

Key Ways to Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly

Practice good bird feeder placement to minimize predation by other animals, avoid window strikes, and prevent feeding other non-target species (eg. squirrels). Keep feeders maintained and clean to prevent spreading disease.

Avoid the use of pesticides, insecticides, rodenticides as much as possible.



Plant native plants that are bird friendly. A list of good species for your zip code can be found at [Audubon.org/native-plants](https://www.audubon.org/native-plants) or through the CSU Extension Service.

Use window shades or decals to make windows more visible to birds. Windows that are not perfectly clean and clear can actually help birds detect the glass and prevent strikes.



Keep pets indoors when possible, especially cats. Free roaming pets can hunt and kill birds, destroy nesting sites, and scare birds away from yards.

Lessen yard maintenance activities, like keeping heavily manicured lawns. Preserve places to nest where there is cover/shelter, like taller shrubs or tree branches.



Cultivate backyard diversity by planting many different species, which in turn provide different food sources, nesting niches, perching heights, and cover.

Plan seasonal maintenance to perform tree trimming or removal outside of bird nesting season (typically March 15 to Oct. 15).



Provide small water sources in yards, but keep them clean and maintained to prevent spreading disease.

Help migrating birds by limiting light pollution. This can be done by using motion-activated lights (instead of continuous lighting), turning lights off at night, and using downward facing/shielded lighting that prevents light from being emitted upwards or sideways.

