



We are delighted you have an interest in making your backyard more bird friendly. Backyards make up a significant portion of green space in our cities... sometimes larger than all our city parks put together! One of the great secrets of the Bay Area is that in the center of every block, behind an unbroken perimeter of houses, lie fifty or sixty backyards, providing food and shelter to local birds, like doves, hummingbirds, finches, jays and even parrots. Migratory birds like the Golden-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco and Yellow-rumped Warbler and butterflies, damselflies, bees and spiders also depend on these backyards. By making your backyard a more natural area, you will create a beautiful and interesting garden and make a tangible contribution to the survival of wildlife in our changing world. How to begin? Please read on!



Elements of Good Backyard Habitat

- GETTING STARTED** - Spend time in your yard! Notice the wild creatures that already use it. See which shrubs and trees they favor. Determine the soil type, the prevailing winds and the direction of their force. Take note of the trees and shrubs in your neighbor's yards and those growing on the streets and parks of your area. Observe if and how they attract wildlife. These observations will help you design a better habitat as well as connect you more deeply to the wildlife we share with our City.
- WATER** - Birds and other wild creatures need water for drinking and bathing. Provide a constant, reliable source of shallow water such as a birdbath, pond or even a dish. Circulating water is best, so using a drip irrigation emitter as a water supply works well. Vessels of water should be placed as high as is practical and out in the open away from hiding predators. The thin overhanging branches of a nearby tree can act as a secure "ladder" for drinking and bathing birds.
- FOOD** - Use an array of native and non-invasive plants that produce nectar, berries, fruit and seeds throughout the year. Many plants will attract beautiful and fascinating butterflies, bees and other insects, which in turn provide food for birds and seldom pose a threat to vegetation.
- COVER** - Create cover for birds and wildlife with plant diversity. Consider varying heights and densities with open areas of native grasses. Keeping a "wild corner" where perennial plants are left alone to grow with little intervention gives birds shelter and nesting materials. This corner could also contain a brush pile, a rock, brick pile, dead tree or hollow log for the same purpose. Though we are tempted to "clean up" our yards, remember that wild lands are not neat and tidy but often tangled with vegetation. Consider allowing a bit of wildness in your yard.
- SAFE COURTSHIP & PARENTING PLACES** - Besides the natural shelters mentioned, birdhouses for cavity nesting birds, like wrens, chickadees, and swallows can provide sanctuaries from predators. Birdhouses should be placed away from windows to keep birds from colliding with windows. Also, it is essential to keep cats indoors. It is safer for the cats as well as for the birds. Indoor cats have more than three times the life expectancy of outdoor cats who risk threats from cars, dogs, and diseases.
- SUSTAINABLE GARDEN PRACTICES** - The way you garden or maintain your landscape impacts the wildlife in your yard. Native trees and plants typically require less water, fewer pesticides, and less fertilizer. Remove invasive plants. Use organic fertilizers and natural pesticides instead of chemical ones; produce rich soil by composting, and mulching. Remember, chemicals in your yard end up in the Bay and throughout the food chain! Consult the resources listed in this brochure to learn how to make your backyard more sustainable for wildlife.



Basic Wildlife-Friendly Plants

Trees

<i>Acer sp.</i>	<i>Maple</i>
<i>Aesculus californica</i>	<i>Buckeye</i>
<i>Betula sp.</i>	<i>Birch</i>
<i>Pinus sp.</i>	<i>Pine</i>
<i>Prunus ilicifolia</i>	<i>Islais Cherry</i>
<i>Quercus agrifolia</i>	<i>Coast Live Oak</i>

Tall Shrubs

<i>Buddleia davidii</i>	<i>Butterfly Bush</i>
<i>Garrya elliptica</i>	<i>Coast Silk Tassel</i>
<i>Heteromeles arbutifolia</i>	<i>Toyon</i>
<i>Myrica californica</i>	<i>Pacific Wax Myrtle</i>

Medium Shrubs

<i>Arctostaphylos sp.</i>	<i>Manzanita</i>
<i>Baccharis pilularis</i>	<i>Coyote Bush</i>
<i>Ceanothus sp.</i>	<i>Wild Lilac</i>
<i>Mahonia sp.</i>	<i>Mahonia</i>
<i>Rhamnus californica</i>	<i>Coffeeberry</i>
<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>	<i>Red Flowering Currant</i>

Perennials & Annuals

<i>Achillea sp.</i>	<i>Yarrow</i>
<i>Aster sp.</i>	<i>Aster</i>
<i>Cirsium sp.</i>	<i>Thistle</i>
<i>Eriogonum sp.</i>	<i>Wild Buckwheat</i>
<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	<i>California Poppy</i>
<i>Heracleum lanatum</i>	<i>Cow Parsnip</i>
<i>Lantana sp.</i>	<i>Lantana</i>
<i>Lupinus sp.</i>	<i>Lupine</i>
<i>Mimulus aurantiacus</i>	<i>Sticky Monkeyflower</i>
<i>Oenothera sp.</i>	<i>Evening Primrose</i>
<i>Penstemon sp.</i>	<i>Beard Tongue</i>
<i>Salvia sp.</i>	<i>Sage</i>
<i>Zauschneria californica</i>	<i>California Fuchsia</i>

Bunch Grasses

<i>Festuca rubra</i>	<i>Red Fescue</i>
<i>Nassella pulchra</i>	<i>Purple Needlegrass</i>

Garden Plants & Supplies
These nurseries specialize in Bay Area native plants

Annie’s Annuals and Perennials
740 Market St., Richmond
(510) 215-3301
www.anniesannuals.com
Hard-to-find plants, including native wildflowers & heirlooms.

Berkeley Horticultural Nursery
1310 McGee Ave., Berkeley
(510) 526-4704
www.berkeleyhort.com
Good selection of California natives and specialty plants.

Dry Garden Nursery
6556 Shattuck Ave., Oakland
(510) 547-3564
www.thedrygardennursery.com
Specializes in succulents and drought-tolerant plants.

East Bay Wilds Native Plant Nursery
2777 Foothill Blvd., Oakland
(510) 409-5858
www.eastbaywilds.com
Focus on landscaping using native plants.

Native Here Nursery
101 Golf Course Drive, Tilden Regional Park, Berkeley
(510) 549-0211
www.nativeherenursery.org
Nonprofit nursery run by California Native Plant Society, featuring Alameda and Contra Costa County plants.

Oaktown Native Plant Nursery
702 Channing Way, Berkeley
(510) 387-9744
www.oaktownnativenursery.info
Open Thursday through Saturday with diverse local plants.

Pacific Coast Seed
533 Hawthorne Pl., Livermore
(925) 373-4417
www.pcseed.com
Large inventory of the region’s native seed species.

The Watershed Nursery
601 A Canal Blvd., Richmond
(510) 234-2222
www.thewatershednursery.com
Hundreds of species of California native plants.

The U.C. Berkeley Botanical Garden, Tilden Park Botanical Garden, and Friends of Sausal Creek offer native plant sales once or twice each year. See their web sites for dates.

Writings on Wildlife Gardening

Bauer, Nancy, (2008) The Habitat Garden Book: Wildlife Landscaping for San Francisco Bay Region; Coyote Ridge Press, 2nd edition, Sebastopol, CA. Clear & compact beginner’s guide.

Grissell, Eric, (2001) Insects and Gardens: In Pursuit of a Garden Ecology. Timber Press, Portland, OR. Book on the importance of insects.

Lowry, Judith Larner, (2007) Gardening with a Wild Heart: Restoring California’s Native Landscapes at Home. U.C. Press, Berkeley, CA. Wild land ecology.

Popper, Helen, (2012) California Native Gardening: A Month-by-Month Guide. U.C. Press, Berkeley, CA. A month by month guide to gardening with native plants in a state that follows a unique, nontraditional seasonal rhythm.

Sonoma County Master Gardeners, (1999) Flora for Fauna: Habitats for Birds, Butterflies, and Beneficial Insects. Wayward Gardens, Sebastopol, CA. Booklet of fauna attractors.

Stein, Sara, (1993) Noah’s Garden: Restoring the Ecology of Our Own Backyards. Houghton Mifflin, Boston, MA. Transformation of garden to native ecosystem.

Sunset Books & Magazines (2000) Attracting Birds: Bird Identification, Feeders, Houses & Baths. Sunset Books Inc., 2nd edition, Menlo Park, CA. Illustrated Bird habitat guide.

Tallamy, Douglas W. (2009) Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants; Timber Press, Portland, OR.



Resources for Wildlife Gardening

These organizations have web sites that are of interest to the wildlife gardener:

American Bird Conservatory
www.abcbirds.org

Calflora
www.calflora.org

California Native Plant Society
East Bay Chapter
www.ebcnps.org

Golden Gate Audubon Society
www.goldengateaudubon.org

Native Habitats
www.nativehabitats.org

National Audubon Society
www.audubon.org/plantsforbirds

National Wildlife Federation
www.nwf.org/Garden-for-wildlife.aspx

Protect Our Pollinators
www.sfenvironment.org/pollinators

San Francisco Botanical Garden at
Strybing Arboretum
www.sfbotanicalgarden.org

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East Bay Edition

