



Make a Backyard Habitat for Birds & Butterflies

Creating a backyard habitat for birds and butterflies is easy! Here's how:

1. Make a simple map of your backyard, showing the four elements of habitat:
 - ✓ **Food**—Plants that provide food (such as acorns, nuts, berries, seeds, buds, or nectar) and/or birdfeeders,
 - ✓ **Water**—Birdbaths or other water sources,
 - ✓ **Shelter**—Plants that provide shelter for birds and butterflies (such as dense shrubs, evergreens, brush piles), and
 - ✓ **Places for birds and wildlife to raise their young**—Trees or shrubs that birds can nest in, birdhouses, brush piles, and stone walls.
2. Think about what types of birds and butterflies you want to attract to your yard. Research the types of plants and trees that will attract them (i.e., provide food, shelter, and/or places to raise young). The Milton Outdoor Classrooms web site (www.miltonoutdoorclassrooms.com) is a good place to start.
3. If you don't have them already, plant some wildflowers, shrubs, and/or trees that will attract birds and butterflies and provide food, shelter, and places to raise young.
4. Make sure that your backyard has a year-round source of water. This can be as simple as the bottom of a clay pot or a birdbath. (Be sure to change the water every 3 days to prevent mosquito breeding.)
5. Get certified as an official NWF Backyard Habitat and help Milton become the 1st NWF-certified Community Wildlife Habitat in New England! (The certification application is available on the NWF web site at www.nwf.org/backyardwildlifehabitat.) Remember, you don't need to have all native plants in your yard to certify.

If you need assistance certifying your yard, contact Pete Jackson at (617) 696-2834, Janet MacNeil at (617) 698.7013, or Mary Truslow at (617) 696.6050.

Our NWF-trained Habitat Stewards are happy to help!

Some Native Plants That Attract Birds & Butterflies

Wildflowers & Ferns

Beebalm
Black-eyed Susan
Brown-eyed Susan
Purple coneflower
Hay-scented fern
Marsh marigold
New England aster
New England blazing star

Vines

Trumpet vine
Virginia creeper

Trees

American hornbeam
American mountain ash
Common witchhazel
Eastern red cedar
Oak
Paper birch
Quaking aspen
Sassafras
Serviceberry
Shadbush
Striped maple
White pine

Shrubs

Bayberry
Low bush blueberry
High bush blueberry
Mountain laurel
Sweet fern
Sweet pepperbush
Redosier dogwood
Spicebush
Shining and staghorn sumac
Sassafras
Viburnums
Winterberry