollows. Let your yard be a bit messy with leaves and don't trim during spring nesting.
- Predator Safe** Cats indoors! It's safer for the cats and for the birds.
- Chemical Free** Minimize, reduce or eliminate chemicals in your yard. Check out natural pest management and let the birds help out with those pesky bugs.
- Collision-Safe** Careful placement of feeders, landscaping and window treatments prevents window strikes. See the references below for ideas.

Learn your wildlife~ know your native plants. If you plant, they will come!

Resources

- ◇ Bird identification guide, Audubon free app at: <https://www.audubon.org/apps>.
- ◇ California Native Plant Society at www.cnps.org and Calflora at <http://www.calflora.org> for info and resources.
- ◇ Check your city or county for rebates on lawn removal and other water savers.
- ◇ Guide to Bird-Friendly Tree and Shrub Trimming and Removal: Los Angeles Audubon (losangelesaudubon.org).
- ◇ Collisions: | <http://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/featured-stories/15-products-that-prevent-windows-strikes/>.



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